

Your NFC

MAY 16, 2014

A WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER FOR
THE PEOPLE OF THE
NEWBERG
FRIENDS CHURCH
COMMUNITY



Currently featured
on the art wall
in the social hall:
Ron and Ben
Mock's Baseball
Card Collection

ALL IN A DAY'S...LIFE

by Scott and Susan Ankeny

Agreeing to write this article has been an interesting journey of faith. When we talked about it, we thought it might be fun to write something together. After all, we have been married for more than 35 years, so we have had a lot of shared experiences. We are empty nesters now, too, so one would think we'd have time to think and discuss and write. However, as the weeks went by, neither



of us seemed to be able to come up with a workable idea. We asked people to pray for us. Still nothing. Finally, as the deadline approached, we said, "Well, what do you do when you pray, but you don't seem to understand what the answer is?"

And then we kind of had to laugh. Many times over the years we've prayed and had a hard time understanding God's answers. Most of the time in Christian circles one hears about the miraculous answers to prayer, but probably more often God works *through* circumstances to *change* us rather than changing circumstances to fit what we think we need.

Let us give you an example. In 1989 we felt that the little two-bedroom home we had purchased in 1982 was just too small for our growing family. We'd had our third child in 1985, and three kids (two girls and one boy) in the same bedroom was getting just a little crowded. We prayed about it and put our home on the market. Well, those of you who are older know this was about the time the housing market bottomed out. We ended up selling our home for less than we had paid for it. Not only that, we had not found another place to buy, or even rent. It was July, and we had two family reunions to attend. So we moved all our stuff to a storage unit, packed our car for a trip, and took off on vacation. The reunions were fun—one in Idaho, the other in California—but in the background was the knowledge that we had no place to go "home" to. We had family in Newberg looking for a rental for us, but nothing seemed available.

We finally learned of someone going on vacation for whom we could house-sit a couple of days when we got back. Then we were taken in by cousins and siblings and finally got a lead on a house in Dundee that might be available to rent in early September. So we started our kids in school in Dundee and were able to get that rental. But it was a hard time for us faithwise. Adding to the difficulty was knowing other young couples who had sold their houses just before or after we did,

Your
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Published weekly
for the purpose
of information and
community connectedness

Newberg Friends Church
307 S College Street
P.O. Box 487
Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-538-8381

www.newbergfriends.org

Please direct
all publications items
to Sherry Macy
sherry@newbergfriends.org

who were then able to move on to nicer homes, sharing stories of how God had provided just the right things at the right times. Why hadn't God done the same for us?

Through many questioning, tearful days and nights we began to talk more about choosing to praise God in spite of circumstances, choosing to be thankful for what God provided, even when it was different from what we wanted. We also chose to try to focus less on ourselves and pray more for others. Perhaps Romans 12:2—"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will"—isn't so much about shunning the lustful desires we consider "worldly." Perhaps it has more to do with focusing on the goodness

of God, so that we *can* meet the challenge of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Over the years we've had many similar opportunities to practice the *choice* to praise God and trust his wisdom, even when circumstances are trying. It was good to have to learn to practice that early in our marriage. Though our housing situation didn't have the sort of "miraculous" outcome we might have desired, God used it to shape and change us. Though we can't always see or understand what God is doing, with the Holy Spirit's help we can still choose to trust that he is good and kind. And though we thought we didn't have an idea for this article, here we are at the end of writing it. Isn't God amazing?

Scott and Susan finally found a house to purchase and have lived there for twenty years. They have four adult children—three of whom are married—and four grandchildren. They feel quite spoiled because all of them live in Newberg! Scott has attended Newberg Friends since 1962, Susan since 1975.

Thank you, Mauri Macy!

We want to give our thanks and our blessing to Mauri Macy for faithfully and beautifully leading us into the presence of God as a congregation: *Your gifts and skill as a musician have been exceeded only by your ability to not showcase those abilities, but rather to focus us on Jesus Christ. You've taught us about worship for decades, and we are grateful!*

As we have planned a way for our congregation to say thanks, we have also listened to Mauri's desire to "not make a big fuss." A simple celebration fits and honors Mauri. On **May 18**, Mauri's last Sunday leading worship, join us on the lawn for cake and coffee. We are encouraging people to bring written memories, thanks, and blessings to place in a basket for Mauri to read later. If you can't be there on that day, you can bring the cards to the church office and we will deliver them on the 18th.

Please join us in thanking Mauri for his years of ministry with us at Newberg Friends Church!



College Scholarships for undergraduates will be available for those who consider NFC their church home and who attend Friends colleges or universities such as George Fox. Find an application at the welcome center, pick

one up from the church office during the week, or download it from [this link](#). Return your completed application by June 15. We ask that students reapply each year for this scholarship.

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READ AHEAD FOR MAY 18

1 John 4

linked to biblestudytools.com

SUNDAY

Sunday school for children and adults — for times and classroom information, find "Educational Opportunities" at each entrance, each "Info Center," at the welcome center, or ask a greeter to help you.

9am | worship gathering

10-10:45am | Community Time | on the lawn | celebrating Mauri Macy's ministry among us

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:45am | worship gathering

6pm | Senior Salute | social hall | celebratory dessert for NFC's graduating high school seniors

Monday, May 19

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Wednesday, May 21

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Middle school youth group | 6:30pm

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

Thursday, May 22

Women's Bible Fellowship | 8:45am | social hall

Friday, May 23

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, May 24

Men's prayer meeting | 8am | Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room

Sunday, May 25

Read ahead: 1 John 5

Plan Ahead

May 26 | NFC office closed for Memorial Day holiday

May 31 | Friends Women Spring Rally luncheon | 11:30am | Reedwood Friends Church | contact Connie Magee 503-554-9935 to carpool

June 1 | end-of-year children's ministry meeting | 10:15-10:45am | Room 132 | connect with all children's ministry volunteers

June 1 | congregational business meeting | 6pm

June 2 | JOY breakfast | 8am | J's Restaurant | for seniors 55 and older

June 2 | VBS planning/prep Meeting 7:30pm | Barclay C | for all interested in volunteering for VBS

June 3 | Newberg High School baccalaureate | 7pm | NFC sanctuary | service of celebration and prayer for NHS graduates. Open to the community.

June 23-27 | vacation Bible school

Newberg Friends Church
a GROWING community
LISTENING to Christ
CHANGING in the Spirit
LIVING OUT love

PASTORAL TEAM

Michelle Akins

pastor, children and family ministries
michelle@newbergfriends.org

Steve Fawver

pastor, spiritual health and care
steve@newbergfriends.org

Gregg Koskela

lead pastor
gregg@newbergfriends.org

Mauri Macy

pastor, worship ministries
mauri@newbergfriends.org

Eric Muhr

pastor, youth ministries
eric@newbergfriends.org

Elizabeth Sherwood

administration
elizabeth@newbergfriends.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Cindy Johnson

coordinator of seniors ministries
cindy@newbergfriends.org

Denise Lyman

bookkeeper/receptionist
denise@newbergfriends.org

Sherry Macy

admin assist / communications
sherry@newbergfriends.org

Arnie Mitchell

buildings manager
arnie@newbergfriends.org

Dan Ritter

buildings manager
dan@newbergfriends.org

Mark Thompson

cemetery sexton
mark@newbergfriends.org

NFC's Calendar on the Web!



IN GOD'S HANDS

Friends Women Spring Rally 2014

I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for PEACE, and not disaster, plans to give you a FUTURE filled with HOPE .
Jeremiah 29:11

Date/Time: Saturday, May 31, 11:30 a.m.

Place: Reedwood Friends Church

Speaker: Nancy Thomas

Offering: Equipment to complete the Bolivian History Project

If you are interested in carpooling, please contact **Connie Magee** 503-554-9935.



June 1 • 6 p.m.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Saturday, May 17

9am - noon

**Friends Cemetery
Come help mow, whack
weeds, or other projects**

**Contact Elizabeth
@ 503-537-8800**

**Cemetery
Volunteer
Work Day**

Library Volunteer Needed One Sunday a Month

The NFC library relies on volunteers, and we need one more. Please consider lending your talents to this ministry. All you need are basic computer skills and a commitment to a 45-minute shift one Sunday a month. Stop by on a Sunday to see a library volunteer in action. Lisa Nauman, Carolyn Staples, Connie Magee, or Jen Maurer will be happy to answer any questions. If you're interested, please contact Jen by [e-mail](#) or calling 971-226-3347. She can train you in about 2 hours.



Summer Sunday school will begin the first Sunday in July and continue through August. We'll begin a full program again in September. Summer Sunday school will be: Nursery both services (birth through age 2), pre-school class

(3-through 5-year olds) during 1st service only, and a kindergarten through 5th grade large-group class 1st service only.

If you're interested in volunteering for any of these classes—I'd love to hear from you!

Michelle Akins • 503-538-8381

We Have Good/Bad News for those who love the daffodils that beautify the southeast entrance two weeks a year. First the bad news: they've been replaced by plants that offer beauty throughout the summer months. Now the good news: those daffodil bulbs are available for you to enjoy in your own yard. The timing isn't optimal, but if you want to give replanting a try, contact the church office to see if any are still available.

First Come-First Served



June 23-27, 2014 9:00-11:30am
Newberg Friends Church
Ages 4 years - 5th grade

VOLUNTEERS arrive Monday at 8am
8:30am Tuesday through Friday

Theme Verse: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Orientation Meetings for ALL VOLUNTEERS
CHOOSE ONE: Monday, June 16 or Wednesday, June 18,
Newberg Friends Church, Social Hall, 7:00pm

To volunteer or for more information contact:
Michelle Akins Pastor, Children and Family Ministries
michelle@newbergfriends.org 503-539-5041 Cell 503-538-8381 work

Volunteers Needed

Decoration Team: Gather VBS themed décor and assist with decorating on June 22, 2014.

Sound Tech: Provide set-up assistance for worship team practice June 22. Run sound and a slide show on the projector, 8:30-9:30am, June 23-27.

Registration Team: Attend separate orientation June 17, 7pm in the Newberg Friends Church Bell Tower. Team in place providing welcome and direction to parents and kids as they enter VBS at 8-9:30am on June 23 and 8:30-9:30am, June 24-27.

Spanish Speaker for registration: June 23-27. (Deepest need on June 23.)

Worship Team: Leading music - vocals/guitar/piano/drums/etc. during opening gathering.

Team Leaders: At least 14 individuals age 18 and older and 10 individuals age 11 and older to guide children ages 4 through 5th grade to all rotations.

Seashore Storytelling Team: 2 people to lead the storytelling rotation – one for younger children 4's through 1st grade and one for 2nd through 5th graders.

Splash-tacular Crafts Team: 2-3 people to facilitate crafts rotation for the week.

Big Catch Bible Challenge Team: 2 people to facilitate the Bible Challenge rotation for the week.

Sink or Swim Games Team: 2-3 people to facilitate recreation activities for the week.

Sunrise Snacks Team: 4 people to buy, put together, and serve snacks during the week. (During Games rotation.)

Nursery Volunteers: 2 adults and 1 or 2 helpers age 12 and older. Taking care of VBS volunteers' kids (infant-3 years).

VBS Photographers: 2 people to photograph all VBS kids on Tuesday, June 24. Give all pictures to Michelle for printing/slide show. Would love general photos of VBS all week if possible.

To register kids (deadline June 16) or to volunteer (by June 1) — [CLICK HERE!](#)