

JUNE 20, 2014

Your NFC

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

ALL IN A DAY'S...LIFE

by Stephanie Fisher

As I write, I am partway through a visit with some extended family members in the Midwest. Being the only medically trained person in my family means I have the interesting role of unofficially evaluating the mental status and medication regimens of my older relatives. While this has been a fascinating glimpse into my future as determined by genetics (I apparently will be hilariously sarcastic in my 80s), there have been recent concerns about my grandparents developing memory loss and rather sudden personality changes. While this is not exactly unexpected, it took me by surprise the other day to have my normally cheerful grandmother look at me somberly and say, "Stephanie, never get old."



This comment stuck out to me for multiple reasons. First, my grandmother has demonstrated a Spirit-filled attitude of contentment and gratitude for as long as I've known her, and this comment felt strikingly out of place. It also sent my mind racing for any appropriate reply. I've had a fair amount of practice responding to this particular comment in the clinic where I work. Patients frequently advise me to never get old, but I have yet to develop a good comeback. Replying with the cop-outs "Well, it beats the alternative" or "How exactly do you propose I do that?" doesn't exactly seem like the therapeutic communication I try to teach my nursing students.

I'm aware I over-analyze this casual comment patients might offer as small talk. I realize that my discomfort in not having a good response is related to a much larger issue—my inability to help someone. Despite receiving excellent training and experience as a nurse practitioner, there are some health problems I simply cannot fix. Some situations do not have clear causes identified, and several diagnoses don't have any curative treatments right now. While I hope we are all aware of our own limits of knowledge and the paradox of education often gives us more questions than answers, this acknowledgement isn't comforting when people we love exist in the middle of this confusion.

There is no special prayer or magic formula to automatically bring physical healing to someone in the moment (although there is certainly a lot of prayer happening during my appointments with patients, particularly when there is no clear guideline for what treatment to try next). Even if a remedy helps one patient, our bodies are created so intricately that another person receiving the same treatment

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may react in a completely different way. (This explains the long pharmaceutical ads that include disclaimers and potential side-effect profiles often worse than the actual problem being treated.) I am frequently reminded of Aslan's words in C.S. Lewis's *Prince Caspian*, "Things never happen the same way twice." While I always hope the Lord will fix a situation, I have to acknowledge that healing might look very different from what I expect.

In clinic settings, this feeling of uselessness is not pleasant, but I hear it echoing throughout other areas of life and in various forms: parents feeling helpless as they watch their child make unwise decisions, college students trying to help a friend struggling through severe depression, and community responses to overwhelming tragedy. Our human nature wants to *do* something (to give advice, to prescribe a medication, to find a distraction...), but these well-intentioned actions might actually be *harmful* to the person in the midst of the situation.

So what does God want us to do in those times when we desperately want to help a person but there isn't anything we can actually do, besides pray? It is possible the Lord wants us to stay within this frustrating place of

tension for a little while, to recognize our own ineptitude there. When we stop trying to force God to do what we think is best from our limited viewpoints, the Holy Spirit can have more room to work in and through us. As the apostle Paul says, God's power is made perfect in our weakness!

I am certainly not an expert in dealing with the feelings of powerlessness when life seems out of control. It is tempting to beg God to tell us why certain things are happening, particularly when our lives look very different from what we expected. However, God rarely answers the *why* questions immediately. Instead, he gives us grace to live one day at a time as we focus on him.

At this point in my writing I might propose some sort of conclusion, encouragement, or call to action. But I'm in the middle of learning that I must embrace the ambiguity of not always having the right answer. In the meantime, I will pray that we can be fully present for our friends and family who may be going through hard times, even if we don't know exactly what to say. And if anyone has a good comeback for the command to "never get old," I'd love to hear it!

Stephanie Fisher is a family nurse practitioner at the Willamette Heart and Family Wellness clinic in McMinnville and is a professor of nursing at George Fox (although she is often mistaken for being a student there). When she's not working or overthinking theological concepts, she spends her time playing handbells, harp, trumpet, euphonium, and too many other instruments to list.

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome new members **Jim** and **Mary Lou Long**, who transferred their membership here from Rose Valley Friends Church, Kelso, WA.



Outdoor Worship

July 13, 2014
@10:45 a.m.

Potluck Brunch on the Lawn
@ 9:30 a.m.

Bring your own table service
along with a brunch item and/or
a box of cereal to share.
Milk and coffee will be provided.

Fruit of the Vine
July–September 2014

now
at the
welcome
center
\$4.75ea



NFC writers in this issues:
Gregg Koskela
Ron Woodward

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READ AHEAD FOR JUNE 22

Ephesians 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 or inside

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:45am | worship gathering

6pm | Ice cream social with Elizabeth Todd | Hear an update on her time in the Middle East. Relax, eat some ice cream, enjoy community, and celebrate our friend.

Monday, June 23

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Room 121 (note location change)

Tuesday, June 24

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Wednesday, June 25

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Room 121 (note location change)

Thursday, June 26

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Friday, June 27

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Room 121 (note location change)

Saturday, June 28

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

Sunday, June 29

Read ahead: Ephesians 5:3-13

Plan Ahead

July 4 | NFC office closed for Independence Day holiday

July 7 | JOY breakfast | 8am | J's Restaurant | for seniors 55 and older

July 7 | Beryl Woodward memorial service | 11 a.m. | NFC sanctuary

July 12 | Wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508

July 13 | Potluck Brunch (9:30am) and Outdoor Worship (10:45am) | Bring your own plate and tableware, along with a brunch item and/or a box of cereal to share. Milk and coffee will be provided.

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

PASTORAL TEAM

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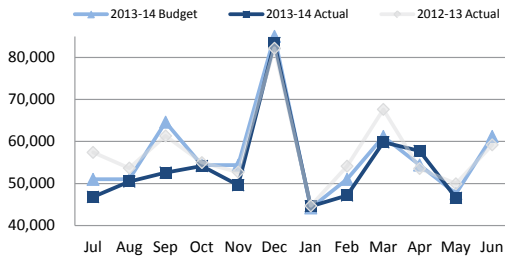
NFC's Calendar on the Web!

NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH

FINANCIAL RECAP + MAY 2014



YTD General Fund Giving



Difference (in thousands)	(4)	(1)	(12)	(0)	(5)	(2)	0	(4)	(1)	3	(1)	Actual vs. Budget
	(11)	(3)	(9)	(1)	(3)	1	(0)	(7)	(8)	4	(3)	Current vs Prior Yr

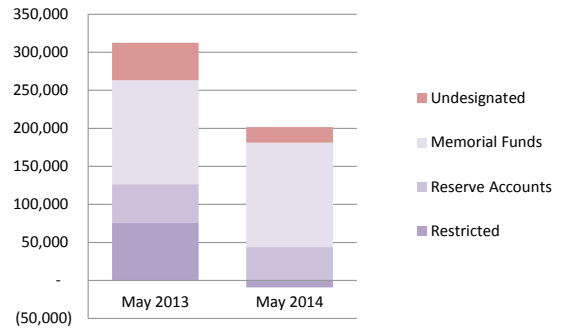
YTD Donor Restricted Funds

	Beginning	Income	Expense	Balance
Global Outreach	1,575	50,347	38,493	13,429
Outside Ministries	4,968	11,258	11,258	4,968
Compassionate Care	4,819	6,656	4,168	7,307
NFC Ministries	5,437	5,696	3,362	7,771
Scholarships	5,574	2,295	2,567	5,302
Facilities	6,195	26,020	95,519	(63,304)
Other Funds	34,570	3,149	22,419	15,300
Totals	63,138	105,421	177,786	(9,227)

General Fund Year-to-Date

	Actual	Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)
Income	633,647	651,932	(18,285)
Expense	(665,131)	(685,284)	20,153
Net	(31,484)	(33,352)	1,868

Cash & Investments



A complete financial report can be found on the bulletin board in the library.

*To friends at NFC:
Thank you for all the cards and letters containing words of encouragement and hope; and thank you for your loving support in attendance as we celebrated John's life Monday at the memorial service. It meant a lot to us that our NFC friends were there.*

The John Coleman family (Donna, Janet, Adam, Donelle, and Julie)

VBS Needs

Vacation Bible school needs the following for decorations and supplies—beach towels, fishing nets, life jackets, paddles, and empty gallon plastic milk cartons.

All items will be returned. Please label your items and bring to the Newberg Friends Church office by June 22. Contact **Michelle Akins** with questions.



Our deadline for Tilikum Day Camp registration for the week of Yearly Meeting, July 21-25, is this coming Monday, June 23. Forms are available in the NFC office, during community time on Sunday, or by simply **contacting Michelle** ASAP to have one delivered electronically.