

Your NFC

OCTOBER 17, 2014

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

ALL IN A DAY'S...LIFE

by Drew Miller

In case you hadn't heard, I recently began serving as youth ministry coordinator at Reedwood Friends Church in Southeast Portland. While I miss my people in Newberg, a lot of perks come with living in Portland, one of my favorites being the diverse lectures and events I can attend. If I didn't have to work, I would be going to lectures and gatherings and learning and reading all the time. This past Friday, I had the privilege of hearing Harsha Walia, a Canadian woman from Bahrain, who is one of the founders of No One Is Illegal and the recent author of the book *Undoing Border Imperialism*.



"I don't think it needs to be a place of despair, and it's especially not a time to wallow in guilt."

One of the most compelling aspects of Walia's work is that she seeks to understand issues of justice and immigration from the perspective of First Nations' people. To First Nations people, the idea of "illegal immigration" takes on a whole new meaning. To First Nations people, the first "illegal" immigrants

were the European settlers who took Turtle Island. Though none of us today are guilty of the crime of taking that land, we certainly still benefit from it, as much as First Nations people struggle because of it. In this sense, our nation is a lot more like South Africa than we'd probably like to admit.

Think about it this way: In the 1950s many of the British and French finally departed from Africa as many African nations claimed their independence—but in the United States, European settlers never left, and indigenous people here have never reclaimed their land and sovereignty. That's why I say we're more like South Africa than we'd like to admit; yes, it's not a perfect parallel and we're different. But just as the British stayed on South African land and enforced their political and cultural and religious systems, so European settlers have remained on this land and have held Turtle Island under our rules.

This feels like quite a hard pill to swallow, and it is—we have a painful history in the United States. Just ask the people



Currently featured
on the art wall
in the social hall:
Creative Art by
Nicole Fawver

Your
NFC

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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

living on reservations. But I don't think it needs to be a place of despair, and it's especially not a time to wallow in guilt. What can we do? I don't have any easy or neat solution, and I certainly don't have in mind any particular political system. What I am proposing is that we build the kingdom of God by listening to and learning from oppressed people.

At youth group this past weekend at Reedwood, a student noted that one of the reasons we often remain divided is not because we don't like the other people, but because we naturally go to our traditional group of friends. We fellowship with those we know the best, not because we don't like other people, but because we just like our group a whole lot. Going alongside that, Harsha Walia noted that most borders in the world are not natural, but imaginary. If you look at maps, borders change over time and will continue to do so. The impermanence of these borders proves how arbitrary they are, and how silly our grasping of them is.

In my best understanding of the Scripture (I have been wrong a lot before), an important part of Jesus' mission was collapsing imaginary borders and including everyone in his kingdom. Perhaps the most obvious example of this was collapsing the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. I tend to think that borders and property lines are more of a Western idea than a Christian idea, especially when I look at how the early church shared everything they had.

When I think about the walls that remain between European-Americans and First Nations people, I know they are very real. But I also think they are imaginary in

the way one of my students noted: "We don't hang out with Native folks or undocumented immigrants because we think they are evil; a lot of it is that we are often so engaged in our own groups, we forget about other folks." Historically, the United States has made it so First Nations and other immigrants of color are shoved out of sight, called evil. I don't think many people, especially among Friends, would claim that anymore, but I know most of us are disconnected from Native folks and other people of color because of it. Despite our awareness, oppressed people are still alive, well, and speaking. I once heard Shawn, a Kalapuya woman, say, "When I was at U of O, a professor tried to say the Kalapuya people are gone. But I am Kalapuya, and I am still alive."

Perhaps it seems overwhelming to consider what you might do to change a world that has so neglected and oppressed people of color. But I do believe what Jesus said—that even the faith of a mustard seed can move mountains. It's not about us fixing the problem or enacting a particular political system—it's about relationship. For me, this has meant being a part of the sweat lodge at Eloheh Farm, a First Nations ministry right here in Newberg, and learning from people of color. Some are among my best friends. As my Najavo friend recently said—"It's about getting to know your community and just showing up." As I read Scripture, I am pretty sure Jesus is powerful enough to take care of changing the world. God can collapse walls. We just need to show up where walls harass love and unity.

Dessert with Debby Thomas

Sunday, October 26
7-8:15 p.m. • Social Hall

Hear from Debby Thomas as she makes a quick stop in Oregon before returning to Rwanda. Debby will share the current work of the EFM/Discipling for Development team in Rwanda and how she and David are planning to transition out of Rwanda in 2015. Cookies and coffee will be served.



Bible Foundation's Annual October Bible Drive

Bibles freely go to many places, including hospitals, nursing homes, rescue missions, homeless shelters, street ministries, remote villages around the world, and more. Gather up the Bibles you're no longer using and drop them in the basket marked "Bibles" in the ramp entrance by the library.

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READ AHEAD FOR OCTOBER 19

Matthew 6:5-8

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

- small group to explore Nathan Foster’s book | Barclay C

10–10:45am | Community Time | in the social hall (or on the lawn)

10:15–10:45am | library staffed

10:45am | worship gathering

3pm | Equipo meeting | North Valley Friends | for everyone planning to help with the upcoming spring break mission to Mexico

Monday, October 20

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance) | 6:30pm | social hall

Tuesday, October 21

High school youth group | 6:30pm | Youth House

Wednesday, October 22

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Grief Group | 6:30pm | Room 234

Middle school youth group | 6:30pm | Friends Center gym

Small group to explore Nathan Foster’s book | 6:45pm | Barclay A/B | second of ten sessions | contact Steve Fawver

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

Thursday, October 23

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

3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade. \$2 per child, \$4 family max

Friday, October 24

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, October 25

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

NFC All-Church Serve Day | 9am-noon | Join with others in the camaraderie of serving your church community! Everyone welcome. We’ll close our work together with a simple chili meal.

Sunday, October 26

Read ahead: Matthew 6:9-15

Dessert with Debby Thomas | 7pm | social hall | Hear from Debby Thomas as she makes a quick stop in Oregon before returning to Rwanda. Debby will share the current work of the EFM/Discipling for Development team in Rwanda and how she and David are planning to transition out of Rwanda in 2015. Cookies and coffee will be served.

Plan Ahead

October 27 | Children’s Ministry Orientation | 7pm | Room 132 | one more opportunity | a review of procedures and policies that we have in place for the safety of our children and volunteers—and much more.

NFC’s Calendar on the Web!

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

Cindy Johnson

pastor, seniors ministries
cindy@newbergfriends.org

Gregg Koskela

lead pastor
gregg@newbergfriends.org

Eric Muhr

pastor, youth ministries
eric@newbergfriends.org

Elizabeth Sherwood

pastor, administration
elizabeth@newbergfriends.org

Nolan Staples

pastor, worship ministries
nolan@newbergfriends.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Denise Lyman

bookkeeper/receptionist
denise@newbergfriends.org

Sherry Macy

admin assist / communications
sherry@newbergfriends.org

Arnie Mitchell

buildings manager
arnie@newbergfriends.org

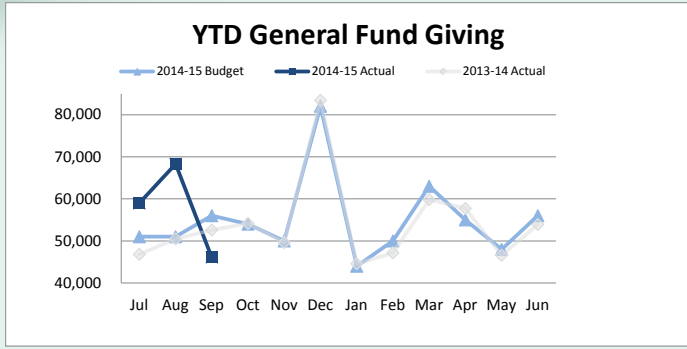
Dan Ritter

buildings manager
dan@newbergfriends.org

Mark Thompson

cemetery sexton
mark@newbergfriends.org

NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH FINANCIAL RECAP + SEPTEMBER 2014

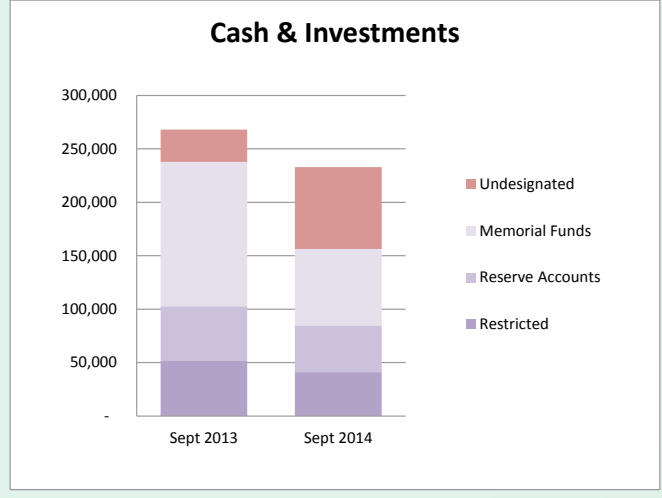


Difference (in thousands) 8 17 (10)
 12 18 (6)

Actual vs. Budget
Current vs Prior Yr

General Fund Year-to-Date			
	Actual	Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)
Income	217,581	200,575	17,006
Expense	(172,982)	(178,250)	5,268
Net	44,599	22,325	22,274

YTD Donor Restricted and Memorial Funds				
	Beginning	Income	Expense	Balance
Global Outreach	12,018	9,610	17,588	4,040
Outside Ministries	5,043	2,936	3,011	4,968
Compassionate Care	7,800	2,231	23	10,008
NFC Ministries	8,144	1,855	1,124	8,875
Scholarships	5,349	450	736	5,064
Facilities	(66,561)	450	(58,950)	(7,161)
Other Funds	15,208	106	-	15,314
Memorial Funds	137,335	24,394	90,086	71,643
Totals	124,336	42,032	53,618	112,750



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

First Lady Lou

a play by
Rebecca Christian

starring actress
Jane Fellows

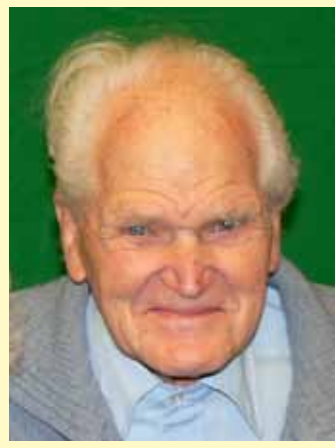
Friday, November 14 @ 7:30 &
Saturday, November 15 @ 2:00

Newberg Friends Church
307 S. College Street
Newberg, OR 97132

Purchase tickets online:
www.thehoover-minthornhousemuseum.org
or call (503) 538-6629

Patrons: \$50
(\$35 tax deductible)
Adults: \$15
Students: \$5

Produced by the Hoover-Minthorn House Museum, property of
The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The
State of Oregon



HEAVEN'S GAIN

William Thomas died on October 14, 2014, at age 97. He and his wife, **Esther May**, have attended NFC since 2009. Other family members at NFC include his son **Clyde (Carol) Thomas**, granddaughter **Anna Thomas**, and two sisters-in-law **Dorothy Thomas** and **Florence Thomas**. Information regarding a memorial service will be published at a later time.

NFC ALL-CHURCH SERVE DAY

Saturday, October 25

9 a.m. to noon

ALL COMERS!