

Your NFC

a weekly newsletter for the
people of the
Newberg Friends Church
community

August 21, 2015



☘ All in a Day's Life

by Joseph Hampton

My sister wrote for *Your NFC* last week, so if you have the time you can go back and read her essay, then come back and read mine and decide for yourself who the better writer is.

I don't want to influence you or anything, but I am an English major and Kelsey studied history and peace building. So, you know... who's the better writer?

If you don't know who I am you probably know one or both of my parents.

If you don't know my parents you probably know one of my grandparents.

If you don't know my grandparents you probably know one or more of my aunts and uncles.

If you don't know any of my aunts and uncles you've probably met one of my extended family, be it a Hampton, Ankeny, McCracken, Haworth, or other married-in families like Smiths, Minthornes, Burgs, etc.

If you don't know any of those people it's probably your first day at Newberg Friends, to which I say welcome.

Welcome to the family.

And it is a family, to me at least.

This is the church where I grew up and the church I still consider my home even though I haven't been there in the last few months and even when I was going I wasn't fully engaged in the church activities.

Now some members of the church may be concerned that my lack of attendance these past months represents a decline in my spirituality, but have no fear. I paid all of my dues for missing Spiritual Life credits at Fox a few weeks ago. So I'm square.

While that last line is true (though cynical and sarcastic) the real reason I haven't been to NFC is because I work on Sunday mornings, have been working on Sunday mornings and will continue to work on Sunday mornings for the foreseeable future.

Because I haven't been in attendance, I've felt strangely disassociated from the church as we go through the trying times of shattering, discernment, and ongoing reunification. Even while I was among the people most heavily affected, I felt detached, like a tourist watching a conflict she doesn't understand.

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But maybe that's how it's always been. Looking back, my connection to NFC and to the wider Quaker world has always been familial, not personal. Over the years I've been relatively inactive as an individual in church and yearly meeting activities, always leashed by anxiety.

At the same time I've always taken great pride in the imperial reach of my family within the Quaker world. My opening "if you don't know then you probably know" bit may be a tad hyperbolic for the sake of comedy, but honestly, you would be hard pressed to find someone who attends Newberg Friends who doesn't know a single person in my extended family.

You can tell you have a big, well-connected family when the word "cousin" can mean anything from your father's nephew to your mother's first-cousin's grandchild.

I'm a part of this community because I was born into it. I didn't earn it, I didn't work for it, and I have turned down multiple opportunities to serve in leadership; like a few months ago when I was asked to join the NFC nominating committee.


I consider Twin Rocks to be part of my extended community and extended home but I only attended

"camp" (as a "camper") once in middle school and I hated it. But my mom had family and friends at the camp and she had worked at the camp when she was younger and my grandpa was the camp director for a period and my great-uncle was a donor and supporter, and so on.

My sister Jessie has been gone for two years and upon her return has already spoken to a Sunday school class about her time abroad.

I'm not saying that I don't deserve to go to the church of my family. I think I have a place by my own right, and I also don't believe one must necessarily earn their spot in a spiritual community. I just find it interesting that so much of my connection to NFC is through relatives and not through my own labors.

This realization does, however, provide me the opportunity to change this streak, maybe not at Newberg Friends, and definitely not now with school starting and work being demanding, but eventually. When I have the time and the place to work toward community and not take for granted the community I've appropriated from my parents and grandparents.



**Newberg Friends Church
College / Young Adult Group**
**Begins Sunday, September 6 @ 9am
Room 232**

Come for weekly connection, conversation, and a chance to gather with other young adults. Bring and share your ideas as this group takes shape.

For more info, contact
hayley.koskela@gmail.com (text 503-806-7167)
or steve@newbergfriends.org.



**Kick-Off-the-Fall
Picnic**
September 13, 2015
@ noon

**Burgers/vegieburgers and
drinks will be provided!**
**Bring a side dish and/or
dessert to share.**
(\$ donations accepted)
**Please bring your own
tableware to help cut down
on disposable products.**

Visitors and college students, just bring your appetite.

Called Congregational Meeting

August 23, 2015 • 6 p.m.

Our Newberg Friends Church clerk, Phil Smith, has called a congregational meeting of NFC on August 23, 2015, at 6 p.m. to consider a minute proposed by the NFC elders, prepared after listening to concerns from NFC attenders and consultation with NFC pastors. The proposed minute makes reference to a letter from the Northwest Yearly Meeting elders, which can be found [HERE](#). The NFC elders' proposed minute follows.

1. Newberg Friends Church appeals to the Yearly Meeting Administrative Council, asking that it reconsider the Yearly Meeting Board of Elders' decision to release West Hills Friends Church from NWYM membership.
2. We acknowledge that West Hills Friends Church is not in harmony with the Faith and Practice of Northwest Yearly Meeting, but state our belief that being out of harmony does not require exclusion from community and fellowship in this case.
3. We acknowledge and appreciate the Board of Elders' desire to facilitate further reflection on the issues of revelation and human sexuality, and our appeal serves those ends.
4. Our appeal of the decision is not a request to change our Faith and Practice statement on human sexuality.
5. The Board of Elders concluded that "our yearly meeting is unable to embrace our current diversity."
6. In making this appeal, we state our belief that ending affiliation because of an inability "to embrace...our diversity" at this time may harm our witness in the world.
7. Jesus prayed that we who follow Christ will love one another and be brought to complete unity (John 17:20-23).
8. In making this appeal, we state our desire to be in a yearly meeting that is willing to remain in community and fellowship while making further attempts to resolve differences in belief and practice.

READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

Romans 12:14-21



Pastoral Team

Michelle Akins

children and family ministries

Steve Fawver

spiritual health and care

Cindy Johnson

seniors ministries

Gregg Koskela

lead pastor

Eric Muhr

youth ministries

Elizabeth Sherwood

administration

Nolan Staples

worship ministries

Support Staff

Denise Lyman

bookkeeper/receptionist

Sherry Macy

admin assist / communications

Arnie Mitchell

buildings manager

Dan Ritter

buildings manager

Mark Thompson

cemetery sexton



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Please direct
all publications items
to Sherry Macy.

What's Ahead

SUNDAY

9am | worship gathering

9am | Summer Sunday school schedule

9am | unprogrammed worship | Barclay C

10-10:45am | Community Time | on the lawn, weather permitting

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:30am | Agape Sunday school class

10:45am | worship gathering

6pm | called congregational business meeting | to consider an appeal of West Hills Friends Church decision

Monday, August 24

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Margaret Fell Women's Missionary Fellowship potluck meal | 5:30pm | NFC social hall (note change) | combined gathering with Teachers Abroad | Bring some food to share and your own table service. Everyone is welcome; come and bring your spouse and/or a friend.

Wednesday, August 26

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Friday, August 28

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, August 29

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

Plan Ahead

September 2 | Children's Ministry Cultivation (CMC) | 7pm | Room 132

September 6 | college/young adult gathering begins | 9am

September 6 | Taize gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

September 7 | NFC office closed for the holiday

September 7 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room (please note new location) | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

September 9 | WBFpm resumes | 7pm | Barclay C

September 10 | Women's Bible Fellowship resumes | 8:45am | social hall

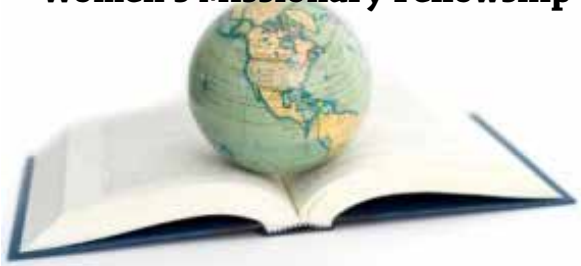
September 10 | Children's Ministry Cultivation (CMC) | 7pm | Room 132

September 13 | resume full children's ministries schedule

September 13 | Kick-Off-the-Fall Picnic | noon | NFC lawn

NFC's Calendar on the Web!

Teaching Abroad / Margaret Fell Women's Missionary Fellowship



YOU'RE INVITED!

The Margaret Fell Women's Missionary Fellowship will kick off the new season on August 24 at 5:30 p.m. with a potluck meal in the NFC social hall. The meeting will combine with the Teachers Abroad gathering. Bring some food to share and your own table service. Everyone is welcome; come and bring your spouse and/or a friend.

Women's Bible Fellowship

*Growing Deeper Together in Christ to
Reach Out to the World*

Women's Bible Fellowship update

Women's Bible Fellowship (WBF) begins Thursday, September 10, at 8:45 a.m. in the NFC social hall. Our steering team welcomes new members and discussion group leaders. As always, we need great recommendations for childcare workers. If you have an interest in joining the steering team, learning more about becoming a discussion leader, or have an idea for a wonderful childcare provider, please contact [Michelle Akins](#). WBFpm will begin Wednesday, September 9, 7 p.m. in Barclay C. This evening option follows the same schedule/studies at WBF but does not provide childcare.



There are two more opportunities ahead for you to attend a Children's Ministries Cultivation meeting before our full program of children's ministries begins on September 13. Join Michelle, children's ministries volunteers (required to attend), parents, and NFC community members for a one-hour meeting focused on our safety procedures and policies and promoting the growth and development of children's ministries at NFC. CMC will be offered Wednesday, September 2, and Thursday, September 10. Both options are held in Room 132 at 7 p.m.



**Abuse Recovery
Ministry & Services**

**Now available in our community:
a faith-based support group
for women who have
or are experiencing
domestic violence or abuse of any kind.
Please call 503-846-9284.**