

# Your NFC

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

September 4, 2015



## From Me to You

by Eric Muhr  
youth ministries



It was about this time 19 years ago that I first met Mark Roberts. We were on the phone, and the words Mark said didn't mean much at the time. It's only later – nearly two decades later – that I can look back and see that those words have shaped the way I think about ministry.

*"Every pastor's a youth pastor."*

I was the new youth pastor at Meridian Friends (Idaho), and since I'd just moved to the Treasure Valley, I'd been making calls on other Friends churches, trying to get to know people, trying to make connections. At Nampa Friends, Mark was the interim pastor, and when I asked about who was working with youth, Mark said he guessed that was what he'd been doing.

Mark had been the pastor at Nampa. And then he'd retired. And then he'd come out of retirement to pastor the older congregation once again. He thought that he was probably one of its younger members. They didn't really have any youth. But there were youth in the neighborhood. Mark hosted a Bible study for teen fathers, and he'd helped one young man find a way to go to college – first by convincing the student that he could succeed, second by contacting the college in question for help with funds, finally by working with the young man to get his car running well enough to make it to Kansas for the first day of classes.

It was clear, though, that Mark was discouraged. If every pastor's a youth pastor, then every member of a healthy congregation helps to care for, nurture, and love the youth and children in that community. But Mark felt isolated in his work with youth. He confided in me that he wasn't really qualified, that it was hard for him to connect with young people, and that some people in his church didn't think he was being wise about how he used his time or who he spent it with.

For a while, Mark and I met roughly once a month to share ideas, to dream about the future, to pray for each other. And then Mark retired for good. And then Nampa Friends closed its doors. There's a Walgreens there now. I guess nothing lasts forever.

But those words Mark spoke to me. On the phone. 19 years ago. I think they're still true. Every pastor's a youth pastor. And every healthy congregation cares for, nurtures, and loves the youth and children in its community.

Oh, and I almost forgot. I never told Mark, but the young man he helped was a friend of mine. He doesn't live in Idaho anymore, either. He's a pastor, and several times he and I have talked about what it means to invest in students. The same way an old pastor once invested in him.

# READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

## James 1



### 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 | Nursery Care only
- 9am | unprogrammed worship | Barclay C
- 9am | college/young adult gathering begins | Room 232
- 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 | Taize gathering | NFC sanctuary

### Monday, September 7 . . . . .

- JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room (*please note new location*) | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older
- NFC office closed for Labor Day holiday

### Wednesday, September 9 . . . . .

- Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B
- WBFpm resumes | 7pm | Barclay C

### Thursday, September 10 . . . . .

- Women's Bible Fellowship resumes | 8:45am | social hall
- Children's Ministry Cultivation (CMC) | 7pm | Room 132

### Friday, September 11 . . . . .

- Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

### Saturday, September 12 . . . . .

- Men's prayer meeting | 8am | Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room
- Wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508

### Sunday, September 13 . . . . .

- Read ahead: James 1
- Resume full children's ministries schedule
- Kick-Off-the-Fall Picnic | noon | NFC lawn (see page 3 for more info)

### Plan Ahead . . . . .

- September 16 | middle school youth group resumes | 6pm | Friends Center
- September 16 | high school youth group resumes | 7:30pm | Friends Center
- October 1 | Pre-K Fun Night | 6-7pm | FC gym | ages 3-5 yrs | \$2/child, \$4 family max
- October 4 | Taize gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary
- October 5 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older
- October 5-7 | pastoral team retreat | NFC office closed
- October 15 | K-2 Fun Night | 6-7:30pm | FC gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade | \$2 per child, \$4 family max

## NFC's Calendar on the Web!

**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.**

**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](mailto:steve@newbergfriends.org).

**Beth Moore**  
**living proof live**  
**SIMULCAST**

Sept. 12, 2015  
 9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
 Grace Baptist Church, Newberg  
 Cost \$25  
 To register go to [gbcnewberg.org](http://gbcnewberg.org)

**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 as WBF but does not provide childcare.



# Building Connections @ NFC

- **Wood ministry**—Share service through Love INC; second Saturday a.m. at Newberg Cemetery. *Larry Hampton*, hamptonl@newberg.k12.or.us
- **Service teams**—Find your niche in a variety of opportunities to serve the community, from grabbing a rake to baking cookies; from grilling burgers to mowing lawns. *Elizabeth Sherwood*, elizabeth@newbergfriends.org
- **Marriage Encouragement Groups**—Connect with 3-4 other couples to read, share, and pray together. *Michelle Akins*, michelle@newbergfriends.org
- **College/young adult group**—Connect with other young adults on Sunday mornings. *Steve Fawver*, steve@newbergfriends.org
- **Unprogrammed worship**—Join others in a time of listening to God centered on scripture, Sunday mornings. *Brandon Buerkle*, info@brandonbuerkle.com
- **Wednesday Listening Life groups**—Journey in the book of James together. All welcome! *Steve Fawver*, steve@newbergfriends.org
- **Women's Bible Fellowship**—Two weekly groups (Wed p.m. and Thurs a.m.) meet for worship, prayer, study, and discussion. *Michelle Akins* at michelle@newbergfriends.org
- **Adult Sunday school classes**—Several classes from which to choose. Open to all! *Steve Fawver*, steve@newbergfriends.org
- **Middle school Sunday school**—A place for middle school youth to grow in community and to regularly engage scripture together. Any interested adults can join the team that corporately cares for the spiritual nurture of this community. *Eric Muhr*, eric@newbergfriends.org
- **Monday morning prayer team**—*Marcile Crandall*, marcile.cran@gmail.com
- **High school Sunday school**—A place for high school youth to hear, see, and experience Christ together. Any interested adults can join the team that works to form a safe space for students to grow in their faith. *Eric Muhr*, eric@newbergfriends.org
- **JOY Breakfast**—Just Older Youth meet monthly for food and conversation. Age 55 and older. *Cindy Johnson*, cindy@newbergfriends.org
- **Children's Sunday school**—Adults, youth, and children explore what it means to know and follow God. Teach and learn with infants through 5th graders in a variety of class settings. *Michelle Akins*, michelle@newbergfriends.org
- **Music ministry opportunities**—If you're musical, join a team that leads worship on Sundays. *Nolan Staples*, nolan@newbergfriends.org
- **Friendly Visitors**—Share time and conversation with an older adult. *Cindy Johnson*, cindy@newbergfriends.org
- **Middle and high school youth group**—Students meet together each week for food, games, prayer, and discussion. Two adult teams share responsibility for coordinating snacks, recreation, teaching, mentoring, and a variety of worship experiences. *Eric Muhr*, eric@newbergfriends.org
- **Fun Nights**—Dinner, games, and stories for preschoolers through 5th graders offered 3 times per year. Adult and youth volunteers welcome. *Michelle Akins*, michelle@newbergfriends.org
- **Community Time**—Between services, time for coffee and conversation with your community. *Elizabeth Sherwood*, elizabeth@newbergfriends.org
- \_\_\_\_\_?????\_\_\_\_\_—If you know of other existing or new ways to connect, please contact *Steve Fawver*, steve@newbergfriends.org.

## Congratulations to Gordon Martin!



**It's official!**

**Bloom** has won the *Enabling Writers* contest for the best literacy software **IN THE WORLD!**

The contest, sponsored jointly by the **US Agency for International Development (USAID), World Vision, and the Australian government**, was searching for the world's best, most accessible software to enable writers to publish books in their mother tongue.

Gord and the team, based mostly in Dallas, TX, submitted **Bloom**, and by all accounts, were in a class by themselves with this program! We are so proud of them and their contribution to world literacy and the empowering of minority communities through reading!

The software was tested in Jordan, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Bangladesh. The top prize of \$100,000 has been awarded to SIL International for the furthering of the mission to build sustainable language development.

**How will this further the work of Bible translation?**



Check out: <http://allchildrenreading.org/> and <http://www.sil.org/about/news/bloom-software-wins-enabling-writers-competition>



## Sandals Class Invitation

**All are welcome** to come to the inter-generational Sandals Sunday school class as we begin again on Sunday, September 6. We meet in the social hall

(downstairs, below the sanctuary) and begin around 9 a.m.

Orville Winters, a retired Friends pastor in our NFC community, will start us off with a three-week series on "How to Read the Bible," looking at scripture as the overarching story of God's work rather than a set of rules.

# TWIN ROCKS friends camp

**Friends Women Retreat**  
**October 2-4, 2015**  
**Twin Rocks Friends Camp**  
**Theme: Fixing Our Gaze**

Our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Doreen Dodgen-Magee, licensed psychologist in Portland, who maintains both an individual therapy practice and a national public speaking docket. She has 23 years of experience working with adults dealing with issues of loss, depression and anxiety, relationships, and life transitions. She is an author as well as a frequent guest lecturer in professional, medical and parenting circles; she offers continuing education for psychologists, medical professionals, educators, and administrators.

We are also excited to have Debby Thomas join us as our missionary-in-residence! She and her family are transitioning back to the United States after serving many years in Rwanda. Debby has finished the course-work phase of her Ph.D. in organizational leadership, has passed her comprehensive exams, and is well into her dissertation phase. She hopes to finish her degree by the end of the year.

Crafts, workshops, and a silent auction are also being planned. Proceeds of this year's auction will help fund a retreat in for the pastors' wives of Rwanda Yearly Meeting.

Cost: Standard – \$153; Deluxe – \$196; Own RV – \$120 | \$10 extra if mailed after September 18

**See retreat brochure here.**

**BEGINNING  
FALL  
2015**

Therefore  
encourage  
one another  
and build  
each other  
up, just as in  
fact you are  
doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11




# **MARRIAGE ENCOURAGEMENT GROUPS**

## **Read, Share, and Pray**

For a number of years, NFC has hosted 3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance). This year we are trying something new to build relationships and strengthen marriages. We are encouraging all married NFC attenders to commit to a group of 4-5 couples September through May. You may meet in your own homes, reserve a space at the church, or even decide to gather at a local coffee shop. Simply, find the place you feel comfortable to read, share, and pray together. We'll help you connect with a group, provide study materials to guide your conversations, and offer ideas for facilitation.

**CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS AND/OR TO FIND A GROUP:  
STEVE@NEWBERGFRIENDS.ORG OR MICHELLE@NEWBERGFRIENDS.ORG**



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PEACE

JOIN NEWBERG'S CELEBRATION OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE!

**Saturday, September 19**

**Peace Walk:** 1 p.m., Francis Square (Hwy 99W North and College St.)

**FREE Peace Concert:** 2 p.m., George Fox University Amphitheater

Featuring Oregon's own Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Rand Bishop and award-winning recording artist Aaron Nigel Smith, founder of One World Chorus and inspiring teacher to children of all ages

Plus booths, displays and lots of fun!

*For more information, contact Suzanne Miller at 503-538-7947*

