

# Your NFC

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

November 20, 2015



## 🍷 All in a Day's Life

by Doug Bartlett



As I walked into the room I felt calmly prepared for class. I reviewed my tools: Bible - check, study notes - check, handouts - check, technology in place and tested - check. I gave the background for the biblical passage I was teaching that Sunday morning, a chapter from one of Paul's letters. It included disparate sections that did not quickly reveal how they related to one another, but I had touched base with my trusted biblical scholar-book friends and felt prepared to tie it all together in a meaningful way.

The Agape class was seriously engaged with the word, jumping on my every query with gusto. (When things go so well it's hard to not feel good about it—we were really unpacking the scripture.) Then a person toward the back of the room said something like, "I like that Paul includes *thanksgiving* in this verse." *Whoa! Where did that come from, I thought*; it was off track from my outline. I did my best to appear gracious in acknowledging the irrelevant contribution and moved ahead.

Then it happened again. The same person from the back of the room offered another comment: "Did you notice the repetition of *thanksgiving* in this paragraph too, just like the one above?" To be honest, I hadn't. I probably mumbled something about Paul inserting the concept of thanksgiving quite liberally into his letters, even when the main thrust of the passage was on something else.

You guessed it. About ten minutes later it happened again, same person similar comment. I tried to hide my unsettledness and proceeded to finish the lesson and class.

Later, at home, I replayed the class and "interruptions" again and again. I was bothered that I was bothered about what had happened, but then the light began to dawn on my dullness. Yes, Paul often threw in the word *thankful* or a related word (even in passages where the fit seems forced)—because he knew people are more naturally prone to grumbling than giving thanks. Then the truth burst in upon me in all its simplicity—*thanksgiving is an indicator of my relationship with Christ*. Wow, I had never thought of it like that. The closer I am to him the more thanksgiving comes naturally from my heart and lips. Or to say the opposite, when I feel and express thanksgiving infrequently, it probably indicates that I'm more the center of my life than I should be. As that realization swept over me afresh, it deeply jolted me because I had rather casually dismissed my lack of spontaneous thanksgiving to my personality, which I blamed on God. (What an easy, logical escape.) The truth has continued to hammer on me—my level of thanksgiving reveals something very important about my spiritual perspective and relationship with Christ.

Once again, the "lesson" for which I was responsible to teach was more for me than others.

[author's bio on page 2]

A short bio from Doug Bartlett—I had the incredible blessing of being born to a wonderful, fully-Christian couple. So I've been in and around the church all my life, for better or worse. My most recent endeavors were to be the executive director of YCAP in McMinnville and to be the manager of Newberg Habitat ReStore. My greatest claim to fame is to have been blessed through 40+ years of marriage to Sheila.



ANNUAL  
THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
AT BAUMAN AUDITORIUM

NOVEMBER 22  
10 AM—COMMUNITY TIME

• COFFEE, DONUTS,  
FRESH-PRESSED APPLE CIDER

• BAKE SALE

(TO BENEFIT THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING\*)

• CREATIVE FAIR

• BRING OPERATION

CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES!

10:45 AM—WORSHIP

\* THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING  
WILL BE COLLECTED DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.



ECLECTIC  
CHRISTMAS

Newberg Friends, Dec 18  
West Hills Friends, Dec 19  
North Valley Friends, Dec 20  
7 pm, \$10 suggested donation

**Young Friends Singers Sunday!**

We're inviting children to help us lead in worship through music on Sunday morning, **December 20!** We will gather to learn music on the four Saturday mornings prior to December 20 (November 28; December 5, 12, and 19) in Room 246, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. We ask that singers attend at least two of the four rehearsals, *December 19 required*. Children ages 4 through 5th grade are welcome to join us for this fun opportunity to sing some Christmas songs together! If you would like more information, contact Nolan Staples, Becky Ankeny, Davida Brown, or Liz Dillow.

**Please notify [Nolan](#) if your child/ren plan to participate.**

# READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

[James 5:13-16](#)



## 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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P.O. Box 487 (mailing)  
Newberg, Oregon 97132  
503-538-8381

[www.newbergfriends.org](http://www.newbergfriends.org)

Please direct  
all publications items  
to **Sherry Macy**.

## What's Ahead

### SUNDAY

Annual combined gathering at Bauman Auditorium (on the campus of George Fox University)

**10am** | Harvest Community Time

**10:45am** | Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service

### Monday, November 23

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring Dennis Littlefield, Tilikum

### Wednesday, November 25

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

### Thursday, November 26

NFC office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

### Friday, November 27

NFC office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

### Saturday, November 28

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

Young Friends Singers rehearsal | 10am | Room 246

### Sunday, November 29

Read ahead: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

### Plan Ahead

December 6, 13, 20 | 2016 directory photo opportunity

December 6 | Taize gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

December 7 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

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

December 12 | Relief Bag Sewing Party | 1pm | NFC social hall

December 14 | Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | NFC social hall (note change in location) | featuring Anna Thomas, Kara Maurer — Christmas in Russia

December 16 | Julia Pearson WMF | 1:30pm | Friendsview Hess Creek Classroom | featuring Lynn Holt, FTS to Ramallah

December 18 | Eclectic Christmas at NFC

December 24 | Annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Services | 5pm, 6:30pm, 8pm | everyone welcome!

## NFC's Calendar on the Web!

• Do you need to step away as a family from the busyness of the holiday season? Then sign up today for **Family Holiday Weekend** at Twin Rocks Friends Camp from December 11 to 13! This is a fun and affordable camp for all ages. Consider making this retreat a part of your family's holiday traditions! [Register online](#) or call 503-355-2284.



# Christmas Music Concert



featuring **NFC Bells** and **Newberg Brass**

Monday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, 301 S. River, Newberg

Call 503-538-1344 for more information.

• admission: 1 can of food for the food bank •

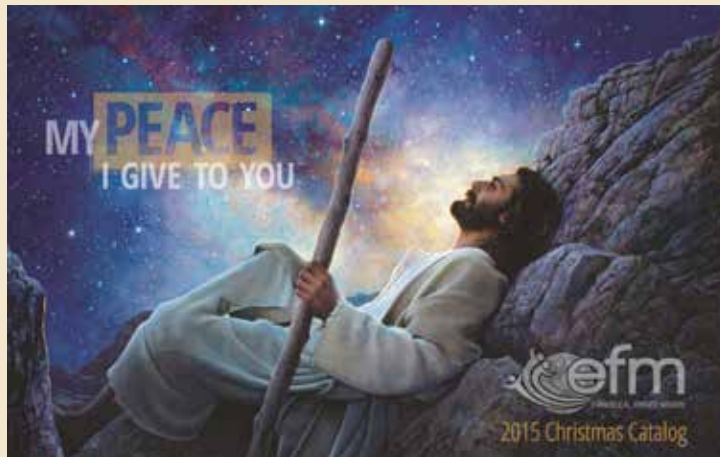


**Upcoming 2015  
Directory Photo Ops**

**December 6 / 13 / 20**

(and January 10 for Friendsview residents)

**Go directly  
to EFM's  
Christmas  
catalog by  
clicking on  
the image to  
your right.**



**While you enjoy your  
Thanksgiving break,  
your**

**Your  
NFC**

**editor will as well.  
See you back here on  
December 4!**

**Remember and honor your loved ones. Order a Christmas plant today!**



Yes, I would like to help decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season by providing \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) (\$7.50/ea) in honor or memory of a loved one. I give it...

...in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

...in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*Please clearly mark your check "Christmas plant." Put this slip and your payment in an offering envelope and place it in the offering plate or take it to the church office by Tuesday, December 1.*

*You may pick up your plant(s) following the 8 o'clock Christmas Eve service.*

## Resources for Individual Study

The NFC elders have assembled a beginning list of resources on issues around human sexuality, inviting interested members of the congregation to begin informing themselves. This is in the spirit of the statement by the yearly meeting Board of Elders that has encouraged Friends to do the hard work of study and reflection on issues of human sexuality. These resources should not be seen as “required reading” but as a direction to help prepare for more specific directed study in the new year. The elders intend no endorsement of any of these resources but rather are hoping to represent a spectrum of thought on the conversation for those who have the time and motivation. Several of these books will be available in the NFC library.

A task force will be formed soon to plan a structure for study groups with a more specific curriculum. Friends are invited to join the NFC elders for a time of corporate prayer from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary on the second Monday of each month, beginning December 14, 2015.

### How Does the Bible Lead Us to Truth?

[\*\*How to Read the Bible for All its Worth\*\*](#) by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, Zondervan 4th ed. 2014.

This book is a basic introduction to help with interpreting the Bible. It is a classic used for decades in colleges and seminaries but very readable for anyone interested.

[\*\*Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis\*\*](#) by William J. Webb, Intersity Press 2001.

This book is designed to give a framework to help the reader consider why you apply scripture the way you do, no matter what position you take. Webb offers his perspective on developing interpretation principles that help address what issues are cultural and what are timeless.

[\*\*The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It\*\*](#) by Peter Enns, Harper One, 2015.

Trained as an evangelical scholar, the author earned his Ph.D from Harvard University. This book is his personal journey of wrestling with the more rigid lens of viewing the Bible he experienced growing up, and coming to what he calls “a more honest way to love and appreciate God’s word.” Written with humor and not a highly technical book.

[\*\*Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today\*\*](#) by N.T. Wright, Harper One, 2013.

Many people agree with the authority of the Bible, but the sticking point is what that means. N.T. Wright “shows how both evangelicals and liberals are guilty of misreading Scripture” and uses the Bible’s teaching on Sabbath and monogamy as case studies for developing a solid interpretation practice. An Anglican, Wright roots the authority of the Bible in the authority of God, similar to the Quaker perspective.

[\*\*Historical and Current Quaker views on the Bible: Readings from Barclay’s Apology, the Richmond Declaration of Faith, and Faith and Practice\*\*](#)

This selection of readings helps give an idea of the different ways Quakers have viewed the Bible. Part of a chapter from [\*\*Barclay’s Apology\*\*](#) is reprinted with permission from Barclay Press here in Newberg.

### Stories of People with Same Sex Attraction and a Commitment to Evangelical Christianity

[\*\*Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality\*\*](#) by Wesley Hill, Zondervan 2010.

In this book, Hill writes of his own journey to be faithful to Jesus with his own same-sex attraction, which has led him to live a life of celibacy.

*continued on page 6*

**[Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays vs Christians Debate](#)** by Justin Lee, Jericho Books 2013

In this book, Lee writes of his own journey as an evangelical Christian attracted to men, which has led him to conclude that the Bible can be understood to support same-sex marriage.

### **How Do Different People Interpret What the Bible Says about Human Sexuality?**

David Platt is a pastor in the Southern Baptist denomination and author of several books including *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith From the American Dream*. He preached in 2013 on Romans 1:18-32, outlining why he believes the Bible teaches that sexuality should only be expressed in a marriage between a man and a woman: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WY0zTygEyo>

Debra Hirsch is a church leader and trained counselor, and cofounder of Forge Mission Training Network. She's also an author, most recently of *Redeeming Sex: Naked Conversations About Sexuality and Spirituality*. This video isn't focused narrowly on same-sex issues, but takes a broader view of human sexuality. She was speaking to pastors in Southern California. She, too, offers a more traditional interpretation.

<https://vimeo.com/141217515>

Matthew Vines grew up in an evangelical Presbyterian church and attended Harvard University for two years. He dropped out to study full time what the Bible teaches about homosexuality. This video was filmed in 2012, was viewed by hundreds of thousands of people, and led to him writing the book *God and the Gay Christian*. In the video, he details his controversial belief that "the Bible never directly addresses and certainly does not condemn loving, committed same-sex relationships."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezQjNJUSraY>

Article: **[Homosexuality and the Bible](#)** by Walter Wink. Fellowship of Reconciliation website.

This piece begins and ends with a call to tolerance and against allowing sexual issues to tear churches and denominations apart. He then looks at Old and New Testament scriptures on sexual issues. After the review of the scriptures, he questions why we don't follow some admonitions found in the Bible and we do follow others.

Article: **[How Christians Can Flourish in a Same-Sex Marriage World](#)** by Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner. Christianity Today. November 2, 2015

The authors respond to the Supreme Court decision that the Constitution guarantees the right to same-sex marriage by looking at the cultural changes that have been occurring in the US. They encourage Christians to participate in cultural and social discussions rather than withdrawing or engaging in dogmatic proclamation. Instead, they discuss ways that Christians can and should continue to be involved in culture and social issues, while continuing to live within their beliefs.

**[The Bible's YES to Same-Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart](#)** by Mark Achtemeier, Westminster John Knox Press 2014.

The author long held a traditional, conservative view of these issues. This book gives his account of how he changed his mind and addresses his interpretation of biblical passages that leads him to affirm same-sex marriage.

**[The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics](#)** by Robert Gagnon, Abingdon Press, 2001.

The most thorough exposition of the traditional Christian view of homosexual practice. An able scholar who interacts with a wide range of scholarship up to its time of publication, now about 15 years ago.

**Remember:** Friends are invited to join the NFC elders for a time of corporate prayer from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary on the second Monday of each month, beginning December 14, 2015.

# BAKE SALE



## FUNDRAISER

### Help support the THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Bake your favorite pies, cookies, breads, or brownies. Bring them to Bauman on November 22 by 9:45am. Please wrap your items in disposable containers and price your baked goods at \$10 or below. All sales will benefit this year's Thanksgiving Offering.

Bake Sale benefits our Thanksgiving Offering, and really there are no "rules" for what you can or can't make. Please price your own baked goods. We love everything: brownies, pies, cakes, cookies, breads, etc.

## Relief Bag Sewing Party

**Saturday, December 12**  
**1-3 p.m. • NFC social hall**

Basic sewing of 12.5" x 19" bags, with double-drawstring tops. Non-sewers can iron and insert drawstrings.

**Bring:** sewing machine (if you have one); thread, scissors, pins; rotary cutters/cutting boards (if you have one);

fabric (large scraps only; each bag needs a piece 12.5" x 38")

**Provided:** drawstring cording, some fabric, tables, extension cords, snacks

*NFC attenders will provide four items for each bag: nail clippers, dark-colored hand towel, bar of soap, toothbrush (all new and in original packaging). Mennonite Central Committee will distribute them to people in areas of conflict and/or disaster in the world.*

**Details about this project can be found [HERE](#) or contact [Elizabeth Sherwood](#).**

## Newberg Friends Church CREATIVE FAIR

**Bauman Auditorium  
Lobby**  
**Sunday, November 22**  
**10-10:45 a.m.**

Come share your creative side. Whatever God has gifted you to create, we want to see it! This is an event for all ages. If you'd like to have a space to display your creation(s) as a part of our Thanksgiving service community time, please contact Michelle Akins by November 20 so we can have enough table space for you. Send a description of your item(s) and a sentence or two about why you like to create in this way.

**Contact:**  
[michelle@newbergfriends.org](mailto:michelle@newbergfriends.org)

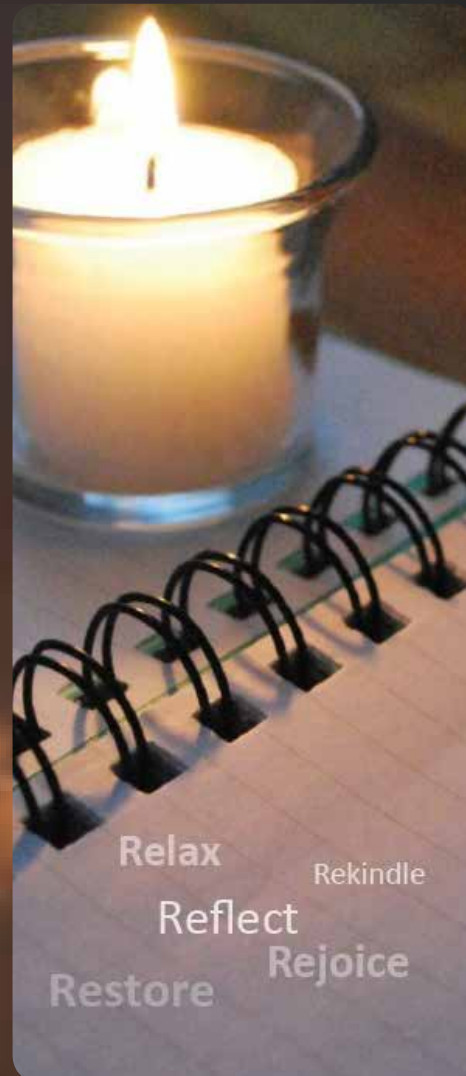
# Sabbath <sup>by</sup> the Sea

I want to personally invite each of you to consider taking some time to come away and be with Christ this coming January. I have the opportunity to work with an exceptional group of people (including many NFCers) as we lead week-long and half-week retreats at Twin Rocks Harbor Villa on the beach in Rockaway, Oregon. Sabbath by the Sea is spacious, restful, and open for you to be with God. Bracketed by simple morning and evening prayers, the schedule leaves you free to explore, walk on the beach, nap by a fire, read, eat scrumptious food, and spend time with Jesus. Groups are limited to 12 participants.

Not everyone can get away for a whole week, so we offer opportunities to come from Monday to Thursday or from Thursday to Sunday. Those who work during the week can take one day off on Friday and still have a good chunk of time to pray and listen to God. I invite those who have attended a January retreat in the past to consider going again and taking someone with you who might need time and space in life right now.

**Visit the website** or give us a call! We will send you a brochure. The table is always set and Christ invites us to come away to listen, rest, and abide with him.

—**Steve Fawver**, pastor of spiritual health and care  
503-538-8381



## Daily schedule:

- 7:45- Pre-breakfast scripture & prayer
- 8:30- Breakfast
- 9:30- Morning gathering
- 10:15- Personal time
- 12:30- Lunch
- 1:30- Personal time
- 4:00- Optional spiritual direction
- 5:30- Dinner
- 6:45- Worship, highlights, and prayer
- 8:00- Sleep, play, relax, read...

## Leaders:

- December 31-January 3 – Susan and Gary Fawver
  - January 4-10 – Steve Fawver, Martha Wood
  - January 11-17 – Bethany Lee, Paul Bock
  - January 18-24 – Hank and Jo Helsabeck
  - January 25-29 – Bruce and Di Murphy
  - March 17-20 – Susan and Gary Fawver
- Worship singing will be led each week by Mauri Macy or Nate Macy*