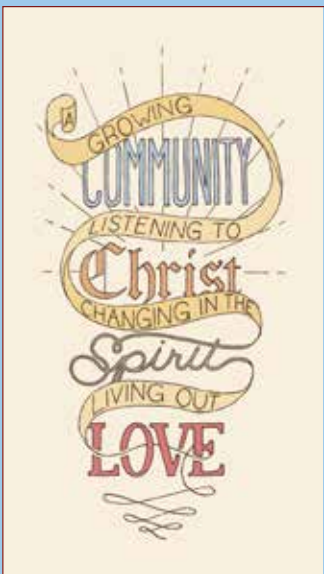


# Your NFC

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

January 1, 2016



## From Me to You

by Elizabeth Sherwood

*Pay attention.  
Be astonished.  
Tell about it.*  
—Mary Oliver

I came across these simple instructions in a chapter on Epiphany. I was drawn to these three short sentences in part because I don't have lots of down time for reading during the holidays. I was also taken by the words that highlighted for me exactly what I am hoping for this season. I want to pay attention. I want to be surprised by joy. I want my life to speak of God's goodness. I am also very much aware of my shortcomings during this time of the year. The "extras" can be so distracting. The expectations can be overwhelming.

So instead of taking in the three short sentences, I decided to live with just the first one: *Pay attention*. How will it look if I focus on the things happening left and right and all around me and see them for what they are—acts of simple kindness I see others doing at the grocery store or in the airport; words of politeness spoken to the crummy customer in front of me; family members enjoying one another; a friend asking for help from their church and receiving more than they imagined? What if I pay attention to the events around me and recognize in them little acts of grace that reflect the nature of Christ?

What if I set aside the noisy to-do list in my brain to lift up the strangers that I drive by; to ask for God's mercy to be known by my family members; to pray for the many who don't have the luxury of distractions because survival of their present suffering consumes all of their emotional and physical energy?

What if I could pay attention to what God is doing in my own life—to see him wait for me to slow down and rest in his presence; to hear the Spirit encouraging me to respond more slowly so that kindness instead of snarky sarcasm is spoken; to recognize Christ's presence in the here and now instead of being caught up in the plan for tomorrow?

If I could pay attention to all beautiful spiritual moments all around—not miss them due to my own distractibility—would not I then be astonished? Would my life then naturally speak of the grand story of Jesus? Life can be found in the simplicity of taking this day hour by hour, asking my Lord to help me receive all that I can; asking the Spirit to help me pay attention.





**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.

**READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY**

**Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14**

**What's Ahead**

**SUNDAY**

9am | 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

9am | unprogrammed worship | Barclay C

10-10:45am | Community Time | in the social hall and library

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:30am | Agape Sunday school class | Barclay B

10:45am | worship gathering

1:30pm | Bible Quiz practice | FC Room 100

6pm | Taize gathering | NFC sanctuary

**Monday, January 4**

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

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

**Wednesday, January 6**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

**Thursday, January 7**

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

**Friday, January 8**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

**Saturday, January 9**

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, January 10**

Read ahead: Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 3:15-17; Acts 8:14-17

**Plan Ahead**

January 11 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Prayer Room (Room 236)

January 16 | memorial service for Janette Stoltzfus | 1:30pm | NFC sanctuary

January 17 | Women's Retreat steering meeting | 3:30pm | Barclay C

January 17 | CMC meeting | 7pm | 14035 NE Tangen Rd, Newberg

January 20 | Julia Pearson WMF | 1:30pm | Friendsview Classroom | featuring Linda Byrd, World Venture Mission Camps

January 25 | Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring a Skype conversation with Badgleys, Friends Serving Abroad

February 1 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

February 4 | Pre-K Fun Night | 6-7pm | FC gym | ages 3-5 yrs

February 11 | K-2 Fun Night | 6-7:30pm | FC gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade

February 25 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade

**NFC's Calendar on the Web!**



The January/February/March 2016 *Fruit of the Vine* is now available at the welcome center. \$5/ea. NFC writers include Becky Ankeny, Barbara Mann, and Hank Helsabeck.



Join the Sandals Sunday school class as **Jessy Hampton** shares about Muslim-Christian relations in the Middle East and how it felt to be an American in that setting. The class meets at 9 a.m. in the social hall below the sanctuary; all are welcome to join our intergenerational class.



**Click image to read online.**

*DAILY READER*

Peace Month  
January 2016



## Happy January Birthday

- |                            |                           |                            |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Harlan Wooldridge | Kyle Fish                 | <b>20</b> Bethany Lee      |
| <b>2</b> Nicole Fawver     | Ava McNeal                | <b>21</b> Esther Johnson   |
| Sami Molina                | <b>12</b> Josh Bannister  | <b>23</b> Brian Craven     |
| Norma Yoder                | Desmond Flachsbart        | Mike Foster                |
| <b>3</b> Aaron Dunlop      | Susan Hampton             | John Johnson               |
| Jacob Graham               | <b>14</b> Jake Hardy      | <b>24</b> Marcille Comfort |
| Bev Payton                 | Beth Nistler              | Elizabeth Sherwood         |
| <b>4</b> Hudson Hutchinson | <b>15</b> Jolee Akins     | <b>26</b> Tim Engle        |
| <b>6</b> Tim Hyatt         | Kelly Shelton             | Celeste Flachsbart         |
| Merrill Johnson            | Eliana Swan               | Christian Hampton          |
| Zach Maurer                | <b>16</b> Brandon Buerkle | Ryland Meissner            |
| Brad Wood                  | Gary Fawver               | <b>27</b> Rick McNeal      |
| <b>7</b> Nancy Brown       | Joshua Passmore           | Stephanie Thouvenel        |
| Floyd Schrock              | Gib Rickey                | <b>28</b> Gary Buckley     |
| <b>8</b> LaJuan Hampton    | <b>17</b> Alda Clarkson   | Alandra Thomas             |
| Sandy Prewitt              | Susan Doak                | <b>30</b> Gary Brown       |
| <b>9</b> Louisa Buerkle    | Ron Stansell              | Sam Farmer                 |
| <b>10</b> Twila Tschan     | <b>18</b> Lenna Ragsdale  | Manfred Tschan             |
| Caitlin Wall               | Lois Smith                | <b>31</b> Lesta Hockett    |
| Courtney Wall              | Heidi Tschan              | Jana Kaye                  |
| <b>11</b> Ginny Birky      | <b>19</b> Paul Fodge      | Paul Shelton               |