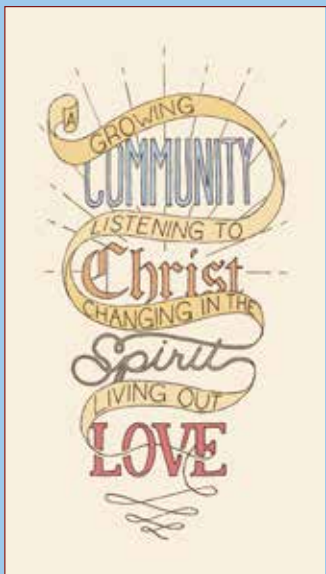


Your NFC

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

April 29, 2016



☉ Pastor Quarterly Reports

Dreams: Realized and Striving

Nolan Staples, worship ministries

I once had a teacher who regularly reminded us: “There is no *there*.” The same is true with our music and worship; we will never have “arrived” at a final place. There will always be new ways to relate to each other and express our worship through music. We will always be works in progress as we continue to show up to sing, listen, connect, and worship in community together. Our desire increases to grow closer to God and to be molded more into people who live and love well. God never tires of our worship offerings, and we are renewed in our singing and listening and waiting together. I am encouraged that there is life and creativity and healing in music. There is freshness and depth in music-making that we can continue to use as a point of connection as we worship together. I pray we can be a community that is blessed and challenged by having variety in our music. I pray we can be a community that gives freedom to each one to use his or her unique gifts to bless our diverse church body. I am very glad we have so many people in our congregation who are eager and willing to join together to lead us musically.



Elizabeth Sherwood, administrative pastor

This spring facilities co-managers Dan Ritter and Arnie Mitchell developed a plan to bring a couple of our furnaces up to speed in both cost and energy efficiency. The furnace that heats the Barclay building is used six days a week and runs below 80 percent efficiency. The ceiling unit in Barclay A is loud and distracting. The proposed plan will involve a 96 percent efficient furnace in the office and a ductless heat pump for Barclay A and B. The project will be funded by the Furnace Repair Reserve as well as the Gasoline Tithe Fund. The trustees approved the project and anticipate savings to the budget as we honor our value of being better stewards of our energy resources.



This project is the second of two significant uses of the Gasoline Tithe Fund, created in 2009. The goal of the fund was to raise awareness of how we each use resources (specifically, gasoline) and to encourage voluntary giving of either a literal or symbolic tithe on the amount we spend at the gas pump. Funds would be designated for creation care projects at the church. Over the years, \$6,200 has been given. In 2012 we worked with Energy Trust of Oregon, which matched monies from the tithe fund for

insulation for the Barclay building. This summer we will be using more than \$2,000 of the fund to replace three inefficient furnaces. The trustees want to thank folks from NFC who have participated in the Gasoline Tithe Fund and would like to invite others to join in this specific effort of stewardship.

Gregg Koskela, lead pastor

Even with the tension that has swirled around our church and our yearly meeting over the last nine months, there have been beautiful signs of health in our com-



munity. Wider events have opened our eyes to ways we disagree about important issues; yet there are so many ways we see evidence of people seeking God through the Bible and community to find out how to live more faithfully in obedience to Jesus. There are so many ways people are working to demonstrate love and compassion to all.

On each of the Sundays in April, more than 100 people gathered to watch a series of videos on human sexuality and meet in small groups for discussion. Forty-nine of those have filled out a survey about the experience (you can do it [here](#) if you haven't already). The answers show that this process was really helpful! Before the meetings, 21 people (43%) said they were apprehensive or concerned about having these discussions in our church (with 7 of those very apprehensive or concerned). After the meetings, 37 (75%) were grateful or hopeful about the continued process (6 of those very grateful or hopeful), and only 8 apprehensive or concerned (and none in the "very" camp). The questions about how the elders' goals of learning together and listening with compassion were achieved all were answered positively. Perhaps most encouraging was that 83% agreed or strongly agreed that they could now do a better job of explaining a perspective different from their own.

It's not easy being in disagreement about important things, but this shows there is value in being the kind of church that can discuss and learn and seek truth together. We will publish more results from the survey after more responses are in.

Here's what else encourages me: while some might feel issues of sexuality have been the sole focus of the church, there are all kinds of examples that show growing ministry. Our International House, which was just an idea in Loren VanTassel's mind a year ago, experiences vibrant

community each Friday night, and several are part of our Sunday morning gatherings. More than 30 people from NFC have been praying and researching ways to tangibly help refugees. We have an intern coming on board this summer who will help with that process, as well as explore a new Christian ministry in Newberg called Safe Families, that would give us the opportunity as a church to holistically help a local family in crisis. I'm very grateful for being part of a church that continues to focus on living obediently to Jesus and living out God's love in our world!

Michelle Akins, children and family ministries

When you think about the NFC social hall, I wonder if your thoughts and feelings resonate with mine? For me, it's where many of my dreams have come true. The social hall is a place of healing, worship, fellowship, and peace. My affection for the social hall began 13 years ago with the Alpha course, facilitated by Jo Helsabeck. Since then it's been used in my life and pastoral work for a variety of ministries. Currently, I am grateful for the space as a place for Women's Bible Fellowship (WBF) to gather on Thursday mornings. In the fall of 2003 I sheepishly walked into a community of women who embraced me with grace and forgiveness. I found WBF to be a place of freedom and kindness, and I never left. I was encouraged to study, use my gifts, and live with integrity. Soon I offered myself as a small group leader, steering team member, and when Jo retired a few years ago, WBF (and women's ministries in general), became a part of my pastoral responsibilities. I am happy to report that today WBF has expanded to include an evening group on Wednesdays. At least half of the participants in WBF/WBFpm are from beyond the NFC community. Our social hall is a sanctuary, a place of worship, for more than 85 women who have participated in WBF this year. We welcome all women, regardless of previous attendance, to join us for a delicious brunch on May 26, 8:45 a.m., in the NFC social hall.



If you follow me on social media, you probably know that another place I've experienced dreams realized is in my home on Tangen Road. Here on almost nine acres, Alan and I are learning about "farm life" and what it takes to manage the flora and fauna. Being serious suburbanites our whole lives, we have a steep learning curve, but he and I are enjoying the work it takes to grow as individuals and as a couple in order

to partner together as country folk. Perhaps all this talk about growing has been the catalyst for me to rename our children's ministry meetings to Children's Ministry Cultivation (CMC). Years ago, this idea stemmed from my desire to see real growth and transformation happen within our church in the area of children's ministries. I've been grateful for the ways you have trusted me to put together a plan, implement it, and keep it going—but my heart longs to have your input, teamwork, and group prayer feeding children's ministry on a regular basis. Every other month during the year you're invited out to Tangen for CMC. Here in my home we'll share stories, seek out ideas, discuss questions designed to cultivate children's ministries, and pray together. My hope is that volunteers, parents, and interested NFCers would join me as we strive to grow together for the benefit of the children we serve, worship with, and love in our community. Our next CMC will be May 12, 7:30 p.m., 14035 NE Tangen Rd., Newberg. Meetings last one hour.

Eric Muhr, youth ministries

Lightening our load of possessions brings a lightness of spirit, even freedom.

Not so many years ago, a friend of mine left for California on an early spring morning. He was working there

for the summer. He was supposed to have everything packed up and ready to go by 6:30 that morning. Of course, he put it off until the last minute. Of course, his alarm clock didn't go off. And he wasn't able to finish his laundry. And he didn't have room for even half the stuff he wanted to take.

I noticed something interesting as he rushed around, trying to get out the door. His priorities had changed (or finally come to light). Many of his prized possessions—television, computer, books, new clothes—had to be sacrificed because they wouldn't fit (and the journey was of primary importance). He couldn't afford to take anything that would hold him back.

Maybe this is how we should view our own lives in the world: as a journey. What are we spending time on—career, possessions, responsibilities, relationships—that we don't have time for? What people, things, or activities are holding us back from fully experiencing this journey to which God has called us? And of all the things that we desire, how many of them do we actually need? Are they good for us?



Nicole Williford has been part of our congregation for the last few years, leading in worship occasionally and joining some with the Monday morning prayer group. Her senior thesis art project at George Fox University was to paint people, and a couple of her subjects are part of our congregation. She's let us hang her pieces at the church to enjoy, in the upstairs hallway near the nursery. At 10:15 on Sunday morning, she will be there to give a short artist talk and the paintings will be on display.



“My personal artistic process begins with an organic response to my environment followed by an exploration into how the piece is in conversation with itself, the surrounding environment and with the rest of my work.

“As I paint the people I am drawn most strongly to, I search the growing collection of pieces for deeper themes and shared expressions. Why this posture? What does this color say? How does this size affect a viewer's experience? What commonalities do these individuals hold? As my reflections and ideas become more concrete I am able to make more specific formal choices, creating visual unity as I come to better understand their common conceptual foundation.

“...I have learned both to celebrate quiet moments and to persevere through hard and confusing times. It is through the process of making marks and taking risks that these moments of serenity are made possible. In both life and work, I look forward to my continued exploration of this balance.” –Nicole Williford



READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

[Luke 2:36-38](#)



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

Kara Estep
youth ministries coordinator

Denise Lyman
bookkeeper/receptionist

Sherry Macy
admin assist / communications

Arnie Mitchell
buildings manager

Dan Ritter
buildings manager

Mark Thompson
cemetery sexton



Newberg Friends Church
307 S College Street
P.O. Box 487 (mailing)
Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-538-8381

www.newbergfriends.org

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

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

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

6pm | Taizé gathering | NFC sanctuary

Monday, May 2

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, May 4

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Middle school youth group | 6:00pm | Friends Center

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

High school youth group | 7:30pm | Friends Center

Thursday, May 5

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

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

Friday, May 6

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, May 7

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

Cemetery work morning | 9am-noon | Friends Cemetery | contact Elizabeth

Sunday, May 8

Read ahead: Proverbs 22:6; 2Timothy 1:1-7

Plan Ahead

May 9 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

May 12 | Children's Ministry Cultivation | 7:30pm | Akins home | parents, volunteers, NFC community members invited to talk and pray about growing and improving our children's ministry | contact [Michelle](#)

May 14 | wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508

May 18 | Julia Pearson WMF | 1:30 | luncheon in the Hess Creek Dining Room for installation of officers

May 19 | K-2 Fun Night | 6-7:30pm | FC gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade

May 21 | NFC work morning | 8:30-11:30am | contact [Elizabeth](#)

May 24 | elders/stewards budget meeting | 7pm | Barclay A | to finalize proposal for 2016/17 fiscal year budget

May 26 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission

NFC's Calendar on the Web!



"Our Refuge"

NWYM FRIENDS WOMEN SPRING RALLY 2016

Featuring **Anna Thomas and Kara Maurer** NWYM young adults who spent a year in Russia – learning the language, teaching English, and sharing the love of Jesus.

Offering to **assist bringing Natasha** from Moscow Monthly Meeting (Russia) to build relationships while visiting NWYM churches, events and Friends Women.

**Salad Luncheon: Bring a salad to share
(drinks and tableware provided)**

**Saturday, June 4, 2016 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Newberg Friends Church, 307 S. College, Newberg**



WE NEED YOUR HANDS AT THE CEMETERY!

Please consider joining us at Newberg Friends cemetery for a work morning (9 a.m. to noon) **Saturday, May 7**. Weeding, trimming, basic landscaping, and power washing are a few of the tasks we will tackle in preparation for Memorial Day weekend.



College Scholarships for undergraduates will be available for those who consider NFC their church home and who attend Friends colleges or universities such as George Fox. Find an application at the welcome center, pick one up from the church office during the week, or download it from [this link](#). Return your completed application by June 15. We ask that students reapply each year for this scholarship.

Happy May Birthday

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Maurice Chandler | Sandra Fish | 20 Scott Ankeny |
| Margie Davidson | Jim Jackson | Sandy Osterberg |
| Marvin Hampton | 12 Sherrill Comfort | Mary Schrock |
| 2 Beth Lamm | Jameson McDonough | 22 Seth Baird |
| Abbie Sol | Luke "Tad" Thouvenel | 23 Richard Nistler |
| 3 Jenny Meissner | 13 Bennet Brown | 24 Garry Angus |
| David Sherwood | Sadie Hampton | Penny Koffler |
| 4 Pam Jackson | Liz Liebman | Meira Lee |
| 5 Robert Bonner | Eryn McKee | 26 Doris Morris |
| 7 Erik Linvog | 14 Oliver Flachsbart | 27 Stephen McKinney |
| Amanda Witter | Peggy Hanson | 28 Beth LaForce |
| 8 Katherine Millage | 16 Emma Libby | Di Murphy |
| Gabi Molina | 17 Junia Doak | Steve Sherwood |
| Kristen Nance | 18 Benjamin Briedwell | 29 Marianne Marshburn |
| Brenna Russom | Andy Comfort | 30 Kaleb Jones |
| Debra Worden | Diane Fawver | Beverly Kelsven |
| 9 Marcile Crandall | Rachel Mann | Barb Mann |
| 10 Larry Anderson | 19 Judi Nolta | 31 Phineas Kulpa |

VBS – Volunteer Opportunities

Monday, June 27 - Thursday, June 30, 2016

9-11:30am • Register as a volunteer [HERE](#).



Deep Bible Quest Leaders: 1 adult to tell the Bible story each day during our rotations. Groups of kids and their cave crew leaders range from 30-60 people. Scripture portions and story themes provided. Leaders can tell/act out the story as they choose.

Imagination Station Leaders: 2-4 adults and youth to provide awesome interactive object lessons for one of our rotations. Ideas and curriculum provided, and as always, freedom to come up with your own experiments and activities.

Kid Vid Cinema Leaders: 2-4 adults and youth to facilitate indoor interactive discussions, activities and play a short video each day that reinforces our Bible theme/story for one of our rotations. Materials, videos, and curriculum provided.

Spelunker Sports and Games Leaders: 2 youth to help the adult volunteers facilitate the recreation rotation. All large group game curriculum and supplies provided.

Cave Crew Leaders: Youth age 11 and older and adults to guide children ages 4 through 5th grade to all rotations and to debrief with kids at the end of the day before parents pick up.

Decorators: A team of volunteers to gather props and create a set for the sanctuary and photo booth. Our decorating night will be June 26 from 4-8pm.

Musical Worship Team: Musicians, vocalists, and a motion team for morning gatherings 8:30-9:20am.

Nursery Volunteers: 2 adults and youth providing care for volunteer's infants and children through age 3 during VBS, 8:30-11:15am.

Registration Team: 4-6 welcoming individuals that provide the first point of contact and direction for families as they come to VBS.

Cavern Cafe Team: 4 people to prep, serve, and clean-up snack each day. The snack menu and all items provided.

Sound/AV Techs: Set up microphones and run the projector, 8:45-9:30am.

Spanish Speaker for Registration: June 27 & 28

VBS Photographers: 2 people to digitally photograph all VBS kids on Tuesday, June 28 and to take general photos of VBS all week if possible.

ALL volunteers must have completed a NFC children's ministry application and attend one of the two orientation meetings offered in June.

Please contact [Michelle Akins](#)
or [Kim Lopez](#) for details and more information.



Opportunity to travel in the footsteps of St. Paul to Corinth and Ephesus March 14-22, 2017

Rev. Catherine Davis of Newberg United Methodist Church is organizing an exciting program that traces the journey of St. Paul to Ephesus and Corinth. Rev. Davis traveled to Greece while doing graduate work and is eager to share with you perspectives and insights on St. Paul and the first generation of Christians. This is an exciting program that includes visits to some of the most important archaeological sites of the world, including the great Acropolis of Athens, the ancient city of Corinth, and the spectacular archaeological part of Ephesus. Our program includes a cruise along the Aegean Sea with stops in Ephesus, Patmos, and Crete. In addition to historical visits there will be opportunities to enjoy and explore contemporary Greek culture, cuisine, and art. Don't miss this opportunity to join a great pastoral leader on a journey of a lifetime. [Click here](#) for more program details and registration materials or call Illume at: 800-368-6757 ex 128.