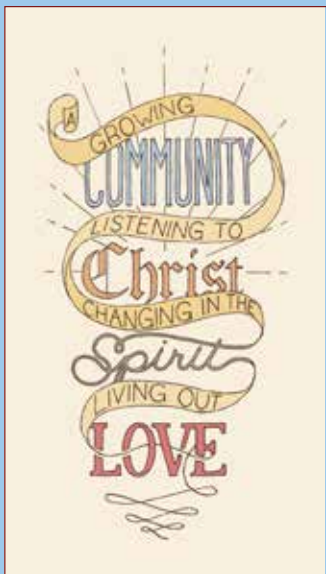


Your NFC

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

April 8, 2016



Living Out Love Locally ▶ Globally

by David Thomas

Debby and I have had a wonderful, at times difficult, and ultimately rewarding 20 years serving with Evangelical Friends Mission in Rwanda, Africa. Ever since my childhood I have been stirred by Jesus' "Great Commission" to his disciples, where he told them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). In these last years in Rwanda through hard work and by God's grace we have been able to launch a disciple-making movement where people pursue Christ, intentionally bringing all areas of their lives under his lordship. It is a holistic discipleship that looks at a person's relationship with God, with themselves, with other people in their lives, and with creation—everything God has given them to steward. We have been living out making disciples in our specific Rwandan cultural context, doing our best to "teach them to obey everything (Jesus) commanded."

I have a deep sense of gratitude to God for his faithfulness in our lives, for letting us partner with him in bringing transformation to the lives of many people in Rwanda. We have friends in various communities who understand God's love for them in a new way, giving them a greater joy and deeper desire to "love their neighbor." We have seen families set free from a cycle of debt, who are instead finding ways to save money. Some have started small business ventures, bringing more resources to help meet their families' needs. We have seen



Here I am on a coaching trip.



Gerard, one of our strongest champions in making disciples, was my chief antagonist in the tough years of moving out of dependency.

Some have started small business ventures, bringing more resources to help meet their families' needs. We have seen

farmers grow in a sense of responsibility to steward their fields well, and to apply effective farming practices to grow better crops. We have seen couples learning to love each other better, to spend quality time together, to talk through decisions together. Some couples have chosen to get married before the government and church, giving the women a social standing equal to men. We have seen leaders move from an authoritarian style of leadership to a more empowering servant-leadership model. We have seen communities eagerly search the Word together to learn what God has to teach them in the areas they have chosen to study. We have seen communities work together to build each other's houses. We have seen people set free from demons, accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and eagerly grow in knowing him personally. We have seen communities move from a fatalistic, dependent, poverty mentality to a place of strength and confidence in God empowering them to work through the problems they face and move out of poverty into God's greater purposes for them. This is what "teaching them to obey all I have commanded you" looks like.

Describing the impact of Jesus' ministry, it was said, "the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Matthew 4:9). Our Rwandan friends have gone through a time of death and deep darkness, but Christ has brought them life, and his light is dawning throughout their land.

If you would like to see an overview of this disciple-making movement in Rwanda, Brad and Chelsea Carpenter just put together an excellent video found [HERE](#).

We appreciate your partnership with us in helping to establish a disciple-making movement among our Rwandan Friends

churches. God has now led our family back to the States, to Newberg, Oregon, and we are putting down roots, grateful to grow in this community.

We see the gospel of the kingdom growing among our Rwandan friends—in their families, their churches, their communities, and in their hope for the future. If God did this much with all of us together in these last ten years, I can't wait to see what he will do in the next ten! Matthew 24:14 gives the scope of the work ahead: "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." As I look to my future role with EFM as a whole-life discipleship coach, focused on working with missionaries to plant disciple-making movements among unreached people groups, I wonder what new cultures he will lead us to. God will lead us to places where darkness reigns, where people need to be set free, where he wants his light to shine. We invite you to continue to partner with us as God leads us to make disciples in new cultures.



Our Thomas family 2016 prayer-card photo

NFC elders to host educational gatherings about homosexuality.

Session Two: April 10, 3-4 p.m. video; 4-5 p.m. discussion groups

- Required viewing (on your own or at 3 p.m.): [First half of SPU forum video](#), April 2014, (start video at 5:14, end at 52:31). Differing suggestions and perspectives presented by two men who are gay (Justin Lee and Ron Belgau).

READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY
John 3:16; 10:10; Romans 6:23; 5:18



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



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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

10-10:45am | blood pressure checks | Room 234

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

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

10:45am | worship gathering

Monday, April 11

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

Wednesday, April 13

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Middle school youth group | 6pm | Friends Center gym

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

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

Thursday, April 14

Local/global prayer gathering | 11:15am | Barclay C

Friday, April 15

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, April 16

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

Sunday, April 17

Read ahead: Luke 8:1-3; 23:49, 55-56; 24:1-11

Plan Ahead

April 20 | Julia Pearson WMF | 1:30 | Friendsview Hess Creek Classroom | featuring Linda Byrd

April 25 | Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring Shawn McConaughy

May 2 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

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

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

May 26 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade.

June 27-30 | VBS | details to come

NFC's Calendar on the Web!



VBS – Volunteer Opportunities

Monday, June 27 - Thursday, June 30, 2016 9-11:30am

Register as a volunteer [HERE](#).

Deep Bible Quest Leaders: 2 adults 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 have freedom to 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: 2-4 adults and youth facilitating 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: 2-3 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.
michelle@newbergfriends.org teacherkim@newbergfoursquare.com

New on the NFC Art Wall:

Gary Fawver shares a portion of his vast collection of bird photography. Visit the social hall during community to see photos and talk to Gary about them!



**INSTITUTE FOR
GROUP
DISCERNMENT**



**May 16-19, 2016
Tilikum Retreat Center
Newberg, Oregon**

Now accepting registrations!

The Institute for Group Discernment offers the opportunity for folks from various denominations, organizations, and yearly meetings across the country to gather in community to explore the various facets of group discernment. The retreat makes it possible to go beyond just training for process. It allows participants to explore and share the spirit, the stumbling blocks, and the practical applications of listening together in the presence of God.

Among the topics that will be considered are: biblical foundations of group discernment; how we personally hear God; how leadership functions in group discernment; how spiritual giftedness interfaces with group discernment; clearness committees; dealing with conflicts; and, yes, steps and implementation of group discernment.

**Full information and
online registration.**

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

**2016 JOHN WOOLMAN
PEACEMAKING FORUM**

*Fostering peace and justice
through the lens of service*

Tuesday, April 12

Featuring Stuart Willcuts, Mercy Corps Country Director, Ukraine
1972 Alumnus of George Fox

Chapel: Restoring Hope

Caring for the vulnerable

Bauman Auditorium

10:50 a.m.

Serving the World

Do good, seek peace and pursue justice. *Isaiah 1:17*

Hoover 105

7-8:30 p.m.

Stuart will be presented the Woolman Peacemaking Award at the evening community event.

Refreshments will be provided by the Center for Peace and Justice.

"I chose the humanitarian world after watching and experiencing the total lack of any positive outcomes from confrontation, war and military events."

— Stuart Willcuts



**GEORGE FOX
UNIVERSITY**

CENTER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE