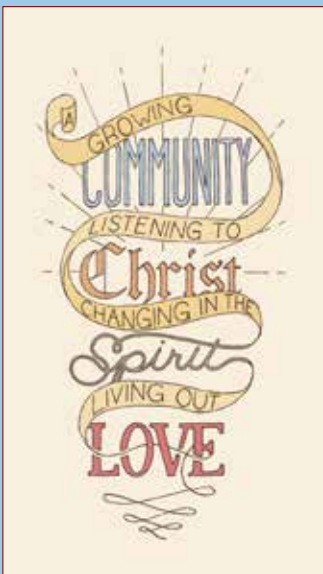


Your NFC

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

May 20, 2016



🍷 All in a Day's Life

by Duane Comfort

Just the other day, it seems, I was a young farm boy growing up in Greenleaf, Idaho. I had just graduated from the 8th grade. That was the summer I first saw her, a really cute girl, just moved to town. It was at a summer youth event. I tried to get close enough to get her to notice me. She did! She thought I was a pesky little 6th grader!



Near the end of our freshman year at Greenleaf Friends Academy, however, she actually smiled at me! By the time we were sophomores we were becoming good friends and began to do things together. That might have been the winter I walked her home after a basketball game with temperatures well below zero. I wore a light jacket with no head covering, and before I got home, one of my ears was frost-bitten. The next morning, it had turned big and red and sore and, wouldn't you know it, I had to go to church! Everyone teased, "Duane, how come the other ear didn't freeze?" I was totally embarrassed!

In the latter years of high school, that girl, Sherrill Hull, and I began to think about our future and to make some decisions that have influenced our lives through the years.

Two of those decisions were: 1) we wanted to be a Christian couple; and 2) we selected Psalm 48:14 KJV as our life verse, "*For this God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death.*" We marked that verse in our Bibles and wrote beside it "*our verse.*" Often when we were together we would review it, talk about it, and dream about the future. We liked the idea of God being our God and our guide. We talked about how, if we wanted him to be our "guide," we would have to be willing to learn to follow him whenever he spoke to us. It sounded so easy at the time!

We dated all through high school and decided to attend George Fox College. We were engaged during our sophomore year. Then the test came!

I began to feel like God was telling me I should not marry Sherrill. I was broken hearted and didn't want to even think about giving her up. I prayed and struggled until I finally decided to discuss it with her. She was really surprised and assured me that she had not sensed any leading of that kind. We prayed together, asking God to give us both the same leading and to guide us into his will. After that my unease disappeared and we both felt clear to go ahead with our plans. Could God have been testing us to see if we were willing to let him be our guide? So we married and we have had 54 wonderful years together!

About the same time, I struggled to decide what my major should be. I had already said, "I will never be a teacher." I knew I didn't have the skills to be a pastor or missionary. What I really wanted was to

be a potato farmer in Idaho! The school counselors were pressing me to declare a major, and it was agonizing for me. I had prayed and prayed, asking God to guide me into his will.

One night I dreamed I was standing outside the tabernacle at the Quaker Hill Conference Center in Idaho (I had gone to camp there as a kid). I was leaning against one of the large Ponderosa pine trees, pondering which of the two doors to go in. Above one door it said “Teaching.” I can’t remember what was above the other, but as I stood there, an angel came along, took my elbow and led me in the door that said “Teaching.”

When I awoke the next morning, the dream was clear in my mind, and I had a sense that God had spoken! Even though I had said I would never be a teacher, I believed God’s leading was clear. So I finished college with a degree in elementary education, even though I dreaded the thought of teaching. On the first day of my teaching career, however, as the first kids came bounding into the classroom, God did a great miracle in my life! He filled me with a love for those kids and gave me the desire to be the best teacher possible.

After teaching for six years, I began to sense God speaking to me about becoming a missionary. The more I thought about it the more excited I became, but Sherrill didn’t warm to the idea. We prayed about it and asked God to guide us as we considered it. Several months later, we were talking to my brother and his wife who were missionaries

in Bolivia. We talked into the night, and the more they talked about working with the Aymara Indians in South America, the more excited I became. After going to bed I sensed God calling again. I laid there arguing with him about why we shouldn’t go to South America, bringing up several arguments. At each point, he gently assured me he would take care of that and gave me a sense of peace and a strong sense of his calling.

The next morning, I told Sherrill what had been going on in my mind all night. I was shocked when she told me she had the same experience. As we discussed it, we had both come to the same decision—that we should be open to going to South America as missionaries. As we talked, we noticed we were both saying “When we go...” not “if we go....”

There are other stories of how God led and guided us through the years. At this stage in our lives it is fun to look back and realize how faithful he has been, just like he promised in “our verse.” Now, in retirement, things have gone differently than we had planned. Sherrill’s memory began to fail, and in February 2015, she had a stroke. As a result she fell and broke her leg and has not been able to live at home since.

Our life verse, “*For this God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even until death.*” continues to be our foundation. He has been so faithful over the years, we are sure he isn’t going to quit guiding us now, so we continue to follow our guide “...even until death.”

Duane Comfort grew up in the Friends church in Greenleaf, Idaho. He married Sherrill in 1961, and they have four children, 14 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Sherrill and Duane have served as teachers, missionaries, pastors, area superintendents, and EFM administrators. They now live at Friendsview Retirement Community in Newberg.



Attention Book Lovers! (...or those who want to help book lovers...) We are hoping to find a few of you to help in the NFC library. Training is a simple check-out and check-in procedure on the library computer. If you are interested in taking a once-a-month shift from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Sundays, contact Lisa Nauman at lisanauman4@gmail.com or 503-538-9362.



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.

READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

[1 Samuel 1:1-20](#)

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

Monday, May 23

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Tuesday, May 24

Elders/stewards budget meeting | 7pm | Barclay A | to finalize proposal for 2016-17 fiscal year budget

Wednesday, May 25

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 26

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

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

Friday, May 27

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, May 28

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

Sunday, May 29

Read ahead: Psalm 51

Plan Ahead

May 30 | NFC office closed for Memorial Day holiday

June 5 | Taizé gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

June 6 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

June 7 | NHS Baccalaureate | 7pm | NFC sanctuary

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

June 12 | congregational business meeting | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

June 13 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

June 27-30 | VBS | 9-11:30am | register your children [HERE](#).

NFC's Calendar on the Web!



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

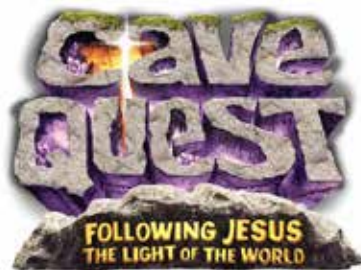


Opportunity to travel in the footsteps of St. Paul to Corinth and Ephesus March 14-22, 2017

Rev. Catherine Davis of Newberg United Methodist Church is organizing an exciting program that traces the journey of St. Paul to Ephesus and Corinth. This is an exciting program that includes visits to some of the most important archaeological sites of the world. 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.

VBS – Volunteer Opportunities and Registration

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



Register as a volunteer [HERE](#).

Register your kids for VBS [HERE](#).



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.



Steve Fawver celebrates his first hole in one, witnessed and reported by Shawn McConaughy.

VBS – Volunteer Opportunities

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

Register as a volunteer: <http://tinyurl.com/NFCVBS2016>



Deep Bible Quest Leaders: 1 adult to tell the Bible story each day during our younger age (4s and K-1st) 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.

Kid Vid Cinema Leaders: 2 adults and/or youth to help 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 adults and/or youth to assist the recreation rotation. All large group game curriculum and supplies provided.

Cave Crew Leaders: Youth age 11 and older and adults to guide and care for children ages 4 through 5th grade from sign in to sign out. Lead children to and participate with them during all rotations.

Decorators: A team of volunteers to gather props and create a set for the sanctuary and photo booth. Our decorating time will be Sunday, June 26 from 2-5pm.

Musical Worship Team: Musicians, vocalists, and a motion team for morning gatherings 8:30-9:15am.

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

VBS Photographers: 1 person to help digitally photograph all VBS kids on Tuesday, June 28 and to take general photos of VBS all week if possible.

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

**Monday, June 20, 7pm, Newberg Friends Church, Social Hall
Wednesday, June 22, 7pm, Newberg Friends Church, Social Hall**

**VBS Registration Team will have their own meeting: Thursday, June 23, 7pm,
Newberg Friends Church, Barclay C**

**Please contact Michelle Akins or Kim Lopez for details and more information.
michelle@newbergfriends.org teacherkim@newbergfoursquare.com**