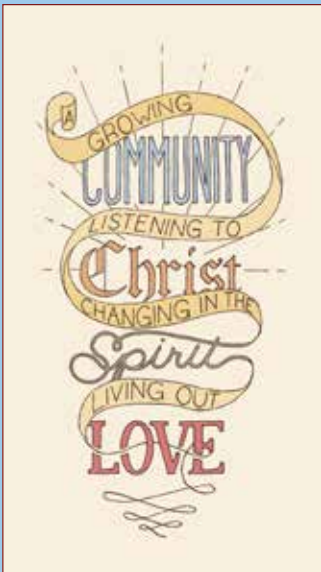


# Your NFC

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

October 21, 2016



## All in a Day's Life

by Courtney Bither

I tell people I've been trying to be Quaker for about a year. I keep asking how one goes about becoming a Quaker, and the problem is other Quakers tell me I just declare myself one. I think the lack of real process here has something to do with not recognizing hierarchy and all that. It's a very nice idea, but it's not very helpful.



In actuality, I don't just get to declare myself a Quaker. That's not how these things go. I recognize that precisely because I wasn't born into this community. I feel like I need a long-standing, birthright Quaker to recognize me as a Quaker. Then I'll know I've made it. Until then, I'm just another young, twenty-something in the crowd.

I made some serious progress with my Quaker recognition this summer because I attended Surfside. I also learned "the George Fox song," which I think might be the closest thing Quakers have to catechism. And I've progressed leaps and bounds with understanding Quaker lingo: "this friends speaks my mind," "coming to consensus," "standing aside." I just recently learned, "Are all hearts clear?"

And now look! I'm writing for *Your NFC*. I've included a picture of my face so you all can associate my face with Quaker things.

I kid.

But I'm also not kidding. Breaking into a community is hard. It feels like that too—breaking in—especially when it looks like everyone else is well-connected. I am among people who have grown up with one another, whose parents grew up with one another, and where everyone, it seems, knows everyone.

And yet very few people know me. No one knows my family or my background or what I looked like in middle school. People don't know when my birthday is or what I struggle with or what I want to be when I grow up. It would be ridiculous for me to expect this sort of knowing. I haven't done the living that leads to this level of knowing. I didn't grow up a Quaker. I also didn't grow up in Newberg.

But now I'm here, and I want in.

On this journey from outsider to insider, I've been able to reflect on what it means to be a community, what it means to be welcoming, and how one becomes integrated. I've noticed a few things.

First, people on the inside don't always recognize they're inside of something. It's those on the outside who notice. My first month at NFC, I distinctly remember being afraid I might sit in someone's pew. While I didn't grow up Quaker, I did grow up in church. And I know that sitting in someone's pew is no way to make friends. (Friends? Get it?) There exists a structure that helps reveal who is really on the inside, who is really on the outside: a vocabulary, a seating arrangement, an order to the service. If you're familiar with the system, then

you may not even notice it. The structures are an everyday experience. You might not notice until one Sunday there's a young woman in your pew.

This led me to my second realization: for the most part, the responsibility is on the outsider to become an insider. For some reason, writing that feels mean. I'm not trying to be mean. I don't even think this is necessarily negative. In my experience, this is how life works. I don't get to declare myself something without putting in the time and work to become it. Am I really a Christian if I don't care for the marginalized? Do I really love God if I don't love my neighbor? Can I really just say that I am a certain type of person, regardless of my actions? I think not. Similarly, declaring myself a Quaker doesn't really make me one.

The work of joining a community, especially a tight-knit community, has at times been discouraging. I want the familiarity folks have with one another. I want to trust that when I walk into church I'll know someone I can sit next to. I want to believe that when I'm not there, someone will notice my absence. And isn't that a human desire? To want someone to know you? To want people to check up on you?

I'm thankful for the people at NFC who saw me and brought me in. I did the work to show I want to be a part of this community, and others responded by welcoming me. This is my last realization. Namely, that there are people who want to do the work of welcoming. I'm thankful for the individuals who have taken me to coffee, held me, laughed with me, and cried with me. Thanks for greeting me at the door and for moving over so your pew could become our pew. Thanks for seeing your system and for explaining it to me—for leaning over and whispering translations of Quaker-speak, for telling me what open worship is, and for singing me the George Fox song. Thanks for helping me write emails and for looking over my resume and for remembering my birthday. Thanks for doing the practical things, the little things, that signal to someone, "You're one of us. You belong here. I see you."

I'm still learning where and how I fit in community. I suspect this is a lesson I will always be learning. For now, I've decided that regardless of my Quaker recognition, I want to be on Team Welcome.

Sit next to me, I don't care where. I don't have a pew either.



## **Focus on Bangladesh October 23**

Dan Cammack, director of Evangelical Friends Mission, will share briefly at the beginning of each service and more thoroughly in the Agape Sunday school class at 10:30 a.m. in Barclay B.

**All are welcome!**

**Bring food items to church on Sunday, October 23**

*Foods FISH Needs Most*

- canned foods
- dry staples
- packaged food

(specific ideas: chili beans, pork & beans, oatmeal, corn, cereal, green beans, flour, tuna, soup, cooking oil, fruit, tomatoes, boxed macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, refried beans)



**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**

**Luke 18:9-14**

**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

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

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:30am | Agape Sunday school class

10:45am | worship gathering

1pm | Bible Quiz Practice | FC Room 100

**Monday, October 24**

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring Karen Swenson, teacher in Budapest

**Wednesday, October 26**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Middle School youth group | 6pm | Friends Center

Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit | 6:45-8:30pm | Barclay A/B

Choir rehearsal | 7pm | Room 246

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

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

**Thursday, October 27**

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, October 28**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

**Saturday, October 29**

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

All-church work morning and lunch | 8:30-11:30am

**Plan Ahead**

November 2 | Red Cross Blood Drive | 9am to 4pm | social hall

November 6 | Daylight Saving Time ends

November 6 | Newcomers Gathering | 10am | Room 236

November 6 | Taizé gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

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

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

November 13 | Equipo meeting | 3pm | North Valley Friends

November 14 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

November 20 | Combined Thanksgiving Service at Bauman Auditorium

November 24-25 | NFC office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

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

# NFC ALL-CHURCH WORK MORNING

**Saturday,**

**October 29**

**8:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Stay for lunch!**

**ALL COMERS!**



## Some tasks to accomplish:

- clean kitchen • weed flower beds
- grounds work at the cemetery
- rake leaves (bring a rake!)
- stack wood • clean classrooms

PRAYER  
GATHERING

## Prayer Gathering next Monday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the NFC Prayer Room (Room 236)

### Ongoing Prayer Opportunities:

- Mondays 9 a.m. — Prayer Team (every week in NFC office building, Barclay C)
- Mondays 6:30 p.m. — Call to Prayer (2nd and 4th weeks in NFC Prayer Room)
- Saturdays 8 a.m. — Men's prayer meeting (Friendsview Creekside 2nd Floor)
- Sunday mornings (NFC Prayer Room is open)

Prayer requests: [E-mail](#) or write on a Community Card on Sundays. (Teams will pray for the requests.)

Have ideas for other times of prayer? Contact [Steve Fawver](#).

# EXP LOR ING

Are you interested in Exploring Membership or our NFC Quaker roots?

If so, [contact Steve Fawver](#). We would love to find ways to help you grow in your participation in our community life!



## Sandals Sunday School Class Invitation

Join us as Mark Hall, Herbert Hoover distinguished professor of politics at George Fox University, leads a three-part series in the Sandals Sunday school class.

Oct. 23: Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?

Nov. 6: Why Tolerate Religion? The Rise and Fall of Religious Liberty in America

Nov. 13: Religion and Politics in 2016

The Sandals Sunday school class meets at 9 a.m. in the social hall; all are welcome to come join our conversation.



**Click the  
image to  
read**

**“A Monastic  
Life  
Experience”**

**by Steve  
Fawver**

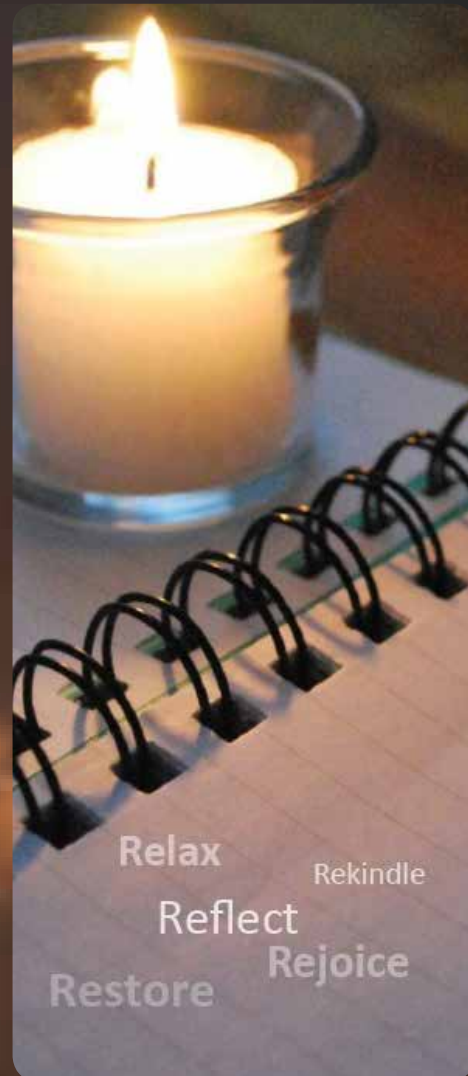
# Sabbath <sup>by</sup> the Sea

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 29–January 1 • Gary and Susan Fawver  
January 2–8 • Steve Fawver and Martha Wood  
January 9–15 • Jo and Hank Helsabeck  
January 16–22 • Paul Bock and Bethany Lee  
January 23–29 • Bruce and Di Murphy  
March 23–26 • Gary and Susan Fawver  
*Worship singing will be led each week  
by Mauri Macy or Nate Macy*