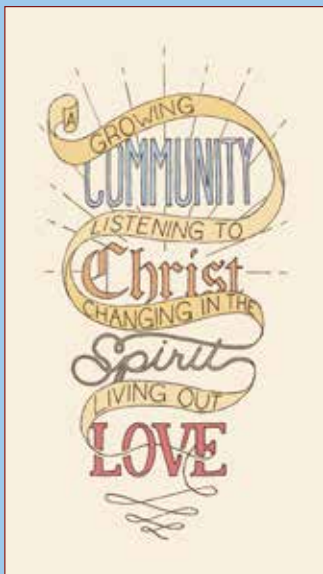


Your NFC

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

January 13, 2017



Living Out Love Locally ▶ Globally

by Brynn Akins



In 2008, at age 11, I made the decision to sponsor a girl named Aviguel through an organization called Compassion International. As a sponsor, I committed to give a specific amount each month to support Aviguel and to develop a relationship with her through letter-writing. In 2010, I had the privilege of taking a trip with my mom to Aviguel's home country of the Philippines. During this first international experience, my mind was opened to the reality of what life looks like for many people throughout our world. I also learned a great deal about Compassion's ministry and returned home with a desire to become more deeply involved. Seven years later, I continue to sponsor and serve through this organization because I believe in the work they are doing.

Compassion's mission is to "release children from poverty in Jesus' name." Their approach to achieve this is based on a holistic development model. In the 25 developing countries where Compassion operates, this work is done through church-based centers, which are always staffed and run by local people and volunteers. This means that when Compassion-enrolled children participate in their Compassion center activities, they are going to a church where the program is run by people who know their culture, speak their language, and genuinely care about their well-being.

I am grateful for the privilege of serving with this organization, but on the U.S. side of operations. I serve in the role of event representative, and the work I do varies widely depending on the event and location. Often I serve as a volunteer at concerts that have chosen to partner with Compassion. I help sign up new sponsors, assuring



*Me (front left) with
Compassion Mobile
Experience in Texas*



them of Compassion's goals and values and answering any logistical or financial questions they might have.

Other times, I travel and work as an Event Facilitator. This may mean I spend the weekend with the Compassion Mobile Experience, where families experience the life of a formerly sponsored child through an immersive exhibit. At these events, I help educate people on Compassion's ministry and assist in signing up new sponsors. At other events, I may represent Compassion at a conference, training local volunteers for their roles in assisting with the event. Recently, Compassion introduced a Virtual Reality experience, which allows people to take a "tour" through Haiti as they hear the story of a formerly sponsored child. I have led this VR experience at a variety of conferences and festivals.

One of the things I have learned since becoming more involved with Compassion is how many people it takes to run an organization of this scope. The type of representative work done here in the U.S. is crucial to maintaining and growing the organization, but as I type this, I can't help but think about the hundreds of people around the world who truly make Compassion's impact possible. Right now, perhaps in El Salvador, teenagers are being taught farming techniques and receiving business training from their local church center volunteers. Perhaps program staff in Indonesia are teaching mothers of malnourished children about health, nutrition, and food preparation, so they can better care for their babies. Perhaps in rural Thailand, a group of church

volunteers have coordinated a medical care day where several doctors have chosen to serve to enable children who would not otherwise have the resources to receive a health check. Perhaps a woman in Uganda is spending her Saturday afternoon tutoring young children because she believes in their potential. These scenarios are just a small example of the ways people are living out love through the ministry of Compassion. These people are the ones doing the day-to-day work of caring for, providing for, and educating their villages and communities.

This weekend I will travel to North Carolina to work at a church where our Mobile Experience will be set up. People will experience life in the developing world without spending a penny on travel. The work that will be done there is important. Educational and inspiring conversations with families will enable more children to find sponsors. At the same time, all around the world, children from Central and South America, Africa, and Asia, will gather for their Compassion programs. They will be greeted



by name, by familiar faces and skin tones the same shade as theirs. They will dance and sing and play and laugh. They will learn new skills and new concepts. They will be fed. All of this happens because of the numerous volunteers in their own communities who choose to give their time. A woman named Aracely, who serves in Bolivia as a director of a child development center, puts it this way: "...Sometimes we have to go the extra mile. [The volunteers] don't have to come but they are willing to do it. They have the calling to serve."

May I remember this as I serve with and represent Compassion on this side of the map in order that children around the world might be released from poverty, be known, welcomed, and loved.

READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

Galatians 1



Pastoral Team

Michelle Akins
children and family ministries

Steve Fawver
spiritual health and care

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

10:45am | worship gathering

1pm | Bible Quiz practice | Friends Center

3pm | Equipo meeting | North Valley Friends Church

6:30pm | Documentary: "Thirteenth" | a gathering hosted by the peace and justice committee | social hall

Monday, January 16

NFC office closed for MLK Day

Wednesday, January 18

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Julia Pearson WMF | 1:30pm | Friendsview Hess Creek Classroom | featuring Lynn Holt, FTS to Ramallah

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

Thursday, January 19

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

Friday, January 20

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, January 21

Men's prayer meeting | 8:15am | Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room

Sunday, January 22

Reading assignment: Galatians 1

Plan Ahead

January 23 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

January 23 | Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring Kathy Watson, Faith in Action

January 29 | thank-you reception for Cindy Johnson | 1-2:30pm | Friendsview Auditorium

January 29 | congregational business meeting | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

January 30 | Letters of Hope | 6:30pm | an intergenerational potluck dinner and the opportunity to write a letter of hope and/or draw a picture to the sponsored child(ren) or missionary partner(s) you support

February 5 | Taizé gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

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

February 6 | Children's Ministry Cultivation | 7pm | parents, volunteers, NFC community members enjoy a simple dessert along with conversation and prayer focusing on growing and improving children's ministry at NFC

February 9 | K-2 Fun Night | 6-7:30pm | FC gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade

NFC's Calendar on the Web!

From Eric Muhr:

Nobody tells you when you sign up to work with people – as a teacher or counselor or pastor or friend – that you’re also signing up for their pain. Nobody tells you what that does – to have someone else’s pain become part of yours. And in some people-helping professions, all the rules for protecting people make it harder to protect yourself. You can’t just talk these things through.

Actually, maybe they do tell you. Maybe I wasn’t listening. Or didn’t understand.

And maybe some people can talk it through or carry the extra pain. Because it sometimes seems to me that other people do this work better than I do, that it hurts them less. On bad days, I wonder if that means there’s something wrong with me. On really bad days, I know there is.

I don’t have many really bad days. But this last year, I’ve had a lot. A lot more than I’m used to.

A former student died on Sunday morning. It was unexpected. It’s always unexpected, but we’d talked just two days earlier. The week before that, he’d sent me some photos he thought I’d like. He was working on developing himself as a portrait photographer, and he respected my opinion of his work. I thought his work was awfully good.

His sister messaged me about his death. And then, at 2:38 on Monday morning, his mom called me. I hadn’t talked to her in years, and she sounded just like I remembered. And so much different at the same time. I don’t know how I sounded to her. She kept pausing, asking me if I was still there, said it sounded like I was cutting out. They didn’t know exactly what had happened on Sunday, but they knew how much he respected me and they wanted me to hear that.

I thought I was doing pretty well. This is the seventh student I’ve lost over the years, so I’ve been through all these feelings before. But I woke up on Tuesday morning, and I just felt like being done. At least for now. I talked with Gregg on Tuesday morning about resigning. He talked with the pastoral team and elders. We came up with a plan.

Here’s the hard part. Some of you are reading this in *Your NFC*. Some of you might be hearing about it for the first time on Sunday morning. It may be unexpected. Because it’s always kind of unexpected. And maybe you’ll want to talk it through. I don’t know that I’ll be able to talk about it. Or that I’ll want to. But I do know this. I love you, and I’m glad for the time we’ve had together. Even the bad days.

From Gregg Koskela:

I’m sure that Eric’s resignation is a surprise. I am grieved that this has come about, but I understand it and support Eric. Ministry is difficult, as I and many of you can attest. Eric has done it well.

Many will be wondering about plans for youth ministry. Eric is already working on the next few weeks. Kara Estep, youth ministry coordinator, and the youth intern, Corbin Gronvold, as well as our ministry partnership with North Valley Friends Church will all help Sunday school, youth group, and other programming continue. We obviously will have work to do, but the systems Eric has put in place are good and can operate for a bit. We have some time for the elders to make plans about options like increasing hours for Kara and/or Corbin, hiring an interim person, etc.

Please be praying for Eric and for our youth.

The elders of Newberg Friends Church appreciate the prayers of the congregation as we have explored and discerned God's direction for pastoral leadership for NFC as Gregg Koskela completes his term as lead pastor on June 30, 2017. The elders propose that Steve Fawver be called as the interim lead pastor from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. The elders will take this proposal to the congregational meeting for approval on January 29, 2017. We also propose that Elizabeth Sherwood's position be moved to full time.

Last June when we approved the current church budget, we were aware that unless giving substantially increased, we would need to reduce our staff. Hiring an outside interim pastor would require releasing one of the current staff (in addition to Gregg leaving). Our discernment is that moving Steve into the lead role and increasing Elizabeth to full time will offer stability and give time for the church to evaluate staffing and move toward calling a permanent lead pastor. The elders and stewards are reviewing congregational giving for 2016 and will make a full budget report in future months.

Steve's years of experience in ministry at NFC provide a bridge of personnel for our community. When the search process for the permanent lead pastor happens, Steve or other staff members would be welcome to apply at that time. Steve Fawver's knowledge of the rich, intergenerational fabric of our congregation supports the elders' commitment to continued growth of our lives together in Christ.

*Newberg Friends elders
Beth LaForce, clerk*

Rain or shine let's find
REFRESHMENT
together at the
beach!



TWIN ROCKS
friends camp

Newberg Friends Church

Women's Retreat

March 10-12, 2017
Twin Rocks Friends Camp

\$123
\$128 (with Friday dinner)

Registration and scholarship forms available in the NFC office or online: newbergfriends.org

Contact Michelle Akins for details: michelle@newbergfriends.org
503-539-5041

For all women, all ages!
Live loved - relax, play, laugh, unwind, breathe deeply, and savor a weekend made for you.



from slave to criminal with one amendment
pizza, movie, and discussion
Sunday, January 15 • 6:30-9 p.m.
NFC social hall

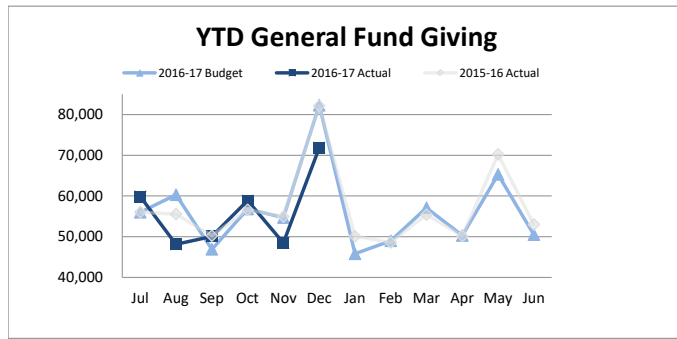
hosted by the Peace and Justice Committee

warning: graphic content, not for children



Saturday, January 14
Sewing and Packing Party (relief kits)
10:30 a.m. • social hall

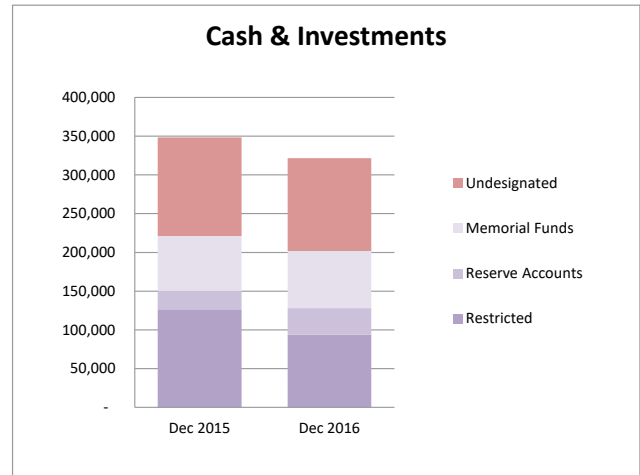
Financial Recap for December 2016



Difference (in thousands)	4	(12)	3	2	(6)	(10)
	4	(7)	(0)	2	(6)	(10)

Actual vs. Budget
Current vs Prior Yr

General Fund Year-to-Date			
	Actual	Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)
Income	365,013	386,239	(21,226)
Expense	(370,197)	(400,948)	30,751
Net	(5,184)	(14,709)	9,525



YTD Donor Restricted and Memorial Funds				
	Beginning	Income	Expense	Balance
Global Outreach	(360)	10,495	9,848	287
Outside Ministries	4,728	6,224	6,224	4,728
Compassionate Care	12,108	9,241	5,648	15,701
NFC Ministries	10,331	1,918	4,376	7,873
Scholarships	6,722	1,260	4,331	3,651
Facilities	138	950	108	980
Other Funds	105,441	11,280	22,728	93,993
Memorial Funds	73,000	619	-	73,619
Totals	212,108	41,987	53,263	200,832

A complete financial report can be found on the bulletin board in the library.

Need Sheet

Needed:

- NWYM representatives will be meeting in Newberg for midyear boards meetings January 20-21. If you're willing to host someone in your home, please contact Angela Kantz at the yearly meeting office at 503-538-9419 or akantz@nwfriends.org.

Available:

- North Valley Friends and 2nd Street are offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University starting Wednesday, January 18. All are welcome to join. To register for the class visit www.dav-eramsey.com/fpu. Contact Angela Kantz with questions, angela.kantz@gmail.com.

For Sale:

- Solid oak computer desk 2 feet deep by 4 feet wide. It has shelving area above. (The desk is in two pieces—upper and lower). I like it, but it is too large for my small space. \$30 obo. Call 503-538-4318.

To place a one-time free ad— • e-mail: sherry@newbergfriends.org
 deadline: January 25 • no phone-in ads; please resubmit repeated ads
 online at newbergfriends.org/resources/need-sheet/