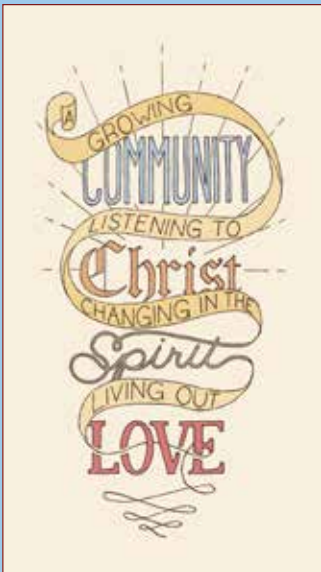


Your NFC

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

January 20, 2017



☉ All in a Day's Life

by Tyler Gerdin

I recently began reading a book by psychologist Suzie Orbach called *Bodies*, which is about Western society's current crisis in our relationship to our physical bodies. Dr. Orbach observes that most people seem to despise some part of their body, do not feel comfortable in their bodies, and want to change some aspect of their physicality. In this book, Dr. Orbach speaks about some of the expected reasons for this current "crisis of body": rigid and unattainable societal standards for what is the "right" kind of body, marketing campaigns aimed to make people dissatisfied with their bodies (and to stir up hunger to buy "needed" stuff), and values that emphasize endless pleasure and the need for perfection.



Dr. Orbach continued to discuss how people can grow uneasy or hateful of their bodies through the kind of touch or lack of touch they have received. Some received neglectful, abusive, or simply anxious/ambivalent touch, frequently leading them to doubt their worthiness or acceptability. Think of how the stiff, cold hug or the weak handshake leaves a visceral impression on adults. It can make us wonder, *What's wrong with me? With them?*

People become accustomed to being overlooked and undervalued, reasoning that something makes them unacceptable, and thus they reject their very bodies. Some people starve themselves to gain control or overindulge to find comfort. Others may hurt themselves, preferring pain to confirm they are truly alive. While not everyone experiences these problems, most people want to trim off or alter at least one aspect of their body.

As I think about these dark realities, 1 Corinthians 12 comes to mind. This passage speaks about the body of Christ, God's beloved church.

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ (v. 12). . . if the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? But in fact, God has placed the parts of the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. (vv. 17-18) . . . those parts of the body that seem weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor (vv. 22-23) . . . but God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it" (vv. 24-26). *cont'd*

We will keep this “body,” the church, forever. God loves his Bride’s body. All of it. How lovely it is to page through the Bible and see all the ways Christ made his church worthy through his radical acceptance, bandaging of wounds and sacrificial love.

My thoughts ended with some questions. How can our dissatisfaction with NFC not having our own ver-

sion our “ideal church body” turn into scorn for one another? Just like with our physical bodies, criticism and condemnation does not work in the church body. You could say that Jesus condemned condemnation. Therefore, what kind of touch, protection, affirmation, or encouragement can we offer to care for and build the body?

Tyler Gerdin began attending Newberg Friends in 2009 when he moved to Oregon to begin GFU’s Psy.D. program. After a brief stint away, he is back and serving at NFC in the Young Adult Sunday school class and the elders committee. He was thrilled to marry Eileen (Hassett) Gerdin this last September. They enjoy eating burritos with congregants after the Sunday church service.

I'm glad you're my neighbor!

Vigil & Day of Action

January 22, 2017

Event: **2-3:15PM**
Newberg Friends Church

March: **3:30-4PM**
Francis Square

Share, care, and connect in a welcoming space!
 Get resources from local peace & justice groups!

GFU Center for Peace & Justice
 Newberg Friends Church
 North Valley Friends Church
 Peace Village - Newberg



Contemplative prayer can be a place to experience peace within the chaos and complexity of our lives. It offers the possibility to quiet our rational minds to hear God. **Kathi Gatlin**, who has a call to teaching and spiritual formation, will lead the Sandals Sunday school class for the next two weeks, guiding us in experiencing *The Examen* and *Lectio Divina*. All are welcome to join the Sandals class in the social hall at 9 a.m. this Sunday morning as we continue this series by encountering *The Examen*.

North Valley Friends is selling “You Are My Neighbor” T-shirts for \$10

I’m glad you are my neighbor.

Me alegra que seas mi vecino.

أنا سعيد لأنك جارتي.

我很高兴你是我的邻居

Я рад, что ты мой сосед.

each. They will be available in the social hall during Community Time this Sunday morning. Stop by!



Pastoral Team

Michelle Akins
children and family ministries

Steve Fawver
spiritual health and care

Gregg Koskela
lead pastor

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

Galatians 1

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

2pm | Love Your Neighbor Event | sanctuary, social hall

Monday, January 23

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 Kathy Watson, Faith in Action

Wednesday, January 25

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

Thursday, January 26

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

Friday, January 27

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, January 28

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

Sunday, January 29

Reading assignment: Galatians 2

Thank-you reception for Cindy Johnson | 1-2:30pm | Friendsview Auditorium

Congregational business meeting | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

Plan Ahead

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 | Equipo meeting | 3pm | North Valley Friends

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 | contact Michelle Akins at 503-539-5041

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

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

NFC's Calendar on the Web!

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Elders Report ~ January 2017

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. Our church comprises people deeply desiring to live out their faith by being in “a Growing community, Listening to Christ, Changing in the Spirit, Living out Love.” There is evidence of God’s work in and among us.

Those currently called into roles of servant leadership have spent concentrated time this fall reflecting on the ways our community has engaged with theology, study of scripture, and various perspectives concerning human sexuality. We are grateful that more than 100 people participated in the learning discussion groups last April. Great care for one another was exhibited as we sought to gain understanding and insight from scripture, from each other, and from the Lord.

In August, the elders reflected on the question, “What kind of church do we want to be?” The first word on the list was diverse. We are a body of believers who are diverse in church backgrounds, ages, ethnicities, biblical understanding, etc. Diversity is a gift and an asset.

In October, the pastoral team reflected on the church vision statement and our overall community. In many rich and vibrant ways, Newberg Friends Church (NFC) is exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit as articulated in the vision statement. The team also acknowledged the season of grief our community members have experienced this year, coupled with the challenges of living in tension over our diversity.

As elders and pastors we are conscious of the challenges of the last few years as Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM) leaders (elders, administrative council, and representatives) have struggled to unify over the current NWYM Faith and Practice and the decision to release West Hills Friends because of their welcoming and affirming embrace of the LGBTQ community. On December 9, 2016, the representatives of all the churches met but could not come to a decision. Because of this, the administrative council of NWYM did further work that will be presented at the upcoming Midyear Boards (being rescheduled due to unsafe travel conditions).

As elders and pastors we recognize that the members of the NFC community represent a broad spectrum of the Northwest Yearly Meeting. Our congregation

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is a microcosm of the yearly meeting with people holding traditional or progressive perspectives as well as views in the middle. There are those who hold the traditional view of sexuality. NFC also includes people who are LGBTQ and individuals striving to be their allies. Just as the yearly meeting has wrestled, so has NFC. Within the last year, discussion around dividing the yearly meeting has surfaced. As stewards and shepherds of NFC, the leadership team does not want NFC to split but rather to live into a calling to be unified in Christ in the midst of our diversity.

Elders and pastors acknowledge that hurt has been experienced as people have expressed their views on human sexuality. Members of our community across the spectrum have experienced deep pain, hurt, and struggle when words of condemnation have been spoken. Others have felt discounted when their views have seemingly been dismissed. Because we desire our NFC community to be caring and loving, the following statement is our call:

At NFC we seek to care for each other with a clear focus on following Jesus' way, truth, and life while acknowledging disagreement of theological positions and biblical interpretations related to human sexuality. We are unified in the belief that love, not condemnation (John 3:16-17), draws each one of us to the cross of Christ. Therefore, our hope and desire is to be a community that can accept and reflect God's love for all people, showing respect and care for all in our words and actions.

As elders and pastors we want to be a church that can allow for different perspectives while providing a safe environment for us all to worship God together. Diversity regarding differing perspectives on human sexuality is a reality among us. This diversity is reflected in our pastoral team, our committee members, our YM representatives, our volunteers, and our attenders.

Our hope is to remain in unity while taking steps to provide for the diversity that already exists at NFC. We hope to act in specific ways that clarify how we might achieve this unity amidst diversity as we seek to keep our focus on Christ as the center of this community.

The Newberg Friends Church Elders
January 18, 2017