# Your NFC

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

February 24, 2017



# Ministry Happens

# Working with Young People

by Taylor Swan

As a young adult with no college degrees and no consistent income, I learned a few years back to



avoid the question, "What do you do for a living?" I didn't feel I had the right answer. Lately, however, I've found a response I like, "I'm a Young Life leader." In the last couple years, God has focused my life on loving and serving youth through Young Life. It's not technically how I "make a living," but it is a major part of how I go about living. Being a Young Life leader is a style of life formed by choices and unusual events in which I get to try every day to love young people and live life with them.

One day I might be making pancakes that have more chocolate chips than flour because "they're better that way." On another day I might cry with a 7th grader as he grieves yet another breakup – his third that week. On an especially tough day, I might drive a kid to court where his mom waits for him as a witness against his dad. On a fun day, I might spend hours kicking a soccer ball around and telling silly jokes that don't even make sense.

In this roller-coaster ride of middle school ministry, it can be challenging to stay focused. Young Life's mission is this: to introduce students to Jesus and help them grow in their faith. Sounds easy – some people even make it look easy – but I've found it to be pretty complicated. Eighth grade students, the age I'm currently working with, have so many challenges and struggles, many of which I've never experienced myself. It makes me marvel at their character and resilience.

Sometimes I wonder if God uses the students to teach me more than he uses me to teach them. Here's some of what I'm learning: Play. God made us to enjoy life together and with him. The New Tes-



tament epistles talk a lot about rejoicing, no matter the difficulties we face. In working with middle schoolers, I see families divide, parents die, and kids get expelled; but even in unimaginably tough times, these kids find joy and join in play together. The same is true with ruined plans. We planned to go sledding this last winter. We arrived at the same time as the rain. Instead of giving up in the middle of a slushy, muddy Hoover Park, we found a new game: Who could end the day wearing the least amount of mud? There was lots of slipping, tackling, and laughing.

Adventure. God made a world for us to explore. Every time I hang out with students it's an opportunity for discovery. Trees are so much more interesting when you get to know them personally, top to bottom. Bugs have much more to reveal when you sit at their level or take time to build them a mansion. Life seems more real and more full when we live each moment eager to engage every experience God puts in front of us.

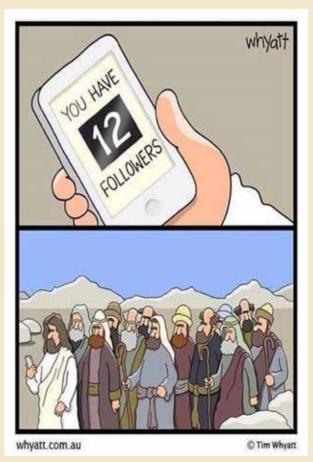
**Trust**. I had no idea how bad I was at trusting my heavenly Father until I saw what great trust these kids put in us Young Life leaders. The trust they put in me is humbling. So often when we plan an event, students don't question or try to take control; they just show up and jump in. I think I'm often too busy

trying to point out to God how I could plan things better that I forget to just sit back and enjoy his plan as it unfolds. My fists are often too tightly clenched. I don't open them enough to receive the blessings God lavishes on me.

From their creative playfulness to their optimistic faith, middle schoolers have a lot to teach us. Maybe that's part of what Jesus meant: "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

God is working in the youth of Newberg. He's working in Young Life, in Newberg Friends Church, and in many other youth programs around town. It's exciting. The harvest is plenty, but the workers are relatively few. Please pray with me that God will keep sending workers into this amazing, silly, and crazy harvest field. You might also pray, "God, are you calling me to work with youth?" You never know. God might want to use middle school students to make a difference in your life the same way they've been making a difference in mine.







#### **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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www.newbergfriends.org

Please direct all publications items to Sherry Macy.

# READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY Galatians 4

# What's Ahead

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
Monday, February 27
Intercessory prayer   9am   Barclay C
Strong For Life   10:30am   Barclay B
Call to Prayer   6:30pm   Room 236
Wednesday, March 1
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, March 2
Women's Bible Fellowship   8:45am   social hall
Friday, March 3
Strong For Life   10:30am   Barclay B
Saturday, March 4
Men's prayer meeting   8:15am   Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room
Sunday, March 5
Read ahead: Philippians 2:1-11
Taizé gathering   5pm   NFC sanctuary (note time change: one hour earlier)
YM Restructuring Info Night   6:30-8pm   NFC sanctuary
Plan Ahead
March 6   JOY breakfast   8am   Friendsview Hess Creek dining room   \$4   for seniors 55 and older
March 10-12   NFC Women's Retreat at Twin Rocks Friends Camp   see p.5
March 11   Wood ministry work session   9-11:30am   Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd   contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508
March 12   Daylight Saving Time begins
March 13   Call to Prayer   6:30pm   Room 236  March 15   Julia Pearson WMF   1:30pm   Friendsview Hess Creek Classroom
featuring Joanna Cox
March 17-18   Spiritual Formation Retreat   led by Renovare staff Chris Hall and Carolyn Arends   a time for spiritual growth and intentional time with Jesus   contact Steve Fawver for more information   more info on p. 4
March 23   Letters of Hope   6pm   social hall   potluck supper and an opportunity to write a letter of hope to the child you sponsor, missionary you support, or anyone you believe could use a word of encouragement
March 27   Call to Prayer   6:30pm   Room 236
NFC's Calendar on the Web!



# In-Town Spiritual Renewal Retreat March 17-18, 2017 @ Newberg Friends Church Open to all!

Newberg Friends Church, in partnership with Chehalem Valley Presbyterian Church, will sponsor a guided time of personal review, reflection, and hope-filled renewal in Christ. Chris Hall and Carolyn Arends, seasoned spiritual directors from the Renovaré ministry, will facilitate our renewal retreat. Renovaré is the ministry founded by former Newberg pastor, GFU professor, and author Richard Foster. The mission of Renovaré is to foster spiritual renewal and fullness of life with God.

#### About our facilitators:

- **Dr. Chris Hall** is president of Renovaré ministry (previously chancellor), director of Spiritual Formation and distinguished professor of theology at Eastern University.
- **Carolyn Arends** is a musician, speaker, author, wife, mom, college instructor, and director of the Renovaré Spiritual Formation Institute.

#### Our purpose:

Spiritual renewal and soul-refreshment. Think of this as a personal retreat with others. Time to review, reflect and renew life with God.

Friday, March 17: 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 18: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$30 (General) \$15 (Student)

includes refreshments both days and box lunch on Saturday

And Jesus said, "All who are weary and heavy laden come, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

To register, **click this link**.

### **SAVE THESE DATES!**

# NFC Discernment Process regarding NWYM Restructure

Gatherings and survey are intended for regular attenders and members only.

### March 5

6:30 p.m.
Informational Gathering

#### March 5-19

Survey Open (available online and hard copy)

## **April 9**

6:30 p.m. Survey Report

## **April 23**

Listening Forums
2 p.m.
Sharing reasons for staying

in NWYM

6:30 p.m.

Sharing reasons for **leaving** NWYM

# **April 24 - May 5**

Leadership Discernment Meetings

## May 7

6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting with a minute of recommendation from the leadership team (clerks of the meeting, elders, pastors)





### **Attention, Young Friends Singers!**

We are inviting children to lead us in worship through song on Sunday morning, April 23! We will meet to practice our singing together at 10 a.m. on the first four Saturdays in April. All children age 5 through 5th grade are welcome to join us.

Parents, please put this on your calendar and let me know if your child(ren) will be joining us!

#### Contact:

Nolan Staples | 971-732-9479 nolan@newbergfriends.org





**Newberg Friends Church** 

friends camp

# 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.

Understanding your neighbors' concerns about

# immigration Help keep families together

Information about:

- Newberg police
- Public schools
- City Council
- Legal rights
- Preparing to defend yourself

#### Contact:

Isaura Peña | 503-334-8718 | unidos.isaura@gmail.com Jenny Elias | 503-554-5019 | eliasj@newberg.k12.or.us

# Join us!

Thursday, March 2 ● 6:30 to 8 p.m. Edwards Elementary cafeteria 715 E 8th St, Newberg

childcare provided





# Happy March Birthday



- **2** Sage Macy
- **3** Jonathan Beals Pat Landis Ella St. Cyr
- **4** Gerald Lemmons Peter Snow
- **5** Laura Groves
- **6** Mark Ankeny Hayley Koskela
- **7** Sylvia Littlefield Finley Moore
- **9** Larry Haverman Phyllis McCracken Janelle Nordyke Starla Osburn
- **10** Ryan Brooks
- **11** Russ Heater

- 12 Ben Swan
- **13** Harvey Bowen Korie Buerkle
- **14** Brent Peterson
- **15** Megan Anna Neff Stephanie St. Cyr Rachelle Staley
- **16** Patty Findley
- **17** Taylor Martin Linda Walker
- **18** Marla Linvog Phyllis McKinney
- **19** Henry Copeland
- **20** Wren Parker
- **21** John Buerkle
- **22** Andy Copeland Barb Steltz

- **23** Laurie Comfort Sylvia Halse Garrett Headrick Samson Miele
- **24** Indie Ragsdale Truman Stone Lori Swan
- **25** Gene Comfort Brenda Wooldridge
- **27** Stephanie Andres Miriam Staples
- **28** Addy Denton Jeff Denton
- **29** Kylie Libby
- **30** Jim Owens
- **31** Carol Thomas

# **Need Sheet**

#### **Needed:**

• GFU student is heading to Colorado for a summer internship and needs a cheap yet reliable car. If you know of anyone selling one that might be a good deal, please contact Nicole at 503-951-8240.

#### For Sale:

• Strumstick (D) with case in new condition. Sounds similar to a banjo; can be plucked or strummed. Easy to play. Check it out on YouTube. Asking \$160. Call 503-538-4318.

To place a one-time free ad— • e-mail: sherry@newbergfriends.org

deadline: March 8 • no phone-in ads; please resubmit repeated ads

