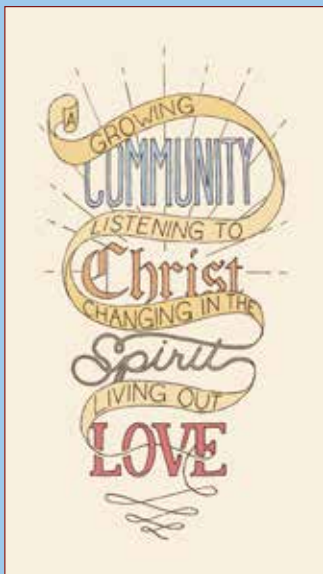


# Your NFC

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

February 3, 2017



## From Me to You

by Nolan Staples  
worship ministries



We are to love God and love others.  
We are to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.  
It is not our job or our mission to judge.  
I don't want to waste time judging people when  
I could love people. I don't want us to argue and  
wound over differing belief systems rather than  
focus on the kingdom work of caring for one an-  
other—especially the outcast and marginalized. We're talking about  
people, here—our people.

I am not writing this because it's a new concept, but because I am  
grieving over the way we're treating one another and I don't know  
what else to say.

I want to say to each person, "I love you. I accept you. I value you. I  
want to listen to you. I see the Light in you. I trust that God is work-  
ing in and through you. I trust that God has been, is, and will be  
faithful in speaking into your life. I want to learn from you and wor-  
ship with you."

My deep desire is for everyone in our community to be able to  
speak these truths to each other. I want us to be faithful in listening  
to God together. I want us to be able to sit together at the table where  
all are welcome and equal, and to worship and experience God togeth-  
er. I want us to speak grace, peace, and love to each one. Is this pos-  
sible? Can we love and accept one another instead of hurt and reject?  
Lord, have mercy. Help us to love like Jesus.

## Thank You!

*I want to send out a big thank you for the gracious  
response I received at my farewell reception last Sunday at  
Friendsview. Having it there made sense since so much of  
my ministry involved Friendsview residents. It was such a  
privilege to care for you, listen to you, and pray with you.*

*I treasure your friendship, love, and prayers.*

*In Christ's love, Cindy*

## **From the elders:**

Last weekend at Midyear Board meetings, the Administrative Council of the yearly meeting (Friends churches in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) announced the intention to restructure the yearly meeting into two separate yearly meetings. [You can read the announcement HERE.](#)

What does this mean for Newberg Friends? We will need to decide whether our church remains in Northwest Yearly Meeting or leaves NWYM to either become an independent congregation or to join the new, yet-to-be formed yearly meeting. The elders and the clerks of the meeting are already prayerfully and thoughtfully considering options for the process of this decision, including times for both group discussion and input as well as opportunities for individuals to give feedback before a decision is made as a congregation. We want the congregation to know we are seeking God's leading as we actively engage in planning. We hope to move toward a decision in the coming months, rather than wait until the June 30, 2018, deadline announced by the Administrative Council.

We also want to report that at our business meeting last Sunday night, Steve Fawver was approved as the interim lead pastor from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. During the interim year, the elders will lead a search process for a permanent lead pastor. Steve, or any of the other staff, as well as those outside the congregation may choose to apply at that time. We also announced that Elizabeth Sherwood will move to full time on July 1, 2017, as our equipping pastor, taking on additional duties that need to be covered with the reduction of the pastor of spiritual health and care position that Steve Fawver currently holds. The elders and stewards are working together to determine what other changes will be needed in staff assignments to fit within our projected budget and meet ministry needs. These details will be finalized and submitted for congregational approval with the budget for 2017-18 later this spring. It is clear that with a reduction of staff, we as a congregation will have the opportunity to step up and help each other carry out the ministry of the church together.

Michelle Akins will move immediately from 35 hours per week to 40 hours per week as she temporarily gives oversight to our youth ministry staff. A search committee for a full-time youth pastor is being formed this month, with an intended start date of July 1, 2017. (There are more details about our youth ministry interim plan in another article on page 4.) The position of pastor to seniors may be modified to include additional pastoral responsibilities; the final decision awaits further budget work by the stewards and elders. In the interim, Jenny Song, Michael Sayler, and Ron Stansell are stepping forward as volunteers in ministry to seniors, for which we are grateful!

Thank you for praying with us! These are big transitions, yet we are asking God to continue to help us at NFC to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our town and community each and every day.

# READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

## Galatians 2



### **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.

## 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

**6pm** | Taizé gathering | NFC sanctuary

### **Monday, February 6**

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

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Children's Ministry Cultivation CANCELLED this month

### **Wednesday, February 8**

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, February 9**

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

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

### **Friday, February 10**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

### **Saturday, February 11**

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

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

### **Sunday, February 12**

Reading assignment: Galatians 2

### **Plan Ahead**

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

February 15 | Julia Pearson WMF | 1:30 | Friendsview Hess Creek Classroom | featuring Shawn McConaughy, NWYM Global Outreach

February 16 | Pre-K Fun Night | 6-7pm | FC gym | ages 3-5 yrs

February 18 | Art Pruitt memorial service | 11am | Newberg Friends

February 23 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade

February 24 | Family Game Night | 7-10pm | Barclay A | Bring your favorite card and board games, a snack to share, and the friends you can't wait to hang out with for the night.

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

## Youth Ministry Update

Here is a quick update on the plan for youth ministries at Newberg Friends and the ways we intend to care for the middle school and high school young people who are connected with our community. Following Eric Muhr's resignation as pastor of youth ministries, we worked on a plan that will include these key points:

- We have a great group of volunteers who have been and are committed to continuing to journey with youth. They are teaching Sunday school, leading youth group, coordinating Bible quizzing, and providing a caring presence in many ways. We deeply appreciate each one.
- We will continue to partner with North Valley and 2nd St. Community churches for our Wednesday night groups.
- We are grateful to have the ministry of Kara Estep (youth ministry coordinator) and Corbin Gronvold (youth intern) in roles of overall coordination, support, communication, and leadership. Both capably serve as a bridge for the present time and will remain committed through June.
- We are excited to have Michelle Akins move to full time as a pastoral connection and person of support for youth ministries. She will be journeying alongside the team of volunteers and staff for this interim time.
- The elders, along with Steve Fawver, are working on naming a search committee that will oversee a hiring process of a full-time youth pastor for either an interim year or a one-year call with an anticipated, but flexible, start date of July 1, 2017.

Please contact\* either [Kara Estep](#) or [Michelle Akins](#) if you have any questions. We hope to continue to serve youth and families with love and care in this time of transition.

(\* if links don't work, use [kara@newbergfriends.org](mailto:kara@newbergfriends.org) and [michelle@newbergfriends.org](mailto:michelle@newbergfriends.org))

## ☪ Heaven's Gain



**Kathleen Gregory Wilhite** died on January 27, 2017, seven days before her 99th birthday. She had been a member since 1973. Her first husband, Dean Gregory, was superintendent of NWYM. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. this morning, February 3.



## AN INVITATION!

All are invited to join the **Sandals Sunday school class** as we begin a three-week series on "The Spirituality of Aging." Carol Sherwood and Lisa McMinn will facilitate the series, beginning with a look at biblical views on aging and how our concepts of time affect our view of aging. The Sandals class meets in the social hall on Sunday at 9 a.m.