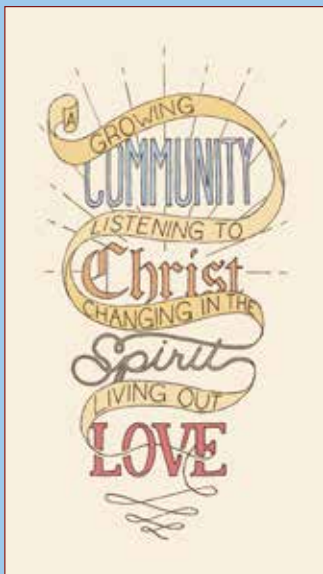


Your NFC

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

June 23, 2017



🌀 Tributes to Four Pastors

Tribute to Gregg Koskela by David Andres

This is a tribute from my family to Gregg and his family. If you have heard him preach you know about his family. I think even the dog, Jack, has been mentioned in a Sunday sermon. The Koskela family has graciously shared their husband and father with the larger NFC family. We are thankful to them for their humility and kindness.



We first got to know Gregg when he was NFC's children's pastor. He was a sort of super hero to the kids. In fact he played the character "Tyler the Time Traveler" at Kid's Club gatherings. This character had a goofy way of telling a serious story. Amidst all the fun and laughter, children experienced his love and care for them. Gregg formed strong relationships with many youth in the NFC family. He continues to pastor them now as adults. He attentively listens when they share from their thoughts and lives. Without diminishing the value of what is shared, he expresses his own values and thoughts. He provides guidance and encourages them to seek God's will.



As lead pastor, our family has seen a super hero persona as well. It does not look like a big "S" on his chest, but is more like a shadow that is present whenever needed. He does not miraculously fix things, but helps bear our burdens. He rejoices when we rejoice. He acknowledges that at times life is difficult, and has helped us spend time grieving and processing without hurrying us along our way. He sees

and speaks of our value, within humanity and to God.

Gregg's life is a journey. In his teaching, he encourages all to journey with God. He talks about where he has been and where he aspires to go. Gregg makes no pretense of having it all figured out. The intrigue of the journey is the unknown. The discovery along the way fuels the desire to know more. We pray for the Koskelas; God bless you on your journey.

Tribute to Elizabeth Sherwood by Karen Angus

Have you had an opportunity to sit with Elizabeth and look into her eyes? Have you caught that beautiful glimmer as she looks back to you? What a treat for the soul! She is usually such a very busy person on a Sunday morning, ensuring ushers are taken care of, greeting people, attending to those who need an extra hand, taking care of so many little things behind the scenes. Her best work is regularly unnoticed—but not unappreciated! As she scurries about, it's hard to catch her for a quiet moment. But when you do have the chance to sit and share, she has an ability to help see through all of your curtains and into your heart. What a treat!

Elizabeth owns a genuine smile that rarely fades, a giggle that is infectious, and a laugh that will ease the toughest of days. And those hands! A flurry of activity, her animation has a way of drawing you in close to her, reeling you in as she shares the word of God and of her heart.



Those are the physical things you can see, her outward God-given attributes that can be caught and appreciated with a quick glance. And then there is the peaceful and tranquil side of Elizabeth. She has an inward grace that can calm a storm with quiet and thoughtful words, speak peace when others cannot find the space, and keep a gathering centered. She is a child of Christ and speaks clearly through the eyes of her heart. Elizabeth reached out to me many years ago, noticing we regularly sat in the balcony, and asked if I would usher. She noticed me? Way up there, hidden in the balcony? She asked to meet for a coffee. She prayed with me and for me. We shared laughter and concerns. She gave me that engulfing smile and asked if I would serve on the cemetery committee. And later, would I serve a second term. How could I say no?



We have shared a friendship on the fringes for a number of years with kids around the same age and at rivalrous school track meets. I've gotten to know Elizabeth better through my own service at NFC, working together at cemetery work days, sitting through committee meetings. Elizabeth has extended the hand of friendship during hard times, kind and God-given words when sick or recovering, prayer during times of pain and adversity. She has provided right counsel and guidance in the toughest of times for me and many. She has been a bright light at NFC, a bubble worth chasing only to hold gently and admire.

Elizabeth has a heart for Jesus and his people that will guide her and carry her on through the next chapter. Her service to NFC is immeasurable, and what she has gathered from us all will see her well on her way. We wish her only the best as she explores new options, taking with her a firm foundation of love and affirmation from her NFC family. God bless!



Tribute to Michelle Akins by Sandra Fish

During her years at NFC, Michelle has walked alongside so many of us in the midst of our pain, sorrow, and joy. She understands and has shown what it means to just “be” with us when we are in pain or when our hearts are breaking. She has been one of the first to celebrate with us when joy comes our way. She has shown us how to look for and call out the good in each person.

She began as the children’s pastor, planning programs for children. She soon became pastor to children and families, where she planned programs for children and their parents to partici-



ate in together, programs for children so their parents could have a break, programs for adults so they

could focus on their own personal growth and thus hopefully be better parents, friends, and spouses. As she has served us at NFC, she has been willing to get to know us personally, and the ministries that she has focused on have grown out of that investment in us.

Michelle has lived her life in front of and with us. She has invited us into her home and into her life. She has prayed with and for us. She has cared for us, visited us in our homes and brought us meals. The theme in every ministry and interaction Michelle has had during her time here at Newberg Friends has been loving and serving people with the love of Christ.

Because of Michelle’s willingness to serve, our children have been loved and told of God’s love for them. The truth of God’s word has been shared, not only with our children but with all of us. We have been given incredible examples of amazing programs because of her commitment to creativity and attention to detail. She has made it easy to step in and help. She never invited someone to participate and then left them to



figure things out for themselves. She was our greatest source of ideas and then our greatest source of encouragement and support.

Michelle has modeled a ministry based on integrity, sacrifice, service, and most importantly her love for Jesus Christ. These things were all part of her life before she became a pastor at NFC. NFC simply provided a place for her ministry to be more public. She has been a blessing and a gift to our church family. I am so thankful for her!



Tribute to Nolan Staples by Jamie Johnson

Let's play a game: what is the first word that comes to mind when I say the name *Nolan Staples*? Perhaps you uttered one of these words:

Music. Dapper. Quiet. Virtuoso. Gentle. Driven. Easy-going (is that one word?)

For me? The word is *reciprocity*.

My friendship with Nolan began because we both needed each other. I needed Nolan's incredible musical giftedness to make people overlook my limited musical ability while leading worship. So I asked him to join me on occasion and he agreed, as long as he didn't have to talk – just play. I agreed to this arrangement, but I told him it was a temporary agreement. My plan probably bordered on insidious, but I noticed in Nolan a pastoral heart that I wanted to nurture in hopes that his gifts would continue to be used to usher others into the presence of the Living Christ.

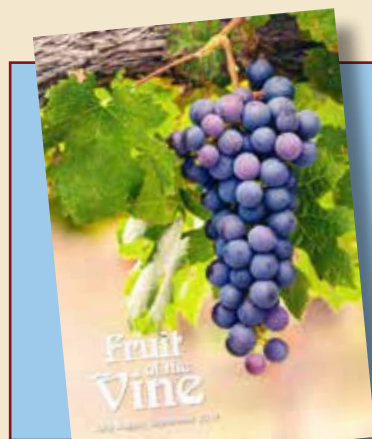
Nolan, you still speak more with your music than you do with your voice, but I can honestly say you have been a pastor to me, to our NFC community, and to so many people because you have chosen to live into your gifts and trust that God will use them, despite any doubts or fears you might be experiencing.

That, my friend, is what a pastor does. It is what you have done so faithfully. You have been faithful to listen, to lead, and to love.

Your music has been a balm to our souls when we have needed to be comforted.

Your faithful presence as a young person has given us hope for the future.

You are a pastor to us. You have pointed us to Christ. And for that, we leave the last chord unresolved (just for you!) and look forward to how you continue to point people to Jesus in whatever is next.



Fruit of the Vine is now available at the welcome center. **\$5.25/ea.** NFC writers include Ron Woodward, Becky Ankeny, Bethany Lee, Barbara Mann.

WHEN
GRACE
HAPPENS...

Yearly Meeting Sessions • July 23-26
George Fox University • Newberg, Oregon
No link provided here, but you can find more info at
<http://nwfriends.org/ym-sessions/>



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

Corbin Gronvold
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

Hebrews 12:18-24

What's Ahead

SUNDAY

9am | Nursery offered both services. Pre-K Sunday school, Room 124;
K-5th grade Sunday school, Room 121

9am | worship gathering

10-10:45am | "Thank your pastors" reception on the lawn

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:30am | Agape Sunday school class

10:45am | worship gathering

noon | 8th grade graduation celebration at Old Spaghetti Factory

Monday, June 26

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Wednesday, June 28

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Friday, June 30

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Sunday, July 2

New summer schedule begins | see info below

Plan Ahead

July 3 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

July 8 | wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508

[Click here to see the calendar online.](#)



SUMMER SCHEDULE

BEGINNING JULY 2

Christian Education • 9 a.m.

Gathered Worship • 10:45 a.m.

Community Time and Library in between

Christian Education Classes:

Agape (Barclay B)

Children of Light (Barclay A)

Shalom (Room 238)

Middle and High School Youth (Room 232)

K-5th Grade (Room 121)

Pre-K (Room 124)

Nursery (Room 231)

Friendsview pick up at 10:15am

THANK YOU, PASTORS

An Invitation!

You are invited to thank our pastors who will conclude their time of ministry soon. On Sunday, June 25, between services, please come and say thank you to Michelle Akins (8 ½ years on staff), Gregg Koskela (15 years), Elizabeth Sherwood (11 years), and Nolan Staples (3 years). We will have cake and coffee, and there will be a place for thank you cards for each of our pastors.

Need Sheet

Needed:

- Couple looking for a room or house to rent, in or near Newberg. Responsible and trustworthy. References upon request. Contact information: Steve and Deb 509-860-0961. Hoping to move by first of July.
- Due to lengthy health issues and then theft, I am homeless and in need of a small place to live that does not require credit or references. I am an older woman, mentally sound, trustworthy, and honest but concerned I will not survive this challenge. Please if someone can help me, my name is Victoria Grandetta, vagrand1@gmail.com.

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

• mail: NFC, P.O. Box 487, attn. Sherry

• bring a written ad to the NFC office at 600 E. 3rd Street

deadline: July 12 • no phone-in ads; please resubmit repeated ads

online at newbergfriends.org/resources/need-sheet/

SINCE 1918



TWIN ROCKS
friends camp

It's time to sign up for summer camp at Twin Rocks Friends Camp! Brochures are available at the welcome center or [on their website](#).

Girls Camp: July 2-7

Boys Camp: July 16-21

Tween Camp: July 9-15

Surfside Camp: August 6-12

Family Camp: September 1-4



To subscribe to *Friday Focus*, click the image above and follow the prompts.



To subscribe, click the image above and follow the prompts.

A bonus for letting us nag encourage you to subscribe will be attaching at least one page of photos each week from my bulging computer files from the past 14 years.

I hope you're still reading because I'm going to **request that you do not unsubscribe** from the NFC list serve. It contains 725 addresses, has no names connected to the email addresses, and Gmail offers no search! Beginning in August, this list will be laid to rest, and all communication for Newberg Friends Church will be sent through your subscription to *Friday Focus*.

Your *Your NFC* editor, Sherry Macy

Penultimate. I don't often find opportunities to use that word in my everyday conversation, but I'll use it now to let you know this is the *penultimate* issue of *Your NFC*, the second to last in its 13-year history. This reality triggers the need to share what happens next. Here's what to expect:

- On Friday, June 30, you'll receive the final edition of *Your NFC*.
- On the following four Fridays in July you'll receive the same invitation to subscribe to: 1) The weekly MailChimp newsletter titled *Friday Focus* for the people of the [Newberg Friends Church](#) community or 2) the MailChimp newsletter for [Newberg Emerging Friends Church](#).

COUNSELOR HELP NEEDED!

Twin Rocks Friends Camp needs a few more counselors for Girls Camp this summer! Many girls are registering and they want to be sure loving counselors (women aged 18 and older) will care for them! The dates are July 2 to 7 with training starting on July 1. Contact Megan Dayton at megan@twinrocks.org or call the camp 503-355-2284. Kids whose parents counsel are awarded half off the camper fee!

Tween Camp and Surfside Camp Transportation Plan

North Valley and Newberg Friends will together provide limited transportation to and from Tween Camp and Surfside Camp at Twin Rocks. 30 spots in vans are available for each of the two camps and the cost is \$10 per camper. Tween camp vans will leave July 9 at 1pm and return July 15 by 2pm. Surfside vans will leave August 6 at 1pm and return August 12 by 2pm. **Contact office@northvalleyfriends.org or 503-538-5340** to reserve a spot. Please include your camper's name, your email and phone number, and if your camper needs transportation both ways (cost \$10 regardless of one or both ways).