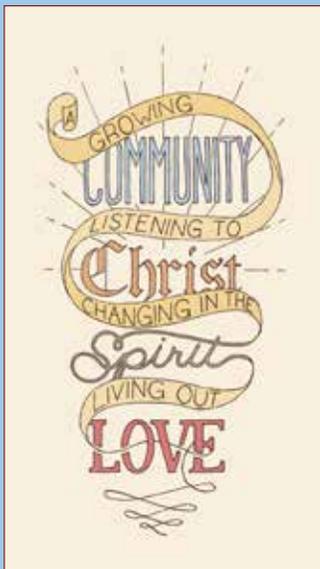


Your NFC

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

June 30, 2017



✿ Closing Thoughts

This is our final edition of Your NFC as changes happen at NFC. (See page 3 to learn how to stay connected.) David Thomas agreed to share some thoughts he has had as we all wade through the hard waters of separation.

by David Thomas

My dear NFC friends, this is a sad time as we break apart, with some people forming the emerging church, some staying, some choosing to move on to other churches, and some not sure what they will do. Debby and I joined NFC this past year because of all the wonderful people and relationships that have made up this congregation. It is sad to see these relationships strained and in some cases broken. For most this has been a heart-wrenching experience. So how do we go forward from here? How do we deal with our loss and with these changing relationships?



Back in Rwanda we went through some difficult and stressful church conflicts. During those days I was continually placing myself and all the turmoil we were experiencing on the altar. One leader accused us of being terrible missionaries, of destroying the church, even though we were trying to follow God's leading to the best of our ability. It hurt deeply, and all I could do was to go back to the cross and release all of these things to Jesus.

At times I was really frustrated by someone, but I came to realize that as I prayed for them it was not my place to accuse them before God; that is Satan's role. Instead, God asked me to forgive and bless them! This was hard, but Jesus enabled me to do this. This process of continually forgiving and blessing softened our hearts. In this process, God asked us to give some money toward this leader's education. At first we did not want to do this, but God used our generosity to change our own hearts, allowing us to grow in love for this person. In time his attitudes toward us changed, and we were reconciled. Before we left Rwanda he told us how much he appreciated our persevering through the really hard time of influencing the church out of a culture of dependency. He is now one of our key ministry partners on

Forgive and Find Peace

the Rwandan Discipling for Development team.

I think the only way to get through a major conflict like this is to bring ourselves and the whole situation to the cross of Jesus. I find the picture of bringing our burdens and laying them down at the foot of the cross very freeing. It's at the cross where we lay down our pain. Jesus' suffering covers this and he can bring healing to our areas of brokenness. At the cross we can lay down our anger, our confusion, our bitterness, our feelings of 'getting back at someone who hurt us.' We bring the conflicts and people we are in disagreement with.

Along with the image of laying down our burdens at the foot of the cross of Jesus, the concept of dying to ourselves is also needed. Jesus admonishes us in Matthew 16:24 NLT, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." Paul asserts in Galatians 2:20 NIV, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..."

Another symbol of dying to ourselves is the sacrificial altar. Paul tells us to "offer yourselves as a living sacrifice..." (Romans 12:1 NIV). I choose to get up on the altar, laying down my pride, my doubts, my fears, my rights, my bitterness, my need to be in control...

Through the cross we come to know what love looks like. God's love for us is expressed through the cross, through Jesus dying for us, and we are enabled to love each other through the cross. It is difficult to love someone who has hurt us, but as we lay down our pain and hurt we are empowered to love the person who has hurt us.

From whichever side of this conflict you find yourself, know that you have been a part of something

very special at NFC. As we all move forward, maybe this advice can be helpful.

Some Useful Advice:

- Assume we will get hurt in this conflict and split, and choose ahead of time to forgive.
- Bring to the cross of Jesus all our burdens and lay them down: burdens of pain, brokenness, sadness, fear, uncertainty...
- Take up our cross and die to ourselves daily. Choose to be a living sacrifice and die to our pride, our rights, our doubt, our fear, our control...
- Do not allow anything to come between Christ and ourselves! Be persistent and keep laying down our "stuff."
- Forgive and bless those on the other side who we disagree with, especially those who make us angry. For difficult relationships, ask God for a tangible way to bless the other person.
- Do not allow a root of bitterness to grow. Do not give the devil a foothold! Deal with your anger right away, laying it before Jesus.
- Remember that our conflict is not with people but with the spirits of evil influencing the world around us. (Ephesians 6:10)
- Remember the bigger picture that God is good and is in control. Romans 8:28 in *The Voice*, says, "We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good and beautiful when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan."

May God bless each one of us as we choose to stay open and pliable in God's hands.

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/>



Staff

Steve Fawver
interim lead pastor

Corbin Gronvold
youth ministries coordinator

Denise Lyman
bookkeeper/receptionist

Arnie Mitchell
buildings manager

Dan Ritter
buildings manager

Mark Thompson
cemetery sexton

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Monday, July 3

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

Intercessory prayer | 9am |
Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am

Wednesday, July 5

Strong For Life | 10:30am

Friday, July 7

Strong For Life | 10:30am

Saturday, July 8

Strong For Life | 10:30am
Wood ministry work session
| 9-11:30am | Friends
Cemetery on Everest Rd |
contact Larry Hampton, 503-
538-6508

Sunday, July 9

See Summer Schedule above;
speaker schedule on page 4



**SUNDAYS
BEGINNING
JULY 2**

Gathered Prayer • 8–8:50 a.m. (Room 236)

Christian Education • 9 a.m.

**Community Time and Library between
Gathered Worship • 10:45 a.m.**

**Friendsview
pick up at
10:15am**

Christian Education Classes:

Children of Light (Barclay A)

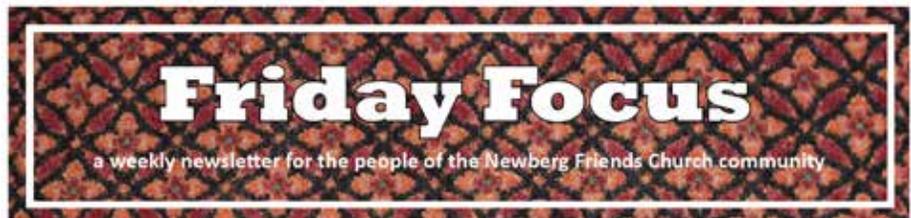
**Agape (Barclay B) • Shalom (Room 238)
Middle and High School Youth (Room 232)**

K–5th Grade (Room 121)

Pre-K (Room 124) • Nursery (Room 231)

This is the final edition of *Your NFC*. On the next four Fridays in July you'll receive the same invitation to subscribe to: 1) *Friday Focus* for news from the [Newberg Friends Church](#) community or 2) the MailChimp newsletter for [Newberg Emerging Friends Church](#).

Beginning August 1, this list will no longer be used, and all communication for Newberg Friends Church will be sent through your subscription to *Friday Focus*. **Please do not unsubscribe** from the NFC list serve. To reward your patience, each Friday you will receive at least one page of pictures from the past life at NFC.



To subscribe to *Friday Focus*, click the image above and follow the prompts.
SUBSCRIBE TODAY SO YOU DON'T MISS THE FIRST ISSUE!



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

Big News

from John and Donna Kreutz, Wycliffe Bible Translators

For many years we have been working alongside Guevea de Humboldt Zapotec speakers of southern Mexico to make the Scriptures, God's word, available in their language. With great joy and thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness, we want to share with you that last week we submitted the New Testament to our typesetting department to begin the publication process! Since that process takes several months, it's not yet possible to determine a N.T. dedication date, but we expect it to be sometime next year. Though we are transitioning to living in Mexico only part time, we feel God would have us continue our involvement with the Guevea Zapotecs for as long as he enables (sometimes face-to-face and sometimes via the Internet). With the N.T. soon to be available, we are turning our attention to helping Zapotec translators complete some unfinished Old Testament projects and to Scripture Engagement activities to promote use of the N.T. throughout the language area. Thank you, everyone who has been a part of NFC and has prayed for and/or given to missions, for helping to make it possible for Guevea Zapotecs to receive God's word in their language. Praise be to God.

To receive our newsletters and occasional email prayer updates, please send a note to: donna_kreutz@sil.org.



Heaven's Gain



Marcille Comfort died on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at age 83. She had been a member since 1957! Family members at NFC include her husband, **Marion Comfort**, brother-in-law **Gene (Betty) Comfort**, brother-in-law **Duane (Sherill) Comfort**, and nephew/niece/grand-nephew **Rick, Laurie and Andy Comfort**. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 22, at 1 p.m.

Speaker Schedule for Coming Weeks

July 2

*Ron Stansell
Gail Hutchinson
Clyde Thomas*

July 9 and 16

Robin Baker

July 23

Jim Le Shana

July 30 & August 6

Jerry Baker

August 13

Elizabeth Todd



Click the image above to read the newest issue of
NWYM Connection.