

SPOKANEWORD



April

Fourth Month, 2009

Spokane Friends
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Sunday Schedule:

Unprogrammed Worship 8:45
Education Hour 9:30
Meeting for worship 10:45

Monday I was doing a bit of follow up work on some research on the repair of “glulam beams” that I had done via the internet over the weekend. What is cracked in the Meeting Room is a support beam made of choice timber and glued together i.e. a glulam. I found a company whose approach to repairing them was different enough to get my attention. I phoned them.

The person who answered the phone was in Anaheim, CA. I asked whether they had a working relationship with anyone in eastern Washington. She didn’t know herself but said that she would be glad to ask and then get back to me. I suggested an email would work as well as a phone call and gave her this email address: “nick @ spokanefriends.com”. “Friends as in Friends Church?” she asked. Come to find out she attends Yorba Linda Friends Church. I thought that was pretty neat.

But it got me thinking – what qualities do I look for in someone like a contractor – or a physician for that matter. There is an association of churches in town that supports a good deal of its programming by selling advertisements in an annual magazine that leaves the impression that the businesses listed are “Christian”. I really don’t think a business or an organization or a nation can be “Christian”. I actually noticed recently that not even the Y.M.C.A. claims to be Christian, it only claims to support “Christian Principles”. So are we better served looking in a directory of self proclaimed Christian businesses or checking with the Better Business Bureau to learn about the quality of a company’s work when we choose a contractor.

It crossed my mind that church people have fallen prey to the notion that theology trumps ethics, that people are more interested in what we believe than in how we conduct ourselves. I think the truth of the matter is quite the opposite. I remember a person saying to a gathering of pastors: “People won’t care what you believe until they believe that you care!” When a faith community is alive and involved, exhibiting ministry to one another and for the community where it finds itself and exhibits care for creation, people will be witnesses to what is truly important and then they might be interested in why we make the choices we make.

Early followers of the way of Christ were encouraged to share their faith, their hope – when asked. (“...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1st Peter 3:15). The asking would be the result of another’s caring to know about what motivated them. It is sort of like early Friends being encouraged in 1656 by George Fox “to answer that of God” in another. That suggests that ethics takes precedence over theology. Maybe the truly uncomfortable Query is “Friend, has thee recently been asked about the hope that is in you?”

Nick

We wish to remember Leah Bendixen, her husband, Clyde, and son Josh in our prayers as they struggle with life.

**Inland Area Gathering
April 25, 11-1 p.m.
River of Life Friends church**



Worship, Fellowship, Ministry Updates, Yearly Meeting Preview



Remember to bring your food bank donations on the third Sunday of every month. This is the same week as monthly meeting. Remember those in need as you prepare your contribution for the pot luck.



Lend a hand. Use a Hoe. Plant a Row for the Hungry. The soup kitchens, food pantries and assistance programs that Second Harvest Inland Northwest provides with food need fresh nutritious produce. The Plant a Row for the Hungry program encourages anyone with a plot of land set aside for a garden to dedicate a row of fruit or vegetables to help feed people in need. Plant a Row also works with local farmers' markets, farms and orchards to collect unsold, wholesome produce for local hunger-relief efforts.

How you can help:

- Plant an extra row in your garden for hungry people.
- Volunteer to help plant a community garden.
- Donate vegetable seeds, tools and gloves.
- Make a cash donation to purchase seeds.
- Serve on the planning committee
- Encourage your friends, church and business to participate.
- Help with the harvest this fall.



For more information, please contact Pat Munts, Plant a Row Coordinator at 998-9769, Joanna Gear at 252-6257 or visit the Second Harvest Web site at www.2-harvest.org

In England in the 1650s, when Quakers were first establishing their identity as a denomination, they were sometimes called “Publishers of Truth.” I don’t know that in Old English “to publish” meant “to share in writing” the way it does now—I think it meant “to make known” more generally—but I do know that many influential Quakers, including George Fox himself, wrote journals about their life in ministry. These personal accounts were meant to share how God had worked in their lives, to share the Quaker understanding of God, Christ, and the Gospel, and to teach and inspire others to submit themselves to the Inner Light and to follow God more faithfully.

Generations of Quakers have taken journals and other personal writings very seriously as a tool of our faith. In periods when Quakers took great care to isolate themselves from the wider society, Quaker journals, like John Woolman’s or Job Scott’s, would be one of the few books kept in a household besides the Bible. In modern times, Quakers like Thomas Kelly and Rufus Jones have exerted some of their most important influence through written words, like Kelly’s book *A Testament of Devotion*. And Quaker writings, both historic and contemporary, are made available to Friends today in the form of Pendle Hill pamphlets (small paperback tracts, published by Pendle Hill Quaker center in Pennsylvania).

The written word has been tremendously important throughout the history of the Society of Friends. But today, because of the internet, much of writing and publishing is changing radically. Does it surprise you to learn that Quakers are active on the internet, sharing the truth of their spiritual experiences there?

There is a very active online community of Quaker bloggers right now.

A blog, for those of you who aren’t familiar with the term, is an online *web log*, like an internet journal, where people can write stories, essays, reflections—anything, really—to share with any readers who happen by.

A Quaker woman from San Francisco named Robin Mohr says that meeting other Quakers online helped her form “friendships across geography and theology.” As a liberal Friend (a Quaker from the unprogrammed, more universalist tradition of Friends), she first encountered Christ-centered, evangelical Friends, like a pastor in Newberg, on the internet. She has found that writing on her blog to be a real exercise in putting her spiritual experience into words so she could share it with others. And reading other spiritual blogs has been a valuable way for her to encounter that of God in other people.

Quakers have always had a special concern for the written word. It doesn’t surprise me that some of us are on the forefront of spiritual discussion on the internet, as the written word moves from the printed page into a new medium.

Do you have a blog? Are there other ways that you use the internet to share or learn about spirituality?

Interested in learning more about Quakers online? Try these sites:

<http://robinmsf.blogspot.com> — Robin Mohr’s Quaker blog

www.QuakerQuaker.org — a collection of Quaker blogs, like *Reader’s Digest* for Quakers online

<http://johanpdx.blogspot.com> — blog of Johan Maurer, Friends in Elektrostal, Russia

Crop Walk

Sunday , April 26

Entertainment and Registration begin at 12:30pm

10K walk begins at 1:30

Fight hunger in our community and the world

Contact Ron Fritsch for more information.

Mission Weekend

Mission Weekend with Hal and Nancy Thomas will start on April 25, Saturday evening at Spokane Friends Church. Our famous Javenese dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Hal and Nancy will present a program explaining their work which involves educating church leaders in Latin America. It is an exciting ministry that enables leaders to receive a doctorate and thereby provide more effective leadership. Hal and Nancy both have their doctorates and have served in Bolivia with Friends for over thirty years before taking on this challenge. Hal attended Spokane Friends as a child and they have visited with us many times through the years. Nancy is a writer and poet. Many of her poems have been published. There is one below for you to read.

On Sunday morning, Hal and Nancy will join the 9:45 am Sunday School classes. They will speak at 10:45 am at the worship service. A mission offering will be taken to help support them in their ministry.

Declaration

By Nancy Thomas

Taken from her book "The Secret Colors of God"

Lord, my rights are being violated again—
my God-inspired, law defended,
historically battled, humanly holy
constitutional rights.

It's nor fair!

I'm doing my share of the work
carrying my part of the load
and now
they want to give me their shares—
want me to go the extra mile their
legs refuse to walk,
and I'm mad.

But when I stop and think

—let your spirit in through the chinks
in the door (boarded fast by rights)—
I'm even more bothered
by my strong
attachments to this sense of
what's —fair—for—me.

Where were they when you left
your home
to walk and eat and love
among us? When you left the green fields
of glory to wander our dusty roads
and teach us giving and losing us
a superior form of gain?

Where were your rights when you
Hung there high in the afternoon?

Was it fair for you to carry
The weight of a world full of
People like me?

Was it right?

Forgive me, Lord.

In the light of your life

I begin to see my rights
More clearly.

Untie these knots that bind me.

In the fight for fairness.

Free me to give and lose and carry more
Than my share.

Help me to forget my rights
and enter into love.

When I open my eyes the view is limited, but when I close my eyes I can see forever.



EASTER WEEK ACTIVITIES:

Fill Easter eggs	Tuesday, April 7	6:30pm
Good Friday Service	Friday, April 10	7:00pm
Easter Egg hunt	Saturday, April 11	11:00am
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 12	9:15am
Easter Service	Sunday, April 12	10:45am

APRIL



Spokane Friends Meeting

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Music team	2 Tops	3	4 Heritage Saturday
5 Palm Sunday Fiddler's 2-5	6 <i>Chris Beiers</i>	7 Peace with Justice 7:30 Foresters 1:00 Stuff Easter eggs 6:30	8 Neighborhood kids Music team <i>Sherrí Templeton</i>	9 Tops s	10 Good Friday 7:00pm Moms 10:00	11 Easter Egg hunt 11:00 <i>Kent Biel</i>
12 EASTER Breakfast at 9:15	13 Education committee 7:00	14 Elder's 7:30	15 Music Team Neighborhood kids <i>Nick Block Samuel & Dur-daana</i>	16 Tops Foresters Stewards/Trustee 7:00	17	18
19 Monthly meeting Pot luck Food bank	20 Moms 10:00 Pastor's conference	21	22 Neighborhood kids Music team	23 Tops	24 Mom's in library 10:00	25 Area rally 11-1 River of Life Friends Mission dinner 6:00pm Gary & Pat Nicker-
26 Hal & Nancy Thomas will visit Crop Walk 1:30	27 Mom's 10:00	28	29 Neighborhood kids Music team	30 Tops		* <i>Birthday's & anniversaries</i>

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Holding in the Light

- * Leah Bendixen, her husband Clyde and son Josh and their struggle with life.
- * Lorraine Rattray , as she continues treatment for lymphoma
- * Samuel , as he continues his treatments.
- * Chris Hurd as she recovers.
- * Those in our meeting who are in search for employment.
- * Interfaith Hospitality and it's continuing mission.
- * For our Meeting as we seek God's will in areas of our life together.
- * We pray for the safety of Josh, Joel, Robin , Rich, Chris & Eddie, friends and loved ones of families in the Meeting, as they are in military service.
- * We pray that the leaders of countries at war, including our own, will seek just and non-violent ways to resolve conflict, and peace for the people in war torn countries and all who either personally or corporately endure war's consequences.
- * For our nation, our leaders and Members of Congress as they contemplate ways to conclude this war.
- * For families in our worshipping community wrestling with the practical concerns of health, education, employment and residence.

