

SPOKANEWORD

Third Month, 2010

March



Spokane Friends
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Sunday Schedule:

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

Like the crocus and tulips this time of year, little things jump out at you sometimes in reading Scripture.

Last week, as I was re-reading the passage from Luke 5, I saw something I hadn't really noticed before: As the story developed along the sea shore and we are told of the two boats which had evidently been beached while the fishermen were washing their nets, Jesus steps into the one belonging to Simon and asks him if he would "put out a little way from the shore". We pass over that rather quickly to get on with the story – we are interested in what Jesus is going to share from his seat in boat. And, interestingly enough Luke doesn't tell us the contents of "The Sermon From The Boat" only that Jesus taught the crowds from there. It is after the teaching is done that Jesus again speaks to Simon: "Put out into deep water and let down your nets..." There are times when we, just like Simon, are reluctant to go back to what we expect to be the same old drill – Simon and his fishing partners had just labored all night with nothing to show for it. But after a bit of hesitancy he yielded and the catch was beyond anything imaginable – so much so that James and John almost swamped their boat with the extravagant bounty as well. Great story – but what caught me was the fact that Jesus began his dealing with Simon with a simple request – just "put out a little way from the shore".

Was it a test – to see if Simon would be open to the opportunities Jesus would offer in the future? I'm guessing that there are times when the Holy Spirit calls us to just put out a little way from the shore. We've got the freedom to say – I'm too tired and too busy cleaning my nets from my last failed adventure to respond to your request. But, when we've been called to the little things and have responded then great new opportunities may become available to us – even in spite of our initial reluctance.

There is another passage like this in Luke 9. It occurs in the narrative just before Jesus' announcement that he was to be given up into the power of men and at the conclusion of the story where a man reports to Jesus that Jesus' disciples had failed to heal his son of seizures. In this instance, Jesus cures a boy and returns him to his father. Two little words, amazed and astounded, show up in the text. Though different in the Greek they are synonyms in English, "And all were **astounded** at the greatness of God. While everyone was **amazed** at all that he was doing." Various translators have struggled with the problem, giving us sentences like: "...**awestruck** at the power of God and **expressing wonder** at all that Jesus was doing." The N.I.V. gives us "And they were all **amazed** at the power of God. While everyone was **marveling** at all that Jesus did..." Another translator chooses **astounded** at the power of God and **wonder** at all that Jesus did. All are decent attempts at translation. I think we undervalue that everything astonishing, wonderful, marvelous, astounding, remarkable that Jesus did was always to focus the people's attention on the greatness of God. Everything! We can get so caught up in the Jesus stories that we miss Jesus' purpose all together. It should be the same for us, at home and for "Friends Serving Abroad", those who we now call our missionaries.

We Quakers find ourselves often referring to George Fox's saying "...then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one." Those words follow his encouragement that we should "be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people..." When people wonder what motivates us in how we live our lives, a wonderment that comes from the work of God in them, ideally their attention will turn to the amazing power of God – not to us or anything we may have said or done. Just as all Jesus' ministry was done by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18), so it will be of us. That same Holy Spirit which empowered all that Jesus did can lead your life and mine.

Just a short note to notify you of the current Caritas needs:



Canned stew
Pancake mix
Household cleanser
40 oz dish soap
50 oz laundry detergent
Sponges



Caritas lives and gives through contributions and support of member churches. On behalf of those we serve, thank you so much!

Blessings,

Sue Miller
Volunteer Chore Coordinator
Caritas Outreach Ministries
326-2249



2 Fundraisers for Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane

Fundraiser 1 Family Alumni Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday, March 6th, from 8-10 am, we will be holding the first of three Pancake Breakfasts to benefit Interfaith.

The cost is \$7 and includes all you can eat pancakes, sausage and coffee, orange juice, soft drink or tea. We have tickets available from Pam Emery.

Serving the breakfast at the Northpointe Applebee's will be former guests, staff and board members. Attached is a flier of the event. On June 6th the breakfast will be at the South Hill Applebee's and on August 7th the breakfast will be at the valley location.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Interfaith to make some money but more important an opportunity for former families to give back in a positive way.



Fundraiser 2 "It's Worth Serving"

The Service Station located at 930 N Monroe in the new YMCA/YWCA and at 9315 N Nevada has offered us a wonderful opportunity to make some money for Interfaith.



Continuing during the month of March, the Service Station will be holding a fundraiser for Interfaith.

By presenting a coupon with an order, the Service Station will give 10% of the bill back to Interfaith. This is good for any a food/drink purchase or corporate room rental. We have copies of the coupon available at the church for people to take.



Business Meeting News

For those of you who weren't able to attend business meeting on Sunday, this should bring you up to date on the discussion of the seating arrangement in the meeting room

Without a doubt the decision of greatest interest made during our Monthly Meeting this past Sunday is to rearrange the seating in the Meeting Room beginning February 28. In this arrangement the furniture will be in something of a U shape oriented toward the windows. In the weeks following minor adjustments will be made. Those who have followed this ongoing discussion and recall the floor plan proposals printed in last month's newsletter, we will start with proposal four, then adjust to proposal three, then two and then one. This seemed to some the best way to evaluate these proposals, by actually sitting in these arrangements. Time will be given for further evaluation during the March Monthly Meeting.

During the discussion there were times of prayer and listening. Understandably, some concerns, like potential glare from the windows, potential problems with the sound system, and inadequate seating currently available on the platform for the 8:45 worship time and some personal preferences both for more community focused and platform focused arrangements were shared. We appreciate each one who participated in the Business session by raising legitimate concerns, putting the Meeting at liberty from personal preferences and helping us discover a "sense of the meeting" as we sought to follow our Quaker business practices.

Wheels Turning

These wheels turn,
The heart beats,
The eyes look
Out over a landscape
Seeing – nothing – Yet
Everything –
Some things are
Not all named.
Medicated to numbness!
The emotions
Tightly controlled
Lest one gets out
And gives birth
To a thought
That the governor
Can't catch,
Can't reach,
Can't put back
Before it's too late
And an idea is formed
And words are
Spoken, finally breaking free,
Understanding from the Light
That rests within
To reveal sorrow
Forgiveness, more emotion
Spirituality's freedom.
The eyes have it
Thoughts see it,
Feet move to it
Like a dance
An Opera
A symphony
Heard and seen
And misunderstood sometimes
But beautiful still,
And stillness
Comes, silence
Finally to worship
Out of the silence
To see inward
The waiting
The gathering of thought
From the Other
To move out of the well
Into daylight..

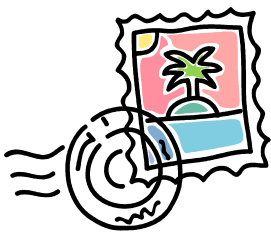
Missions Alert!

Keep the weekend of March 13 and 14th open. Suzanne Livingston will be visiting with us and telling us about the Water Filter Project that she and her husband Del have been doing in Africa. Remember our Thanksgiving/Christmas offering of \$900.00 dollars? Come and learn what your dollar did for providing pure water in Africa and how we can pray for this ministry.

Look for more details on the meetings with Suzanne, in the Meetings Sunday bulletins.

Prayer and Concerns Prayer Chain

A new feature has been added to the church's phone system. We can now share prayer concerns with those of you who do not have e-mail. Please let the office know if you would like to have a recorded message and what time of the day would you like to receive the call.



Correction to last months newsletter...It should have read over "seventy-one thousand dollars" has been given to Quaker projects around the world with the Used Postage Stamps for Mission Program.



We are still collecting stamps. Please put your cancelled stamps in the basket in the foyer.

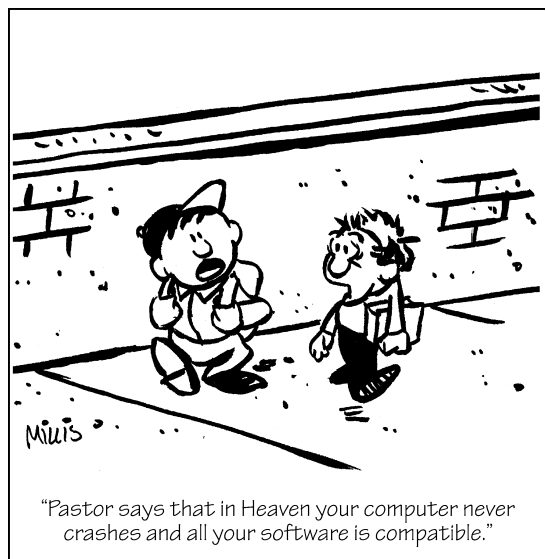
Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.



St. Patrick's Day



"Pastor says that in Heaven your computer never crashes and all your software is compatible."

March




Spokane Friends Meeting

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327-7852

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthdays & Anniversaries 	1	2. 2 Gideon meal Peace with Justice	3 Music Team	4 Tops <i>Mary Ann Ballard Terry & Gillian Moore</i>	5 Nick Gone	6 Nami Support group 10:30 Nelson Family
7	8 Education	9 Elders	10 Music Team	11 Steward/ Trustee Tops	12 <i>Ben Larson</i>	13
14 Daylight Savings Suzanne Livingston will visit.	15	16	17 Music Team 	18. Foresters Tops <i>Amy Rogers Kevin & Jeannette Eaton</i>	19	20 Nami Support group 10:30
21 Potluck/ monthly meeting	22 <i>May Hill</i>	23 <i>Betty Bendixen Susan Block Faith Stockler</i>	24 Music Team	25 Tops	26	27
28	29	30 Care group 6:30	31 Music Team <i>Rebecca Coufal</i>			

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- * Dwaine William's brother Dan and wife Nancy as he continues long term cancer treatment.
- * Edith & Gil Pinto as they continue recovering at home.
- * Bruce & Leann Williams' new ministry and health issues.
- * Ezekiel (EZ) Rogers as he recovers from a brain hemorrhage caused by hitting his head in a fall.
- * Those in our meeting who are in search of employment.
- * All of the unspoken prayers and concerns.
- * For our Meeting as we seek God's will in areas of our life together.
- * We pray for the safety of Josh, Joel, Scott, 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 improve our economy.
- * For families in our worshipping community wrestling with the practical concerns of health, education, employment and residence.