

# YOUR NFC

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE  
NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH COMMUNITY

MAY 7, 2010

## FROM ME TO YOU



by Eric Muhr, youth ministries

The first time it happened, I wasn't ready. I made mistakes. Said some things I shouldn't have. I was so angry.

I got the news on a Monday. A 15-year-old girl had taken her life. The Friday before, she'd been in a sophomore English class I was teaching. I couldn't even remember what she looked like.

At the funeral, her picture was on the program. In it, her cousin, with mischievous smile, peeked over her shoulder. Up on stage, remembering out loud, he cried.

I prayed. Asked God, "Where were you?" Romans 8:28 kept playing in my head—that "all things work together for good." I felt like God was mocking me. And I felt guilty. How had I missed it? Why hadn't I said anything?

Then, compounding guilt with guilt, I claimed she took her life because she didn't want God to have it. Even now, writing these words, I'm horrified that I said such a thing. That I believed it. Her friends—afraid, ashamed, uncertain—asked me for help understanding. I excused their concerns. Told them their friend was just selfish.

Years later, I've learned three things from this: 1) I am an idiot; 2) I have always been an idiot; 3) I may always be an idiot. And I've learned something more: God's patience is everlasting. God knows I'll make a mess of things. And he loves me.

A little over a month ago, I read online that "Kyle T. Bollig, 19, of Boise, died...at his home." Kyle was my student for two years. He had taken his life. I drove to Idaho for the funeral.

Kyle's picture was on the program. In it, he was wearing a striped polo—a shirt he'd often worn to class—and grinning. When Kyle's dad, on stage, tried to tell us how much we meant to Kyle, he got stuck. Tried to start over. Sobbed into the microphone. I felt guilty. It had been less than a year since Kyle's graduation, and I hadn't spoken with him even once. How had I missed his pain? Why hadn't I stayed in touch?

That's when it hit me. I've been here before.

One of Kyle's friends told me how Kyle had called him, asked him to come over that weekend. "I told him I'd be there for him, but I had something come up. I always do that to people." A girl Kyle dated asked me why this happened,



Now on display in the  
NFC social hall:

art by  
Gertrude Willard

## YOUR NFC

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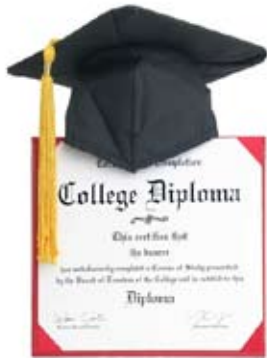
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if I thought Kyle would go to heaven. I had to admit I didn't know. I overheard another student telling someone how selfish suicide is: "It victimizes so many." And I realized that I'm not the only idiot. There are lots of us.

So I tried shutting my mouth for once. Simply confessed that it didn't make sense to me either. Hugged some people. Offered tissues. Listened a lot.

And I wondered how I might learn some of that everlasting patience, how I might learn to love people even when they make a mess of things.



**College Scholarships** for undergraduates will be available for those who consider NFC their church home and who attend Friends colleges or universities such as George Fox. Find an application at the welcome center, pick one up from the church office during the

week, or download it from this link. *Return your completed application by June 15.* We ask that students reapply each year for this scholarship.

## Exploring Friends

- Are you interested in finding out more about Quakers?
- Do you ever wonder what values Friends hold or how Quakers began?
- Have you ever considered why we have open worship?

# EXP LOR ING

If you would like to *explore* more about Friends history and beliefs and *consider* the questions you have, then this course is for you. We especially encourage this course if you are interested in membership at NFC.

**Sundays at 9 a.m.  
in Barclay C  
June 6, 13, 20, & 27**

E-mail [steve@newbergfriends.org](mailto:steve@newbergfriends.org)  
for more information.

## Family Story Time

This month we'll focus on Humility. Come early to get the best spot right up front.

Just kidding!

The truth is we have a lot of fun reading stories together and discussing them in the light of Christ. Wiggly kids welcome.

Kids are welcome to come in their jammies.

**Friday May 14  
6:30-7:15 p.m. in the  
NFC sanctuary**

**This month's theme:  
Humility**



Please contact Michelle Akins  
for more information.  
[michelle@newbergfriends.org](mailto:michelle@newbergfriends.org) 503-538-8381

## **MAYORS PRAYER BREAKFAST**

**May 15, 2010 • 8 a.m.  
GFU's Klages Dining Hall  
\$10/person**

**Featuring:  
Aaron Rauch  
director of Young Life  
of Yamhill County**

**Tickets available at the door  
or by calling Sam Hulse  
at 503-538-9439.**



# YOUR **NFC** THIS WEEK

**Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 12:9-14**

## READING ASSIGNMENT FOR MAY 9

### SUNDAY

Sunday school for children and adults — For times and classroom information, find “Educational Opportunities” at each entrance and at the welcome center or ask an usher/greeter to help you.

9am | worship gathering

10–10:45am • Community Time in the social hall  
• blood pressure checks | Room 234

10:45am | • worship gathering

ages 3-5 dismissed during gathering to Room 133

K–3rd grade dismissed to Godly Play in Room 232

• unprogrammed worship in Barclay C

5pm | 5 o'clock gathering | sanctuary

7pm | high school youth group | Friends House

### Monday, May 10

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Weigh2Go! | 5pm | Barclay C

### Tuesday, May 11

Lines, Curves & Dots writing course | 7pm | social hall

### Wednesday, May 12

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Middle school youth group | 6:30-8pm | Friends Center

Affordable Housing Seminar | 7pm | sanctuary | co-sponsored by North Valley and Newberg Friends | hear from Denise Bacon, Newberg city councilor, about plans to increase affordable housing in Newberg

### Thursday, May 13

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

### Friday, May 14

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Friendsview prayer meeting | 1pm | Creekside 2nd floor, TV room | Gregg Koskela invites anyone at Friendsview to join for prayer

Family Story Time | 6:30pm | theme: humility

### Saturday, May 15

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

### Sunday, May 16

Reading assignment: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 12:9-14

Stewards meeting | 4pm | Room 236

Trustees meeting | 4:30pm | Barclay C

Quarterly business meeting | 6pm | NFC sanctuary

### Plan Ahead

May 18 | Time for 'Pause | 7pm | Barclay C

May 19 | Julia Pearson WMF | noon | Friendsview Hess Creek Dining Room

May 21 | wedding of Beth Hampton and Ian Lamm | 7pm | NFC sanctuary

May 30 | Kick Off the Summer potluck lunch | following 2nd service | rain/shine

June 6 | Senior Salute | 6pm

June 21-25 | vacation Bible school

## NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH

a GROWING community

LISTENING to Christ

CHANGING in the Spirit

LIVING OUT love

### PASTORAL TEAM

**Gregg Koskela**

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## **THANK YOU!**

Most likely very few reading this realize that yesterday, May 6, was National Nurses Day and that this week, right up until Florence Nightingale's birthday on May 12, is National Nurses Week. We want to take this opportunity to thank the parish nurses here at NFC, who have given a lot of their time to improve our health physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Carol Sherwood had the vision and provides excellent leadership to our parish nursing ministry, which includes Tamara Brand, Mary Schrock, and Cindy McCracken. Since they began a year and a half ago, their ministry has broadened in many ways. Thanks, parish nurses, for the following ministries:

30 prayer shawls made and given

52 blood pressures taken at Amigo Iglesia

81 blood pressures taken at Newberg Friends

Emergency defibrillator purchased

Organized CPR classes for ushers

Organized three Services of Consolation

Logged in 18 seat hours at two Serve and Celebrates taking BP and passing out health information

Logged in 12 seat hours giving flu shots to 100 participants at Adult Health Day

Provide weekly respite to two families in the church who have family members with Alzheimer's

Made hospital visits to OSHU, Providence Newberg, Chehalem Rehab

Conducted 6-week series on Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Conducted 4-week Grief Group

Lead Strong for Life exercise classes three times a week

Lead Weigh2Go! group once a week

Lead two caregiver support groups at Friendsview

Helped NFC members transition from hospital to home



### **Save your empty cereal boxes!**

Vacation Bible school wants to repurpose them for a craft. Bring them to Michelle in the NFC office or at WBF or drop off in the resource room at NFC.

Thank you!





*Bulletin Bloopers: The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Green who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.*

The term “getting your house in order” took on new meaning this week. The last three weeks have been so busy that cleaning house has been low on my priority list. The wet weather caused little doggie tracks with bark dust. It was dusty, and papers of all sorts were piled around. It got so big in my mind that I was sure it would take three days to clean it, and I was overwhelmed. I remembered that I used to be able to clean my house in a couple of hours. But with physical issues it usually takes many hours. But I finally had an afternoon and evening to work, so I attacked it. I was amazed how much better I felt to have it done. I felt that I could handle anything now because something was under control. If (when) we have chaotic times in our lives

(at any age) we find something we can control to help us with the chaos. We all need to feel control in our lives but we often do not stop to think about the fact that there are often things we cannot control. God is good to take those areas and let us know what we need to do with the things we can control.

I am praying for you.

**Reach me by phone — 503-899-9229 (cell) or 503-487-6380 (home)**

## Reading for All

*Reading For All* will hold a county-wide “Spring Cleaning Book Drive” May 8-16! They hope to collect new or gently used books for children/youth of all ages and books in English, Spanish, and both languages for redistribution to children, youth, and families in need in Yamhill County. They have set a goal of collecting 15,000 books! To donate, please visit one of the following locations or call 503-434-7326.

*Newberg Urgent Care, Oregon First Community Credit Union, Chapters Books and Coffee, Providence Newberg Medical Center, Newberg Public Library, The Coffee Cat, Lewis Audio & Video, Underground Café, Union Block Marketplace, Chehalem Valley Dance Academy, Riverspirit Wellness Center, The Kelly Group, Pogy’s Sandwich Shop, Blockbuster Video, Naps Thriftway, Walgreens, Jem 100, Caravan Coffee, Chehalem Aquatic Center, Chehalem Community Center, and all Newberg Public Schools*



### Host Homes Needed!

Students from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, will perform at Friendsview on Thursday, May 13. After the program, hosts will need to take them home, feed them a snack, and provide a place for them to sleep. The next morning, after breakfast, they’ll need transportation to their meeting place (somewhere in Newberg). If you can help, please contact Lecia Retter at 503-550-3525 or [praynonthejourney@gmail.com](mailto:praynonthejourney@gmail.com).

## NFC’s Calendar on the Web!



**May 2010  
NWYM Connection  
on the Web**