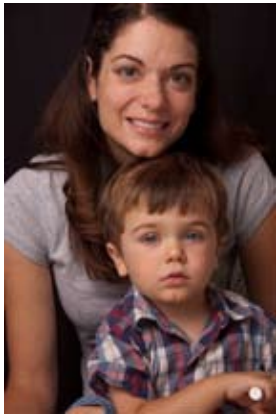


YOUR NFC

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

JUNE 18, 2010

CENTERING DOWN



by Irene Dunlop

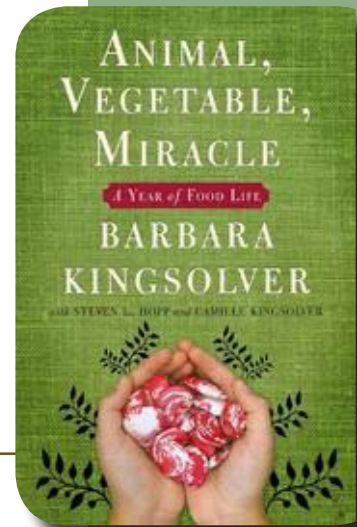
“Do you have an advanced directive?” The question took me aback. As a healthy 32-year-old, my own mortality often seems a rather theoretical concept. I know; the only guarantees in life are death and taxes. But I’ve always carried this thought that as long as you can see a high probability of still being alive at double your age, you are a long way from old and infirm, and there isn’t much reason to worry. Of course, in writing, it’s clearly a silly notion. Isn’t a foundational trust in God’s love

and provision that the life he chooses for us is good and sufficient, more solid ground on which to live?

Yet it feels as if the past year has shaken the foundation of my life to its core. I have joked that it’s time to stop planning vacations; every time I have tried to go away in the last few months, a loved one has died. In six months time, Aaron, my husband, and I attended six funerals for friends and family members, all of whom died “too young.” Funerals can be truly joyous occasions. It’s wonderful to celebrate the life of saints of God who have lived long and full, seen their children’s children’s children born, and victoriously joined their Father in heaven. But every one of these funerals contained an element of sharp grief, reminders of our broken world.

This grief, coupled with the personal pain of laying down (or allowing God to reshape) deeply held hopes for how my own life and family will look, has stretched my faith taut under a heavy weight of sorrow.

The sorrow has in many ways made the beauty of life and the goodness of God seem piquant. Almost so beautiful it hurts. I relish my two-year-old, his joy in the discovery of life, and the amazing world God has surrounded us with. Parenting with Aaron opens new facets of his personality to me and pours into my life a living experience of Christ’s compassion and love. The songs of the gold finches, the luscious sweet strawberries from our backyard, the sun and wind filtering through the trees, the joy of family and friends, all are reminders of God’s continual creativity and steadfast love.



This summer we will feature a series titled “Take Care—you are what you eat.” You are invited to read this blogpost from Christianity Today in preparation for this series, which begins next Friday with Corey and Jill Beals.

YOUR NFC

*Published weekly
for the purpose
of information and
community connectedness*

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I long to experience life to the full, to watch my son grow—and hopefully another child, grandchildren someday, perhaps even great-grandchildren—to see them learn and love in this amazing, beautiful world God has created, to serve with my husband in the name of Christ, to see and experience many of the varied cultures and lands within God’s creation. So I rely on God to redeem the sorrow, asking for a long, full life through which to serve him, standing in faith that what he has for me is good and sufficient, reassured that his plans are wider and higher than mine.

Seasons of suffering do not last forever. Hope is renewed in the morning. God promises not freedom from suffering but to be with us in the midst of it.

“And at the end of our woe, suddenly our eyes shall be opened and in the clearness of light our sight shall be full; which light is God, our Maker and Holy Ghost, in Christ our Savior. Then I saw and understood that our faith is our light in our night; which light is God, our endless day” (Julian of Norwich).

A few months ago, I shared on Psalm 103 in our Thursday morning Bible study. This psalm is a glorious affirmation of God’s goodness to us. It begins:

*“O my soul, bless God.
From head to toe, I’ll bless his holy name!
O my soul, bless God, don’t forget a single blessing.
He forgives your sins – every one.
He heals your diseases – every one.
He redeems you from hell – saves your life!
He crowns you with love and mercy – a paradise crown.
He wraps you in goodness – beauty eternal.
He renews your youth – you are always young in his presence.
God makes everything come out right; he puts the victims back on their feet.”*

And so it continues, glorying in God’s righteousness, his sheer mercy and grace, his unfailing love and forgiveness, his unending goodness.

Such a psalm is easy to lift to God when life is good, yet I find voicing these truths in the midst of pain and grief is even more necessary.

For it is a pertinent reminder that there is more to life than meets the eye. God’s goodness and love are not negated by our experiences of pain in this broken world. In fact God’s sustaining presence carries us through such times even when we can only bear witness to it in retrospect. God’s *hesed*, his overwhelming love for us, is not limited by the number of days we live or what joys or sorrows they contain.

A few Sunday’s past, Gregg spoke about risky faith. I find myself awed by the risky faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who stood before the king in audacious confidence (although surely also in mortal terror). Defying the king’s order to bow and worship him, they declared that “...the God we serve is able to save us from it [the fiery furnace], and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3: 17b-18). Their faith in God’s goodness and sovereignty was not dependent on God’s immediate intervention on their behalf. Even if he did not choose to save them, they chose to remain faithful. Reality, God’s reality, extends beyond finite time. Risky faith becomes attainable when we can live in his ultimate reality.

This year God has used the pain of loss to open my eyes more fully to his ultimate reality, to see a world where it is a ¹foregone conclusion that God’s justice will triumph, because God promises us that all things will be made right. God’s goodness is breaking forth as his kingdom expands, and life is not in short supply. Life is in abundance. Our lives will never end but are hidden with God in Christ.

¹*paraphrased from a sermon by Skye Jethani*

YOUR **NFC** THIS WEEK

1 Kings 19:9-14

READING ASSIGNMENT FOR JUNE 20

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

- Exploring Friends | Barclay C

10-10:45am • Community Time on the lawn!

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

5 o'clock gathering potluck on the lawn | bring a dish to share, your own plate and tableware, and a picnic blanket | followed by VBS set-up

Monday, June 21

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Weigh2Go! | 5pm | Barclay C

Tuesday, June 22

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Wednesday, June 23

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Thursday, June 24

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

High school backpack trip departs | 6am | NFC parking lot

Friday, June 25

Vacation Bible school | 9-11:30am

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

Saturday, June 26

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

Sunday, June 27

Reading assignment: 1 Kings 19:15-21

Plan Ahead

July 5 | JOY breakfast | 8am | J's Restaurant | for seniors over 55

July 10 | Wood ministry work session | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | 9-11:30am | contact Tim Goodfellow 503-522-4415

July 11 | 9:30am breakfast on the lawn / bring a box of breakfast cereal or pastries to share / 10:30am outdoor worship gathering

July 16 | Family Story Time | 6:30pm | water fun & ice cream on the lawn

July 25-30 | Tilikum Day Camp

July 25-29 | NWYM Yearly Meeting Sessions | George Fox University

NFC's Calendar on the Web!

NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH
a GROWING community
LISTENING to Christ
CHANGING in the Spirit
LIVING OUT love

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SUMMER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



One click will take you to the link.

Newberg Public Library

Tunes on Tuesday

Newberg Farmers Market

Newberg's Old Fashioned Festival

George Fox University summer events

Newberg Art Walk

Newberg Graphic's Community Calendar

Newberg Movies

Softball Schedule—Church League

Softball Schedule—City League

Sherwood Regal Theater

(free movies for kids on Tuesdays and
Wednesdays – scroll to find
“Sherwood Stadium 10”)



HEAVEN'S GAIN

Martha Swindler died unexpectedly in her sleep on June 17, 2010, at age 86. Martha has attended NFC the past 11 years. She is the mother of **Nora** (and **Wayne**) **Adams**.

A memorial service is planned for July 6, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.



Outdoor Worship

July 11, 2010

10:30 a.m.

Breakfast On the Lawn @ 9:30 a.m.

Bring your own bowl and tableware along with a box of your favorite breakfast cereal and/or pastries. Milk and coffee will be provided.



Bulletin Bloopers: Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

When I was in junior high, I wanted to own and run an orphanage. I have always loved kids (as long as they aren't in a pack) and love being around them. In my counseling practice, I once had an 18-month-old child and especially loved the little ones. I quit taking them as so many of the cases ended up in the courts, and rulings were rarely in the best interest of the child. I got to where I couldn't sleep. Owning and running an orphanage is probably not going to happen, but as I have watched kids at church on Sundays being loved by other adults outside of their family, I realize again the precious heritage of being loved and looked after by a church community. This is a ministry and responsibility that we all bear—to love and accept our children so they are able to love in return. Tell a child this week how special he or she is.

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

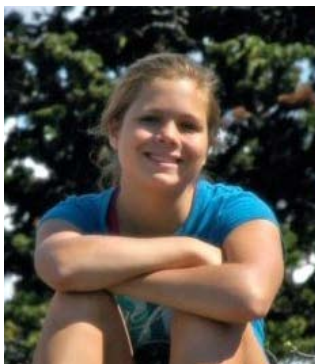


I DO!

Ann Mansfield married Roy Mansfield (again) in a garden ceremony on June 6, 2010. The announcement stated: "Rejoice with us, God is wonderful!"



Counselors needed for Tilikum Day Camp for the week of Yearly Meeting, July 26–30. You can volunteer for all 5 days or for specific days you are available. You must be 16 years or older. Transportation to and from the camp is provided on a daily basis. If you are interested in having a fun-filled week with elementary-aged kids in the beautiful setting of Tilikum, please e-mail Erin Johnson at ejohnson97@georgefox.edu.

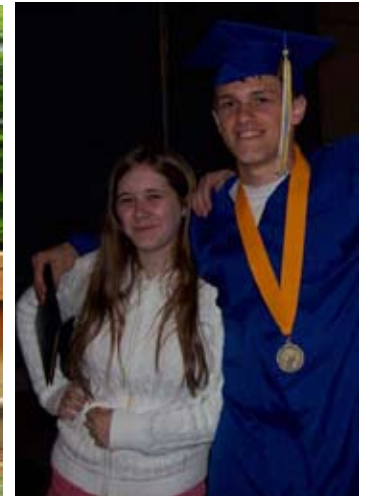


You can still help support **Stephanie Andres** as she joins the NWYM *Youth Challenged to Expand their Worldview* team to Central Mexico this summer. Tax deductible donations can be made to Northwest Yearly Meeting 200 N. Meridian Newberg, OR 97132 (*Andres/YCEW* in the memo line).

Congrats, Grads!



back: Alex Watson, Chris Lee, Kindra Fish, Allison Hamilton, Heidi Tschan, Anna Thomas; front: Jacob Graham, Emily Yoder, Nolan Staples



Other high school graduates include: Halee Baird, Heather Blattner, Sara Carter, Erik Hawblitzel, David Kline, Viktor Nippoldt, Nikolai Ragsdale, Emily Shelton, Taylor Swan, McKenzie Wolfe