



INSIDE NORTH VALLEY

A monthly publication of North Valley Friends Church

December 2009

A CHILD IS BORN

The People walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given.

A child is born. On the surface, not too impressive of an event...but it was not just a child, it was *that* child. The one. As John says, the "Word became flesh...the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." We know that this light was Christ and that Christ's birth was anything was ordinary. We call it "the incarnation."...God becomes flesh.

I wonder...are we any less a people who walk in darkness? No, certainly we are not. Do we not also live in the land of the shadow of death? Without doubt, we do. And can we say with the prophet, "We have seen a great light?" Yes, we can! In fact we can, in a sense say, "We ARE the great light." Can we not say that within us, when we give our lives to become Christ-followers that the child is born anew in us?"

This very important truth guides us in our desire to be involved in "incarnational ministry." By that we mean that we want to be born into the darkness of our world to be that great light that dawns on those living in darkness, in the shadow of death. The Christmas story repeats itself again and again as we carry with us The Light that overcomes the darkness in our worlds.

Isn't this what is behind our passion to become a missional people...to be a blessing to our bit of the world? The darkness around us is economical, political, spiritual, and moral. We live among people who are lost. By lost I mean unable to see a clear way forward to lives of meaning, purpose, or hope. For many the church has lost its voice, scripture has lost its import, and confusion reigns as to how one can authentically connect with the Divine. What an incredible honor it is to be able to carry the light of Christ into such a world. Each time the darkness is breached, Advent arrives with its authentic message of hope and reconciliation.

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The sobering part of this great truth is that not just any light will overcome the darkness. Neither our great wisdom nor our easy answers will suffice for this mission. Only the authentic presence of the living Christ can pierce through the oppressive darkness that surrounds us. Further, that authentic presence finds its expression in unconditional love, sacrifice, and costly forgiveness. Anything else is cheap imitation. Unless this authentic presence moves us to radical reconciliation among ourselves, generosity of grace and forgiveness for those who anger us or disappoint us, and a willingness to sacrifice pride and "rights" for one another's sake, it will never generate light profound enough to pierce the darkness within us, let alone the darkness that engulfs those around us.

Just as the Hebrews waited in agony for the messiah, our world waits for relief, for inner peace, for meaning and direction. Is it enough to say to them, "A child is born?" It is enough, in fact, if there is within us a willingness to be that light, no matter how great the cost.

This Advent season, as we wait with the shepherds, the Magi, the Holy family, and the prophets, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us also realize that our world waits for this same child to be born in us.

May it be as you have said, Lord. May we be that light indeed.

- Stan

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT



Cost: \$99.00 per person
\$49.50 children ages 3-8
Children under 3 are free

Family Cap: \$350.00

Registration forms are available in the church foyer and are due by January 10th.

To alleviate some of the financial burden during the holiday, consider beginning to make payments now. Just indicate on your check that it is for the All-Church Retreat.

ADVENT



**WEDNESDAY WITH FRIENDS
PREPARING FOR ADVENT**
December 2nd
5:45 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Labyrinth and Advent Activities



LADIES ORNAMENT EXCHANGE
December 10th at 6:00 pm
Ruth Piper's house (605 Holly Drive)



HOLIDAY MEAL
December 13th after worship
Sign up (in the foyer or contact the church office) to bring a salad or dessert, or host a table



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM &
HOLIDAY DESSERT**
December 20th at 6:00 pm
Sign up (in the foyer or contact the church office) to bring a dessert



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24th
6:00 pm

Christ in Christmas

"Season greetings!"

cheerfully affirms

friends and family

in the wintertime.

It serves equally well

in summer or in spring,

or even in the fall.

One size fits all.

"Merry Christmas!"

is more time specific;

it's rightly honorific,

synchronous with bells

rung and carols sung,

with manger scenes

and gifts celebrating

God's great gift— Jesus.

"Merry Christmas!"

-Arthur O. Roberts



PASTORAL THANK-YOU NOTES AND GIFTS

The Elders will be collecting Thank-you notes and gifts during worship on December 6th and December 13th for the pastoral staff. This is a great opportunity to give Lynn, Stan, and Leslie a note of appreciation for all they have given to North Valley and send them a nice gift just before Christmas.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES



NOVEMBER 29TH: "GET READY!"

Lynn Holt will introduce our advent theme of "waiting" and invite us to consider preparing for the Christ child to be "born again" in our lives this Christmas season. For centuries God's people waited, we have the narratives from their lives found in the Old Testament and prophets pointed the way to the Word who would become flesh - Immanuel! How do the examples of the past inform our times of waiting? What are you waiting for? How can we be attentive to God's ways today?

Prepare for this time of worship by reading Isaiah 9:2-7 and I Peter 1:19-21.

DECEMBER 6TH: "WAITING FOR THE KINGDOM"

Cherice Bock will lead us in considering how to live in a state of "Holy Expectancy" as we exist in the tension of the "already-not-yet" coming of the Kingdom. What were the expectations the Hebrews had of the Messiah? What were Joseph and Mary's expectations for life with their child in light of the angel's messages and Joseph's dreams? What were the expectations of the disciples upon being called to follow Jesus? What are our expectations of God's ways of fulfilling God's promises?

To prepare you hearts for this week's worship, read Matthew 2: 13-18. Consider what must have been on Joseph and Mary's hearts as they fled for their lives.

DECEMBER 13TH: "ABIDING AMIDST THE EVERYDAY"

Shawn McConaughy will lead us in a look at waiting on God in the everyday events of our lives. The shepherds in the Christmas Story remind us that God speaks in the midst of our lives. "Abiding" is about paying attention to God no matter what is going on around us.

Prepare for this time of worship by reading the story of the shepherds in Luke 2:8-20.

DECEMBER 20TH: "WAITING FOR SHALOM"

Randy Woodley will lead us in considering how Mary's Song reflects her longing for God's promised justice and mercy. Mary's longing for justice, peace with creation, peace among all people, and the destruction of evil is repeated throughout generation after generation. Who is waiting for Shalom today?

Prepare for this time of worship by reading Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55, and Jesus' proclamation of his mission in Luke 4:14-30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDS WOMEN MEETING

The December Friends Women Meeting will meet on the 15th at 1:00 pm at Springbrook Meadows Community Center (4061 Hayes St. Follow the road either to the right or left and you'll soon see the community center.)

The speaker will be Elizabeth (Dawn) Todd. Last May she and another faculty member took a group of GFU students to Rwanda. After that she visited Burundi. She is writing her Doctoral thesis on the Friends work in Burundi.

Questions? Contact Verna Munn at 503-538-5292.

Please pass along the following information to anyone you know who may need some extra assistance this holiday season:



Yamhill County residents in search of assistance have a resource that's only a phone call away.

The 2-1-1 phone system - an established, bilingual social-services referral network in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties - expanded its reach to Yamhill County.

By calling 2-1-1, area residents are connected to a Portland call center with operators trained to assist callers in finding the services they need from a pool of nearly 150 Yamhill County agencies and nonprofits. Among the services provided are referrals to food banks, shelters, health care, legal services, employment resources and counseling.

2-1-1 services are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays from most residential and cell phones. (PBX systems, a type of office switchboard, may present difficulties.) If dialing 2-1-1 fails, the service can also be reached at 1-866-698-6153.

For more information, visit www.yamhill211.org.

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All is Calm All is Bright

featuring Concert Choir, Women's Chorale, Symphonic Band & Strings

Newberg Campus, Bauman Auditorium

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

7:30 pm

All tickets are reserved seating and may be purchased online at music.georgefox.edu or at the University Box Office two weeks prior to the event by calling 503-554-3844

EAGLE'S WINGS MINISTRY NEWS



We are truly blessed by the support you have shown for Eagle's Wings Ministry - may all honor go to Jesus! Our pledge to you, as an important partner in ministry, is that we will continue serving God with the highest level of commitment and integrity while we "find out what pleases the Lord." (Eph 5:10)

Wow! It is already the middle of November, where did the month go? Our monthly gathering went wonderful. We had a small group but it was a very good time. We all talked about how we want our children to grow up with their Native American cultures but how hard it is when we don't live in a Native community. Oregon does have a large Native population but we have to drive to Portland or the Grand Ronde Reservation to participate in events.

On the 14th and 15th we went to Seattle to hear our friend Soong-Chan Rah speak at Quest Church. They hosted a one day conference called "Skin Deep: A Conference on Faith and Race in the Church." After the conference Soong-Chan went to a Veterans Day Pow Wow with us. It was a wonderful time and good to see people dance to the heartbeat of the drum. We were hosted for a great dinner that night by our new friends Tom and Christine Sine. On Sunday we went to the Burke Museum at the University of Washington. The boys enjoyed their time and so did Randy and I.

We must say again how very grateful we are that our friends such as yourself, have sustained this ministry over time. We look forward to blessed days ahead and your continued friendship.

Do-hi' (Peace, in Cherokee)

Randy & Edith Woodley Family

NWYM MISSIONARY ADDRESSES

The Missions Committee would like to encourage you to send a Christmas card and note or email to one or all of our NWYM missionaries. Christmas overseas can be a difficult time and a note from home will show that you care. Thank you!

Bill & Betty Kelley

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Andrew & Kim Stave

Ieva, Isak
**we'll put their address in the
bulletin when we receive it in
December.*



Teachers in China

Ann Brantingham: a.brantingham@gmail.com
Miriam Voth: md_voth@hotmail.com
Matt Boswell: maboswell@gmail.com
Karen Swenson: kswenson821@yahoo.com

Marilyn Harmon: marilyns_in_china@yahoo.com
Maria Schapman: Maria.schapman@yahoo.com
Dorothy Sherman: Dorothy.sherman@gmail.com

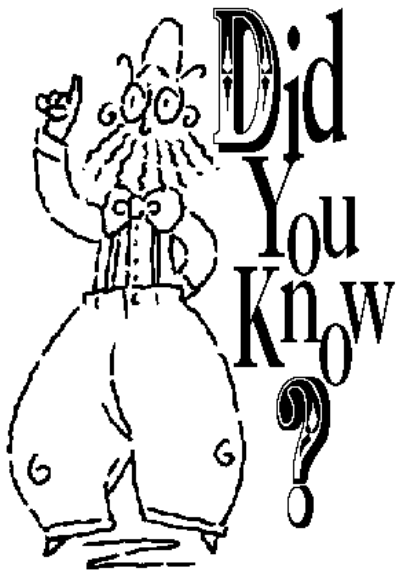
DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		7 pm Missions Committee Mtg.	Wed. w/ Friends Dinner: 5:45 pm Activities: 6:30 pm Kids Alive MS Youth Group Labyrinth & Advent Activities			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6:30 pm Iglesia de los Amigos		7 pm Fellowship Committee Mtg.	Business Mtg. Dinner: 5:45 pm Activities: 6:30 pm Business Meeting Kids Alive	Ornament Exchange  at Ruth Piper's house 6:00 pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 Holiday Meal after worship 6:30 pm Iglesia de los Amigos			6 pm Children's Program Rehearsal			8 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Children's Program Rehearsal
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
7:30 am Stewards  Christmas Program and Holiday Dessert 6:00 pm				 Christmas Eve SERVICE 6:00 pm		
27	28	29	30	31		
6:30 pm Iglesia de los Amigos						

DECEMBER WORSHIP CALENDAR

December	6	13	20	27
Greeters	Rob Felton	Vonnie Burton	Earl Tycksen	Verna Munn
			Annie Tycksen	
Ushers	Bill Rourke	Daryl Burton	Don Parrish	Daryl Burton
	Jim Allison	Jess Howell	Michael Pender	George Piper
	John Frost	Mike McBride	Jared Jones	Anna Baker
	Lukas McKennon	Terrel Smith	Alan Parry	
Music	Janine Saxton	Sandi Thornton	Darleen Ortega	Bryan Boyd
	Aletha McKennon	Lukas McKennon	Dave Kinnunen	Jared Jones
	Steve McKennon	Peter McKennon	Wes Cropper	Colby Spell
	Michael LeClair	Emily Cropper	Jon Holt	
	Linda LeClair	Steve McKennon	Michael LeClair	
			Linda LeClair	
Sound	Joel Bock	Mike McConaughey	Rawlen Smith	Steve McKennon
Power Point	Peter McKennon	Ben Kantz	Jessica Trout	Nathan Murray
Media	Aletha McKennon	Sandi Thornton	Darleen Ortega	Bryan Boyd
Preach/Facilitate	Cherice Bock	Shawn McConaughey	Randy Woodley	Stan Thornburg
Monthly Focus	Advent	Staves to share	Advent	
10:45 Nursery	Jenny Fisher	Janelle Olivarez	Heidi Pender	Valerie Lapham
	Scott Conant	Joseph Olivarez	Della Anderson	Troy Lapham
	Brenna Baker		Amanda McConaughey	
2's & 3's	Ruth Headley	Tabatha Weaver	Beth Woolsey	Miriam Bock
	Jered McConaughey	Brent Weaver	Greg Woolsey	Jonah Harkema
	Erinn Baker	Adria McKennon	Abby Woolsey	Olivia Pugsley
	Jenna Allison	Betsy LeClair	Elsie McConaughey	Becky Headley
4's - Kindergarten	Kathleen Gathercoal	Kristi Longstroth	Lydia Cathers	Priscilla Lowery
	Kristen Sandoz	Angela Kantz	Shirley Kyte	Katrina McConaughey
1st - 3rd Grade	Lynn Holt	Mindy Allison	Jody Jones	Kim Boyd
	Kimberly Felton	Jim Allison	Gennie Harris	
4th - 5th Grade	Joel Sandoz	Leslie Murray	Amy Lutz	Leslie Murray

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

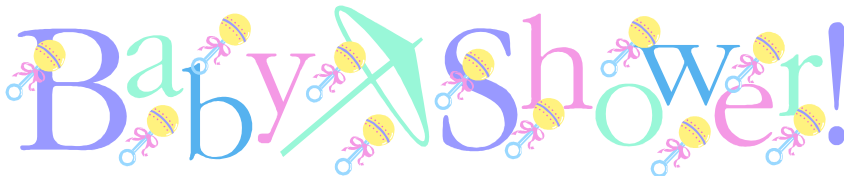


...Bob Haggety got a new job?

*...Olivia Anderson and Mary Weaver were in the Newberg High School production of *The Music Man*?*

...Maggee Hodgdon was named strong and aggressive by her soccer coaches this year?

...Eric Funk got a new job at GE Security in Salem as a Software QA Engineer?



From the Missions Committee:

We will be hosting a baby shower for Kim Stave, in honor of baby Isak's birth, while the Staves are back in the U.S. this month. The shower will be held at the home of Heidi Pender on Sunday, December 13 at 6:30 pm. Gift ideas are size 6-12 month winter clothes, 12-18 month spring/summer clothes, a non-electric baby food mill, footed pajamas and cash gifts that can be used to purchase supplies in Lithuania instead of packing them back in luggage. Please plan to come celebrate Isak's birth with us on the 13th.



BIRTHDAYS:

2	Jenny Fisher
4	Jane Smith
6	Elsie McConaughey
7	Amy Lutz
8	Maggee Hodgdon
12	Valerie Laphman Grace Weaver
13	Sarah Anderson Colby Spell
14	Gennie Harris Janelle Olivarez
15	Jesse Lowe
17	Jacqui Fisher Fern Roberts
19	Kim Felton
20	Ruth Headley
22	Abby Headley Kate Pender
23	Rowan Lowery
24	Micah Harkema
25	Shirley Kyte
27	Steve McKennon
28	Jim Allison
30	Linda LeClair Ruth Weaver Nathan Whittlesey

ANNIVERSARIES:

17	Shawn & Katrina McConaughey
18	Barry & Bev Tharp
19	Michael & Linda LeClair Tom & Deb Mortimer
21	Bob & Lois Haggerty
23	George & Ruth Piper
27	Jim & Jacqui Fisher
30	Ben & Angela Kantz Mike & Adina McConaughey
31	Michael & Heidi Pender

NORTH VALLEY FRIENDS CHURCH

Staff:

- Lynn Clouser Holt Education/Spiritual Formation
- Leslie Hodgdon Murray Youth
- Stan Thornburg Pastoral Ministry
- Kim Boyd Children's Ministry Facilitator
- Jennie Harkema Administrative Assistant

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours:

Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Phone: 503-538-5340

E-Mail: office@northvalleyfriends.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday:

9:30 am Sunday School of all ages
9:30 am Unprogrammed Meeting
10:45 am Programmed Meeting

North Valley Friends is a Quaker community of ministers who seek to follow Jesus Christ faithfully, love each other deeply and continue His ministry in the world.

VISIT US ONLINE:

NVFC: www.northvalleyfriends.org

NWYM: www.nwfriends.org

This newsletter is available online at www.northvalleyfriends.org

NORTH VALLEY FRIENDS CHURCH

4020 North College Street
Newberg, OR 97132