



INSIDE NORTH VALLEY

A monthly publication of North Valley Friends Church

February 2010

PERSPECTIVES ON OUR VISION PROCESS

Jared Jones, Scot Headley, & Priscilla Lowery

To me, our 'visioning process' has been a chance to reconnect with how we think of ourselves as a church. Facing a limited budget always hurts, especially when the budget represents hard-working friends who depend on us to provide for their families. I wish that, instead of trying to figure out where to trim, we could release our staff more completely than we've been able to.

Meanwhile, I've appreciated the chance to review our existing mission statement and find that it still expresses who we are and want to be--and to find room within in to strengthen some areas of our community life. I've cherished intentional worship that leaders have made central to the process and the prayerful attitudes of those involved. I'm hopeful that we're in the middle of 'preparing our minds for action' that may take us deeper into Scriptural study and living, into godly interdependence and outreach. I don't love to sit in meetings, but I've found this work changing me and I think it's changing us as a church. I think this is what a local church does as part of and on its way to ministry.

-Jared Jones

As I reflect on the visioning process that we are engaged in as a community, I am reminded that congregations are like fruit trees. Jesus told us in Matthew 7:18-20: ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. “

It is interesting to me that Jesus reminds us that a bad tree is cut down and thrown into the fire, but does not here describe the treatment that the good tree receives. Those of you who raise fruit trees know that it is a long and involved process and requires a lot of work. Even good fruit trees go through times of cutting back, but not cutting down. In order to be productive, trees are pruned, watered, fertilized, protected from cold and guarded from insects and disease. These actions on the part of a grower require planning, persistence, skill and patience.

Continued on the next page

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Perspectives Article...1	Prayers for Peace...5	February Worship Calendar...8
Missions Updates...3	Announcements...6	About Our People...9
Staying Connected...4	February Calendar...7	

PERSPECTIVES ON OUR VISION PROCESS (cont.)

I liken our current process of visioning to the process that a successful fruit grower goes through to bring a good crop. There is a need for commitment, diligence, trust and patience. I encourage each of us to seek God's direction for North Valley. Although it may appear that we are the growers, it is clear that ultimately God is our grower. Jesus said in John 15: 1-3: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." We are under the care of our Father in heaven, who can and will shape our process of discerning and visioning, if we seek after him.

I don't believe that our seeking and recognition are meant to excuse us from doing work ourselves, as this is work. In like manner we will do the work of planning, assessing, information gathering and decision making. I believe God will use our people with our gifts and abilities to listen, to share and to respond to what God is speaking into our lives. I am thankful that the picture of a good fruit tree reminds us that we are not being cut down, but that we are being shaped in order to be fruitful. What better aim could we have as a community than to bear fruit for God's purposes?

- Scot Headley

When I was first asked to write my impressions of the visioning meeting I thought it would be easy. Then I began to THINK about the meeting and all the colorful wall drawings. I stewed. I dismissed. I complained that I had nothing to say. I almost called Bruce and said I can't do it. I was paralyzed until a friend simply told me to tell the truth of my heart. So this is the truth of my impressions, which may be very different from others who attended.

To begin, the visioning process was meant to illuminate who we are as a body; where we are right now; where we want to go; and then set us on the road for how to get there. Overwhelming, eh? I thought so.

The first impression I formed was one of *who* we are. I can clearly say that North Valley is a profoundly thoughtful group of human beings all striving to live out Christ's ministry in their lives. We love God, we love our children, we are all seeking to grow spiritually, and it seems that real ministry is happening all around us. Who wouldn't want to be able to say this about his or her faith community?! So, my first impression of the visioning was good and simply reaffirmed what I already knew to be true about all the folks I've grown to love and deeply care about.

My next impression is where the reality sets in: the paper with the pictures of *where* we are currently. North Valley folks are tired and stretched. Looking at the poster reminded me of when I worked for Mt. Angel Middle School. At my interview, the principal made it clear that teachers at a small school are required to wear many hats. He wasn't kidding. At the end of 5 years I was coaching track, basketball, the odyssey of the mind program; running a recycling club, and a part of countless committees and programs. Add to this my 45 minute commute and I began to feel unbalanced & stretched. Am I still working there? No. It was unsustainable once little boys were added to my life. Being in a small community with high aspirations; one can expect this to happen. The question for me is: "If many of the people at North Valley are feeling stretched and perhaps unbalanced then what are we going to do about it?" What is causing it? We don't want people to leave because they feel stretched. Are money problems really the root cause of that feeling? Will we cut back? Isn't church supposed to be a place that keeps us connected to community, feeling nourished by Christ's teachings and love... balanced, so that we may then go out and take that ministry into our families, work, and beyond? Therefore, my second impression looks more like a flashing yellow light of warning that says, **"Look out folks, pay attention here to what's happening!"** I don't know where to go with that impression, but feel some truth here.

My third impression, about where we want to be in 2011, is that we set our goals too high. We had too many listed and I feel stretched just thinking about them, wondering who will have the time to sit on a committee to think those through. It really makes me want to bury my head. (inner mind: "Don't these people realize they're just making more work for themselves? Are those goals really going to make us feel less stretched? Help!") I keep wanting only one goal to be there: Not feeling financially stretched so that we can maintain a healthy pastoral staff and good education programs. This seems like a great goal and that if we achieve it all those other goals (like diversity) will fall into place with God's timing. (Inner mind: "One goal people. One goal!") Take me to task on this if you like, but remember this article was only meant to be an impression.

Continued on the next page

PERSPECTIVES ON OUR VISION PROCESS (cont.)

Lastly, here are my hopes:

That we keep in mind that “Christ is the head of, the body, the church.” (1 Col 18-19). If we can do this, well then folks, we should have no trouble getting along and proceeding in a balanced and loving way. My hope is that Christ will sustain us through change and that we find our church sanctuary a refueling station for our souls rather than the place that stretches us beyond balance. (Inner mind: “No buried heads here, people...just lifted spirits.”)

My final hope for our body is that our pastoral staff will be blessed with health and balance. I cannot help but believe that some of the stretched feelings and lack of direction stem directly from the illness that Stan has been battling. The pastors are the hub for communication, planning, discernment, care, and leadership. One of our pastors is ill; one is back in school, and the other is picking up a lot of loose ends while working another job. Perhaps we were all being so polite at the visioning meeting that these great challenges to our leadership were left off the wall chart, but for me it was there between the lines. I know that as Quakers we are all ministers and leaders, but most of us are out working other jobs and so it is vital that the “hub” be healthy and whole. This is where I keep feeling the call to pray. Perhaps, this is the most important thing we can all be doing right now. Praying for our pastors.

I leave you with 1 Col 3:9 & 11 “For we are laborers together with God; ye are God’s cultivated field, ye are God’s building. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” When I go back to my first impression about who we are at North Valley and how much we love God and desire to do God’s work; I know we have the right foundation. Trust and pray and be patient. Let’s move forward with God’s leading on this path and trust in His power. If we start to feel like burying our heads then that may be a sign that we’re off the path. Let’s journey on, friends.

-Priscilla Lowery

UPDATE ON THE TEACHERS FROM NWYM WHO ARE IN RWANDA TO TEACH ENGLISH TO RWANDAN TEACHERS

Christina Muhr returned to Rwanda in December. She reports: “Yesterday I was able to travel to the two schools where the Denhams and I will be teaching English. All classes except 12th grade are to be taught completely in English this year. The government has provided some training to teachers during the school vacation times and most teachers studied some English during their schooling. However, many still need a lot of help with pronunciation, content specific vocab., and becoming more proficient in reading and writing. This year's seniors will be the last class to take their national exams in French. In 2011 all teachers will be given an exam in English which will determine if they are competent enough in the language to continue teaching.

Matt and Gayle Denham from 2nd Street Church flew out on January 20 and are now in Rwanda. Here is an update they sent on January 22:

Dear family and friends;

It is Friday evening here in Kigali. We are lodging with Brad and Chelsea Carpenter, near the EFM mission compound. The city is full of new sights, sounds, and smells. Last night when we landed in Kigali we were met by most of the nine person team from EFM. The flight from Brussels was more than 8 hours and we were seated in the center of the plane, far from the windows. We observed a gorgeous sunset over sub-Saharan Africa, but we could not see the ground.

Today we have rested while the Carpenters helped lead a workshop for Discipleship for Development. They have a comfortable home and we will have a room here whenever we return to the city. Gayle has used some French in communication with the locals. We will rely on this language until we can learn some rudimentary Kinyarwanda. Many new experiences await us. We thank you for all your prayers; past, present and future.

In His care,
Matt and Gayle Denham

STAYING CONNECTED

Report on Hispanic gathering for worship:

Since July of 2009, NVFC has been in a supportive relationship with a group of Hispanic Friends meeting for worship on Sunday evenings. This group is actually an extension of the Iglesia Evangelica Los Amigos that meets on Second Street in Newberg, but they are beginning to see themselves as a congregation in their own right. This Sunday evening worship group was set up because so many members of the congregation have to work during the day on Sunday.

Pastor Antonio Mandujano, admitting that it's hard getting a new congregation started, expresses appreciation for the support and friendship he senses from the North Valley community. Antonio became a Christian through the outreach ministries of the Hispanic Friends congregation on Second Street. He first began coming to the gym on Saturday nights to play basketball; eventually he decided to attend worship services and in time gave his life to Christ. Antonio met his wife, Maximina, in that same congregation. They have been married now for several years and have a one-year old daughter, plus two teenage daughters from Maximina's previous marriage.

The group varies in size on any given Sunday evening, but has reached out to about 30 people, some of them with no previous connection to an evangelical church. A recent addition is a lively worship team providing guitar accompaniment with a definite a Latin flavor. Potential guitarists meet during the week for lessons and rehearsal. Antonio has confidence that this worship gathering meets a need and will continue to grow.

VISIONING & DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Hopefully you are able to stay informed about the Visioning & Discernment Process happening at North Valley.

Here are a few ways to help you stay connected:

1. Check you email frequently for information from our Clerks (Scot Headley & Kathleen Gathercoal).
2. Stop by the table in the foyer for printed copies of information that has been sent via email.
3. Provide your written response (to Scot Headley) to questions you'd like answered or statements you'd like to make in regards to our current process.
4. Plan to attend meetings associated with the process
 - a. Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm on February 3rd and 10th
 - b. Administrative Committee meeting at 7:00 pm on February 1st

Relief for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti



North Valley Friends church took a special offering to help the people of Haiti. \$1460.42 was raised and donated to Medical Teams International's disaster response efforts following the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. Because of your generous help, Medical Teams International was able to send medicines and medical supplies valued at \$52,137 which will help 1,898 people. What a blessing!

Your compassion helped people like:

- Tamara and her husband, Peterson. Tamara was trapped for 10 hours in rubble following the earthquake. She and Peterson lost their 4-year-old son, and her leg had been crushed. Tamara was also days from giving birth, and her leg injury was getting worse. Medical Teams doctors saved her leg, and then she went into labor. Tamara gave birth to a daughter while her husband sobbed in the hospital courtyard, holding aloft the shorts of their son. Tamara and Peterson named their daughter Jesula, which we understand translates to "Jesus There."
- Fedeline and Jean-Marie, two 16-year-old young women who met at Kings Hospital for treatment for broken and crushed bones days after the earthquake. They contentedly share a mattress, bonded by their injuries and loss of loved ones. Because of the care they received, they say they have hope.
- Jean, age 6, who was hit in the head by a rock during a food riot. Jean had escaped injury during the initial disaster, and he had been waiting in line for food rations with his parents and siblings when a riot broke out. Medical Teams doctors treated and stitched the wound. With his head in bandages, hungry and in pain, 6-year-old Jean still managed to give the people around him a big thumbs-up.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE



Various faith traditions in their hunger and desire to be in communion with God have found meaningful expressions for symbolizing or communicating their prayers. These are not necessary for God to listen to us, but are often helpful for us to center ourselves or to have a tangible way to express our prayers. Many fold their hands, bow their heads, or kneel down. The Israelites would burn incense in the temple as a visual image of their prayers to God. Many people use a candle to help them set aside their busyness and focus on being in the presence of Christ, the light. Many Native American traditions use lit sage as a representation of

their prayers rising to God. People of all faiths still travel to Jerusalem to place their written prayers in a crack in the Wailing Wall. Prayer flags are often used to express our yearning for peace.

A prayer flag is a colorful panel of cloth and originally was found strung along mountain ridges and peaks high in the Himalayas to bless the surrounding countryside. The tradition of hanging flags began more than 2000 years ago in Tibet. When Buddhism was introduced to Tibet in the 7th century Buddhist monks began to print symbols on the flags as blessings to be sent out to the world with each breeze and they became known as Prayer Flags. Since the Chinese invasion of Tibet thousands of Tibetans have had to flee from their country and live in exile around the world. Their Prayer Flags continue to represent the tradition of sending out prayers, but they also are a reminder of a nation of people who have been robbed of their home. Prayer flags are still stamped with prayers and hung to let the wind carry their messages in Tibetan refugee villages.

Many Christians now use prayer flags as a tangible expression of our desire to reach out to the Prince of Peace. Our prayers for peace may be an overall yearning for the cessation of violence in the world. It might be an expression of grief coupled with our compassion over a natural disaster. Another person's prayer might be a cry for a sense of God's love and wisdom in the midst of a personal crisis. Our prayer for peace might be for our world, our nation, our community, our church, our family or for our self. These prayers are written on the flag, sewn together on twine then hung outdoors. When we see these flags blowing in the breeze and hear them rustle in the wind we have a tangible reminder that we can trust God with our heart's yearning's for peace; we can be reminded of our prayers being lifted to Christ as the Prince of Peace and Wholeness, the one from whom true peace emanates from.

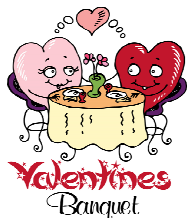
We will have an opportunity to make our own prayer flags during the Sunday morning service on January 31st. The Latino congregation will also be making prayer flags and their flags will be gathered with ours. All the flags will be sewn together in a line and hung outside by the bell tower.

As you prepare for this prayer time, ask yourself:

- What is your hope and prayer for peace?
- What situation do you want to speak peace into?
- What do you want to hear from the Prince of Peace?

We will be collecting prayer flags through Sunday, February 7th. Please place your flag in the basket provided in the foyer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



*West Chehalem Friends Church
cordially invites
North Valley Friends to a
Valentines Banquet*

When: February 13th, 6:00 pm
Where: West Chehalem Friends Church
16700 NE North Valley Road
Cost: \$7.00 donation
Attire: Semi-Formal/Formal
Adults only

RSVP by February 7th
503-538-5903



Join us for an
“Around the World”
potluck
after worship on
February 7th.

JUNIOR HIGH JAMBOREE: FEBRUARY 12-15

Youth from around the northwest who are currently in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are invited to take part in this exciting weekend event hosted by Twin Rocks Friends Camp!

2010 Theme: INDESCRIBABLE

How would you describe who God is? Have you ever taken the time to really think about all that God has done for us? This year at Junior High Jamboree we will be learning about who God is and how all that he does is beyond what we can ever imagine! God really is INDESCRIBABLE! We will also explore God's great love for us and the unique ways he has created each person in the world. It is amazing to think that the God who placed the stars in the sky is the same God who knows the very desires of our hearts.

See you at JHJ!

Informational flyers and registration forms are available in the foyer.

COUNSELOR TRAINING SEMINAR

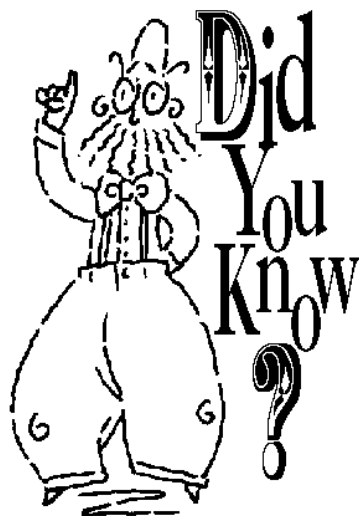
A volunteer training seminar will be held by the Pregnancy Counseling and Information Center on two consecutive weekends—March 5, 6, 12 and 13, 2010. the training is Friday evening 6-9 pm and Saturday 9 am-4 pm and include both weekends. It will be held at the First Federal Conference Room in McMinnville (111 NE Third Street). The training is for both our McMinnville and Newberg Centers.

This is a valuable training for ministry and personal relationships. Subjects to be covered include: listening skills, crisis intervention, presenting Biblical standards of sexuality, etc. Pre-registration is necessary. For more details, call the Pregnancy Counseling and Information Center at 503-434-4400 or 503-538-2350.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP CALENDAR

February	7	14	21	28
Greeters	Earl Tycksen	Verna Munn	Vonnie Burton	Janine Saxton
	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	Darleen Ortega	Sandi Thornton	Bryan Boyd
	Aletha McKennon	Dave Kinnunen	Lukas McKennon	Jared Jones
	Steve McKennon	Wes Cropper	Peter McKennon	Colby Spell
	Michael LeClair	Jon Holt	Emily Cropper	
	Linda LeClair	Michael LeClair	Amy Saxton	
		Linda LeClair	Steve McKennon	
Sound	Mike McConaughy	Rawlen Smith	Mike McConaughy	Steve McKennon
Power Point	Peter McKennon	Ben Kantz	Jessica Trout	Nathan Murray
Media	Aletha McKennon	Darleen Ortega	Sandi Thornton	Bryan Boyd
Preach/Facilitate	Lynn Holt			
Monthly Focus				
10:45 Nursery	Jenny Fisher	Janelle Olivarez	Heidi Pender	Valerie Lapham
	Scott Conant	Joseph Olivarez	Della Anderson	Troy Lapham
	Brenna Baker		Amanda McConaughy	
2's & 3's	Ruth Headley	Tabatha Weaver	Beth Woolsey	Miriam Bock
	Jered McConaughy	Brent Weaver	Greg Woolsey	Jonah Harkema
	Erinn Baker	Adria McKennon	Abby Woolsey	Olivia Pugsley
	Jenna Allison	Betsy LeClair	Elsie McConaughy	Becky Headley
4's - Kindergarten	Kathleen Gathercoal	Kristi Longstroth	Lydia Cathers	Priscilla Lowery
	Kristen Sandoz	Angela Kantz	Shirley Kyte	Katrina McConaughy
1st - 3rd Grade	Kim Boyd	Lynn Holt	Jody Jones	Kim Boyd
	Kimberly Felton		Gennie Harris	
4th - 5th Grade	Joel Sandoz	Leslie Murray	Amy Lutz	Leslie Murray

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE



...Mike McConaughey was inducted into the George Fox University Hall of Fame for the 1998 women's volleyball team that he assistant coached for 11 years at GFU? That year the team went to Nationals. Check out <http://athletics.georgefox.edu/hof/hof2010> for a complete article.

...Michael & Jenny Fisher are expecting their second baby (a girl!) this summer?

...Timon Smith was married to Kristina on January 2nd?

...Liz Majdecki is now attending George Fox University?

...Grace Pender has been raising money for various projects in Haiti since she was three years old? So far she has collected over \$2,000 through lemonade and brownie stands! (Corrected amount from the January Newsletter. 😊)

Letter from Hal and Nancy Thomas:

Just before my next trip, I want to thank the North Valley community for your love and support. It's been life-giving to us to once again be part of the family.

As many of you know, Hal has been in Bolivia for the last month, encouraging Friends, attending to legal business, and serving as a consultant at the Bolivian Evangelical University. On Friday, Jan. 29, we will meet in San José, Costa Rica for two weeks of seminars with students in the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (PRODOLA). After that we spend two weeks in Guatemala, facilitating a seminar for our Guatemalan PRODOLA students and giving a writers workshop for Central American Friends. We will be home in Newberg again the evening of February 24.

We ask special prayer for wisdom as the PRODOLA administrative team meets to try and face new rules and pressures by the Costa Rican government that put the programs of many of our students in jeopardy. We also need both physical energy and the Spirit's anointing to meet the demands of this ministry.

Thank you! We'll see you again in a month!



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Espen Bock
 Michael LeClair
- 2 Taylor Townsend
- 3 Jody Hamm
- 6 Greg Woolsey
- 7 Hector Munn
- 10 David Kinnunen
- 11 Al Crackenberg
 Emily Cropper
 Lynn Holt
- 13 Olivia Pugsley
- 15 Ryan Murray
- 17 Jessica Baker
- 19 Olivia Anderson
 Barb Vogel
- 20 Scot Headley
- 21 Bryan Harris
 Adina McConaughey



ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Al & Lois Lehman
- 21 Bryan & Kim Boyd

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