



INSIDE NORTH VALLEY

A monthly publication of North Valley Friends Church

October 2010

THE SCANDAL OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

I was taken aback by a comment I heard on a TV program recently. It was just a passing comment, one that rolled off the speaker's tongue glibly and seemingly without much thought. The show was a "Where are they now?" show. It looked at folks that had been in the news in recent years to see how their lives had panned out. The comment was made by a prostitute who had been "seeing" a politician and gotten caught; the politician had lost his position and the trust of those around him. The young lady, however, had parlayed the publicity into a very tidy sum of money...more than most of us will ever see flow through our bank accounts. After revealing her fortune, the young former working girl said, "Yes, God has really blessed me."

After I picked my chin off the floor, I was hit with an even greater shock. My reaction to her claim of being blessed in the midst of her sinfulness (my assumption) was exactly like that of the Pharisees and devout Jews who were scandalized by Jesus' generosity of spirit toward tax crooks, publicans, and prostitutes. I quickly became aware of how much of Christ's behavior and teaching was scandalous in the eyes of the "decent folks" of his Jewish culture.

The adulterous woman was forgiven, the prodigal son was rewarded for his betrayal of his family and brother and his wanton waste of his inheritance, the publican was praised over the Pharisee, a prostitute was honored for breaking all the rules for table grace by washing Jesus' feet with her tears and hair, a Roman Soldier and foreign woman, both sinners by definition, were told they had greater faith than any that Jesus had encountered. Jesus was constantly partying with "sinners and prostitutes." These teachings and acts were at least as scandalous as this young prostitute on TV saying, "God has really blessed me."

Something within me wanted to protest, to cry "foul", "You can't claim God's blessing for this ungodly gain that has come to you through you own sinfulness!" I didn't want it to be true. Perhaps it wasn't true, perhaps God had nothing to do with it, but that was no excuse for my arrogance in thinking that I was somehow justified in deciding who Jesus would bless and from whom he would withhold blessing.

This experience exposed the fragility of my ability to accept anyone without judgment or condemnation. It exposed my pride in that very real blessing and gift God has given me. I squandered that in an instant when faced with this young woman's "audacious" claim of the Lord's blessing. It reminded me of Peter's refusal to believe that Jesus would be tried as a criminal and then executed. Jesus responded to Peter's arrogance with, "Get behind me Satan!"

Continued on next page

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

The Scandal of Christian Faith...1
Fellowship Month...3

Announcements...4-6
October Calendar...7

October Worship Calendar...8
About Our People...9

THE SCANDAL OF CHRISTIAN FAITH (CONT.)

I desire for this experience of mine to be instructive to us as a faith community, so I offer the following comments with a deep sense of love and appreciation for all of you:

In our efforts to be “priests” to our neighborhood and city I wonder how far we are willing to go to be scandalous in our acceptance, even our honoring, of those who almost any “decent Christian” would deem to be unworthy of God's blessings. Jesus not only accepted those whom decent Jews would reject, he honored them with his presence, his love, his willingness to see through their scandalous exterior and see them as valued and cherished people. He was obviously not just putting on an act, but was genuinely concerned for the things that were destroying them and making them feel unworthy. Even more remarkable is the fact that his responses came out of his humanness, not his divinity – the same humanness with which we encounter those in our world.

I wonder how, in our efforts to be a missional congregation, we can invite the “prostitutes and sinners” to share in our wealth of love in Jesus? How can we find ourselves at their tables, not just to minister to them, but to share in the real stuff of their lives? How must we re-organize our lives to include these dear people in our circle of friends?

In other words, how can we live scandalously in order to identify with who seem most distant from experiencing God's blessing and grace? How can we avoid “targeting” them as “projects” for our evangelistic fervor?

Frankly, I don't really know. I do believe, though, that the answer lies partly in our willingness to be transformed to the extent that we truly value and honor everyone for who they are. I believe also that, without God's clear direction and guidance, we are simply unequal to the task. Peter assures God's “divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them we may participate in the divine nature...”

The Apostle Paul tells us that, when we allow Jesus to live in us, “we no longer see things from a human point of view.” and that for Christians “all things become new.” To live in this perspective, we must give up ownership of God's grace and blessings. We must set the Gospel free to work its wonderful power in all people, regardless of their reputations, and we must be there to flesh out that power by being the agents of the love that knows no limits.

I don't know of any group of Christians that are more ready to take this next step than you, my dear friends and co-workers in the faith. I have high expectations of us, but have no demands to make from us as a community of faith.

Would you be willing to be faithful in prayer and listening around these issues? Would you be willing to be scandalous in an effort to follow in Jesus' footsteps and/or to go wherever God calls us? Has God been prodding you along these lines? If so, I hope you will have the courage to offer your leadings to the community for seasoning and counsel. We have so much to learn from each other as God nudges us toward ministry among those in our “parish.”

May God be with us and bless us as we struggle to be completely obedient in our desire to build a church which profoundly fleshes out the work Jesus began so many centuries ago.

- Stan

FELLOWSHIP MONTH

October is Fellowship Month! Take a look at what's going on during the month and make plans to join in the fun and fellowship!

Potluck: **October 17**

Game Night: **October 29**

Name tags each Sunday

Invite someone to your home for dinner

Hello

my name is

Each Sunday during the month of October (aka Fellowship Month), please pick up a name tag on your way into worship. Make a point to greet someone new during the morning greeting time.

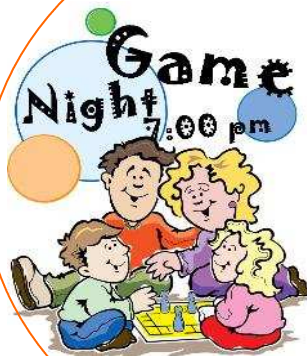


Join us for a Potluck after worship on **October 17th**. Bring along your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship!

**WHERE THERE IS FOOD,
THERE IS FELLOWSHIP!**

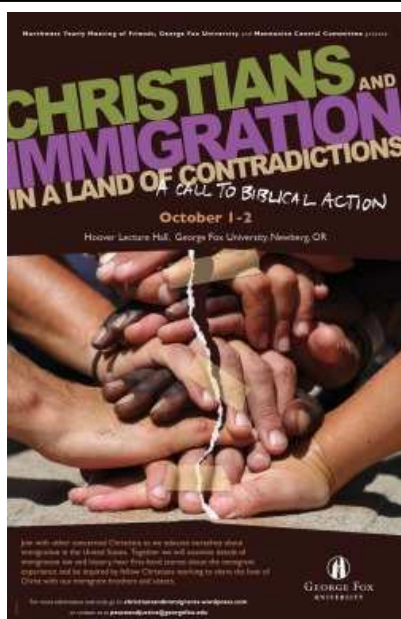


As part of Fellowship Month, you are encouraged to invite someone to your house for a meal during the month of October.



Come enjoy some fun, fellowship, and friendly competition at Game Night, Friday, **October 29th** starting at 7:00 pm. Childcare will be provided for a small fee. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share, and join in on the fun!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends, The Center for Peace and Justice at George Fox University and Mennonite Central Committee present:

CHRISTIANS AND IMMIGRATION IN A LAND OF CONTRADICTIONS

A Call to Biblical Action

October 1-2, Hoover Lecture Hall, George Fox University

Join with other concerned Christians as we educate ourselves about immigration in the United States. Together we will examine details of immigration law and history, hear first-hand stories about the immigrant experience and be inspired by fellow Christians working to share the love of Christ with our immigrant brothers and sisters.

For information on costs and to join the conversation go to christiansandimmigrants.wordpress.com or contact us at peaceandjustice@georgefox.edu.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HS SMALL GROUP



High Schoolers: Our "indie" movie discussion group will continue with the viewing of the underground TV series "**Wonderfalls.**" College graduate Jaye Tyler

has no aspirations aside from working as a clerk in a small gift shop adjacent to Niagara Falls until unexplainable events -- such as God speaking to her in secret through lifeless objects -- push her into heroic acts of offbeat greatness. Taking her cues from inexplicable sources, Tyler uses her Ivy League intelligence to come to the aid of perfect strangers who need her help. This offbeat comedy provides lots of quirky humor and occasions to reflect on how we actually might receive guidance from beyond ourselves.

Hope to see you on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm!
Darleen Ortega (503-310-7789)

GET AWAY GIVE AWAY (GAGA)

GAGA Earlybird Registration: The Newberg area has been blessed to have so many people invest in the GAGA program! We are trying something new this year. In an effort to have the "right" numbers for our short term missions project we are having an early bird registration deadline. If you know that you would like to come to San Luis with the group during Spring Break 2011, please give your \$50 deposit and registration form (which is on our website: northvalleyfriends.org) to Leslie on or before October 17th. This will enable the leadership team to "lock in" your spot on the GAGA 2011 Team and figure out how many more folks we need to accomplish the mission. It is possible that after this early bird registration, we may discern that we have enough people for this trip. Please join us at our GAGA Team meeting October 17th at 3 pm in our fellowship hall. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Murray at 503-554-5727 or leshodg@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE PROJECT UPDATE

It has been exciting to see the Peace Project progress continue. Many different volunteers have accomplished much over the last few weeks. The labyrinth site has been dyed red. The sites for the benches have been prepared. The berms are ready for the planting of the landscape. The walkway to the labyrinth has been built. And benches have been built. **Another workday has been scheduled for October 23** when the landscaping around the labyrinth will be planted. Thank you for the continued work and support on the project.

There's a place for you!

Do you want to be more involved in the North Valley community but don't know where to start?

The Gifts and Leadings committee is looking to talk with you! We're a great place to share your heart and vision for ministry, and/or to learn about what opportunities are available right here and now.

Contact Jessica Trout at (503) 442-8249 or jessica.trout@gmail.com.



FEED THE NEED

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE FOR F.I.S.H.
OCTOBER 16-17, 2010

Feed the Need, the annual Newberg/ Dundee food drive will be taking place on October 16- 17. We will once again plan on joining the drive by placing door hangers on Saturday and collecting the food on Sunday as our worship through service.

If you think you'd like to participate Saturday and/or Sunday, please sign up in the foyer so we have an idea of how many volunteers we'll have. Thank you!

"OF A CERTAIN AGE"

For those "of a certain age" please mark your calendar for the upcoming lunch gatherings:

- October 10
- November 14

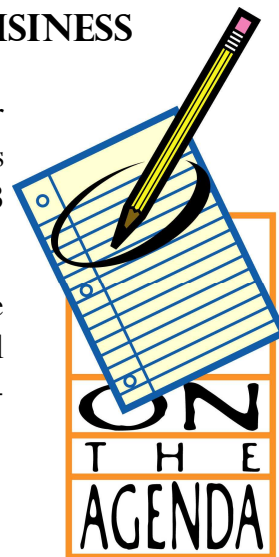
You decide if you are "OF A CERTAIN AGE" but it's likely that single or married adults whose children are grown (or close) will enjoy this event.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Please mark your calendar for our next business meeting on **October 13** at 6:45 pm.

One of the items on the agenda will be a proposal from the Elders regarding church staffing.

Please plan to attend.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Child Dedication

We are beginning to collect names of folks who would like to have their child(ren) dedicated at North Valley, so we can start putting a dedication service together.

If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please let someone on the pastoral team know, or send an email to the church office (office@northvalleyfriends.org).



Children's Church Volunteer Needed

We are in need of a volunteer to help during Children's Church once a month. This volunteer would be assisting the teacher in one of the classrooms of elementary-aged kids. There is no prep work needed, just show up on your designated day each month.

If you can lend a hand, please contact Kim Boyd (503-537-9436 or kaboyn@gmail.com).

Thank you!

TWO
baby showers
in October!



Ladies: On October 9th there will be a baby shower for Angela Kantz (and baby Noah) at 4:00 pm in the North Valley nursery.

Angela is registered at Babies R Us.


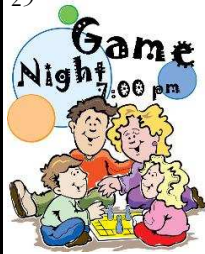
Everyone is invited to a baby shower for Nathanael & Gina Ankeny on October 17th at 6:30 pm. The shower will be held at the home of Paul & Miriam Bock (1111 N College - park in the church parking lot next door).

The Ankeny's are expecting a boy in mid November. Nathanael & Gina are registered at Target.

Please RSVP to Miriam at 503-476-2889 or miriambock@gmail.com.



October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CHRISTIANS AND IMMIGRATION IN A LAND OF CONTRADICTIONS A Call to Biblical Action <i>October 1-2, Hoover Lecture Hall, GFU</i>	2
3 Noon Newcomers Meal 7 pm HS Youth Group 7 pm Iglesia de los Amigos	4 7 pm Admin. Com- mittee Mtg.	5 7 pm Missions Com- mittee Mtg.	6 Wednesday with Friends! 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Activities	7	8	9
10 12:30 pm "Of a Certain Age" lunch 7 pm HS Youth Group 7 pm Iglesia de los Amigos	11	12 7 pm Stewards Mtg.	13 Wednesday with Friends! 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Business Mtg.	14 7 pm Fellowship Committee Mtg.	15	16 8 am Men's Break- fast @ Hospital
17 Feed the Need Noon Potluck 3 pm GAGA Mtg. 7 pm HS Youth Group 7 pm Iglesia de los Amigos	18	19	20 Wednesday with Friends! 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Activities	21	22	23 Peace Project Workday! 
24 7 pm Iglesia de los Amigos 7 pm HS Youth Group 7 pm HS Youth Group	25	26	27 Wednesday with Friends! 5:45 Dinner 6:45 Activities	28	29  Game Night 7:00 pm	30

OCTOBER WORSHIP CALENDAR

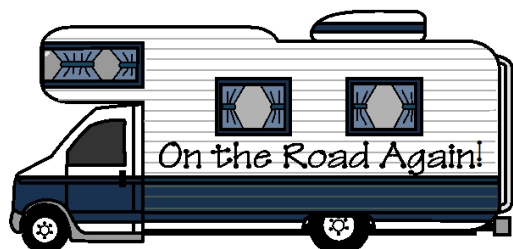
October	3	10	17	24	31
Greeters	Verna Munn	Rob Felton	Vonnie Burton	Earl Tycksen	Janine Saxton
				Annie Tycksen	
Ushers	John Frost	Don Parrish	Daryl Burton	Don Parrish	Daryl Burton
	Michael Pender	Ron Fieldhouse	Jared Jones	George Piper	Jess Howell
	Anna Baker	John Frost	Mike McBride	Jim Allison	Alan Parry
	Jessica Trout	Jeremy Baker	Eric Funk	Joesph Olivarez	John Frost
Music	Joel Bock	Janine Saxton	Darleen Ortega	Sandi Thornton	Jared Jones
		Aletha McKennon	Wes Cropper	Lukas McKennon	Bryan Boyd
		Steve McKennon	Jon Holt	Emily-Grace Cropper	Colby Spell
		Michael LeClair	Michael LeClair	Peter McKennon	
		Linda LeClair	Linda LeClair	Adria McKennon	
		Mike McBride	Dave Kinnunen	Steve McKennon	
Sound	Steve McKennon	Rawlen Smith	Mike McConaughey	Rawlen Smith	Steve McKennon
Power Point	Nathan Murray	Peter McKennon	Jennie Harkema	Jessica Trout	Jennie Harkema
Media	Joel Bock	Aletha McKennon	Darleen Ortega	Sandi Thornton	Jared Jones
Preach/Facilitate	Stan Thornburg	TBA	Stan Thornburg	TBA	TBA
Monthly Focus	Peace Prayer		Feed the Need	Missions Moment	
10:45 Nursery	Adina McConaughey	Jeanne Boyd	Janelle Olivarez	Heidi Pender	Debbie Headley
	Becky Headley	Brenna Parry	Joseph Olivarez		Becky Headley
		Amanda McConaughey	Brenna Baker		
Preschool	Beth Woolsey	Tabatha Weaver	Jered McConaughey	Lydia Cathers	Beth Woolsey
	Greg Woolsey	Brent Weaver	Angela Kantz	Jonah Harkema	Greg Woolsey
	Abby Woolsey	Betsy LeClair	Jenna Allison	Olivia Pugsley	Abby Woolsey
	Elsie McConaughey	Adria McKennon	Erinn Baker		Elsie McConaughey
Blue Room	Priscilla Lowery	Kristi Longstroth	Mindy Allison	TBA	Priscilla Lowery
Kindergarten-2nd	Ben Kantz	Lynn Holt	Jim Allison		Ben Kantz
			Kasey Allison		
Yellow Room	Jody Jones	Kathleen Gathercoal	Leslie Murray	TBA	Jody Jones
3rd-5th	Katrina McConaughey		Amy Lutz		Katrina McConaughey

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE



Brent and Tabatha Weaver recently returned from Arizona where they attended the premiere of Brent's latest commissioned composition: Imaginary Scenes. It was requested by Dr. Joe Wytko, a prevalent saxophonist and Professor Emeritus at Arizona State and a visiting professor at Georgia University. Brent premiered the piece on September 24th at Arizona state's Louise Lincoln Kerr Cultural Center and September 26th at the Tempe Center for the Arts.

The piece will be premiering in Paris, France sometime in the Spring. Dr. Wytko also recorded Psalm, an earlier work of Brent's on his latest album, Passions Large and Small, available on Itunes etc.



Bill and Myrlene Rourke left on September 21st for a two-month road trip. They will travel first to Bill's brother's place just South of St. Louis. After that they'll travel to Canton, OH and meet Sherrill and Duane Comfort and will travel the rest of the time with them. They intend to go to New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine to watch the Fall colors and then will go South from their through Virginia and on to the Gulf Coast and then back West. We'll have to be sure to ask about their trip when they return the week of Thanksgiving!

HOMEGROWN HORMONE FREE BEEF FOR SALE

Jim & Jacqui Fisher have homegrown hormone-free beef for sale at \$2.25 per pound on hanging weight, plus cutting and wrapping and kill fee. That's approximately \$800 per half beef for about 150 pounds of packaged meat.

Call Jacqui at 503-538-6420.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Parrish
- 3 Marian Parry
- 4 Miriam Bock
Jacob Jolliff
Mike McBride
- 6 Brendon Connelly
Leslie Murray
- 9 Lisa Cox
- 10 Robert Felton
Ruth Piper
- 12 Kathleen Gathercoal
- 13 Beth Woolsey
- 14 Russell Lapham
- 15 Cai Woolsey
Cael Woolsey
- 16 Vince Corbin
Judi Smith
- 17 Jonah Harkema
- 18 Joy Howell
- 19 Stan Thornburg
- 24 Jody Jones
Levi Jones
- 26 Hal Thomas
- 28 Jenny Crackenberg
- 30 Laurie Conant
Al Lehman

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Daryl & Vonnie Burton
- 11 Brendon Connelly &
Amy Lutz