



December, 2011

Contents

Upcoming Events	1
What's New Online	1
Is It Sticking? by Brad	2
December Calendar	3
Sabbath By The Sea	4
Way Of The Spirit	4

Upcoming Events

December

Annual Church Retreat

December 2-4, 2011

Each year we gather out at Twin Rocks in Rockaway Beach, OR for community building, worship and rest by the sea! Our focus tends to be on preparing for advent and setting our hearts in a place where we can receive the gift of Christ who enters the world on our behalf. We always have a great turnout and a wonderful time together. The lodging is really nice, the food is good, and the company is stellar (if I do say so myself!).

Also, this year, we will be having "Saturday night Coffee House!"

Please bring art and snacks to share, games to play, and if you would like to present some music or a reading, please let Wess know!

Holiday Brunch December 10 at 11am

We will be putting on a holiday brunch for all those who use our building in addition to ourselves. This includes Montessori staff and teachers as well as all A.A. groups. More details to follow but it will probably be

similar to the Easter brunch with Hospitality members providing a main dish and the rest of us bringing .breads, fruit etc.

Business Meeting December 11 at 6pm

Please plan ahead so you can join us as we conduct our meeting for worship for business. A major topic of the December business meeting will be our annual budget, but we also have other business to attend to. Please join with us as we prayerfully consider the use of our church's funds for the upcoming year.

Meeting Times for Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Refreshments
10:45-12:15pm Sunday Morning Worship

Children's Education

11:30-12:15 Godly Play
Nursery available as needed

What's New Online

You can still register for retreat!

You can register online for our All-Church Retreat by going to our website: camasfriends.org. There, you will find an easy registration form to fill out. Or, you can call the office at 360-834-2446

Did you know you can listen to the weekly messages online?

You can follow the link from our website for Sermons. From there you will have a choice to stream the podcast from the internet or to download it from iTunes!

You can now do your financial giving online!

You can follow the Contribute link on our webpage to give your regular tithing or to donate to a specific ministry such as Laundry Love!

Like us on Facebook!

We regularly post updates on Facebook!

Is It Sticking? by Brad Tricola

Friday, November 18, 2011

First snow today. A little anticlimactic. First snows usually are. My niece (4) and son (3) and I watched the big puffy flakes falling and whirling around. "Can we make a snowman?" Zac asked. "No, there's not enough snow to make a snowman," I said. "It's not really sticking." "Sticking?" Zac asked-laughed.

We live in a part of the world that is very close to getting loads of snow, but rarely does. Lots of rainy days in the high 30's. Or cold clear nights in the 20's. But the ingredients for snow have to be just right and we are usually just out of reach. As children, my brother Jesse and I became careful students of snow, and paid close attention to whether or not it was sticking. For it to stick the snow needs to be dry enough and the weather needs to be cold enough. Some surfaces stick better than others. Wet pavement, gravel, grass not so great at the beginning. Car roofs, mailboxes, fallen logs, seem to fare better. The trick is really getting that first layer of snow going, then the accumulation can happen.

In my life there are so many things that I learn about, and so much of it doesn't stick in any meaningful way. This is one of the great frustrations of my life. Sermons, books, classes, conversations. Forgotten. I hear you forget 80% of what you learn just by the end of the day! I read a book a few years ago called *Made to Stick*. The authors studied and presented a compelling case as to why some ideas survive and others die. They had some helpful acronym that I can't quite remember now (ha!). SUCCESS: Simplicity, Unexpected, Concrete, something, something, stories, etc. I try to remember (some of these) when I am

writing, preaching, pitching an idea.

On the other hand, there are some things I wish I could unstick. Urban legends, rumors, ways of thinking, that tape playing in my head, an embarrassing moment from middle school, rejections, lies about myself, judgments about others, shallow thinking. Stuck. Mark Twain once famously said, "A lie can get half way around the world before truth has a chance to get its pants on." Or was it boots?

I sometimes wonder if spirituality is more about unlearning than it is about learning. When we unlearn some of the above mentioned, it seems like the environment, the conditions for learning Truth just kind of emerge. What are some other ingredients or conditions that make it possible or impossible to learn and grow and find wholeness? How does God's Spirit begin to break through?

St. Augustine wrote about his dramatic experience in his *Confessions*

You were within, but I was without. You were with me, but I was not with you. So you called, you shouted, you broke through my deafness, you flared, blazed, and banished my blindness, you lavished your fragrance, and I gasped.

This gasping is what some religious people call a conversion. Sometimes I think it's more about conversion(s), awakening(s), gasp(s), enlightening(s). These moments that not only change us but also change the way we see everything else. Game-Changers. The no-going-back experiences. Most of these transitions are unsettling and uncomfortable in the interim. They feel like being thrown out of the comfort and certainty of the garden. They feel a little like dying. We can't un-know what we learned from the tree of knowledge and we need to

go through the flaming sword to eventually find a kind of second simplicity, as Richard Roar calls it. But I digress...

Maybe connecting this back to where I began. Snow. Sticking. Conditions. It seems that we live in a time and place of unprecedented resources and opportunities for learning, but perhaps no culture has been as shallow, empty, neurotic, depressed. Why? (This is where I find the snow metaphor breaking down, so I won't try to stretch it beyond its capability). There is a kind of momentum, an accumulation that can happen at certain points in our lives. Right? I think a radical openness to new possibilities and new ways of thinking is a terrifying, dangerous, and essential ingredient in the life of the Spirit. A second and related ingredient I have found is an utter reliance. When we are in control, we are so busy holding on to that control that anything we do to better ourselves will be ego-driven and doomed to failure. We will be too busy trying to prop up our own agendas and ways of thinking for any real transformation to happen. Which brings me to the last ingredient (certainly there are more), suffering. The discomfort, pain, failing, falling of life that brings with it the potential for real and lasting change.

Like Jesus, the Saints, the Mystics, say over and over again: The way up is down. The way forward is back. The last will be first. The poor are blessed. Those who die will live. The meek will inherit the earth. The way to find it is to lose it. Those who mourn will be comforted. The way to the Kingdom is to become like a child. This is the kind of good, tilled up, soil that Jesus says is needed to produce an abundant crop, to stick.

**New Books
on the
loaning table.**

**Check out the
loaning table
for the new
books available
including some
advent themed
books!**

Camas Friends Church
1004 NE 4th Ave
Camas, WA 98607

Phone
360-834-2446

Fax
360-834-2446

E-mail
office@camasfriends.org

Released Minister:
C. Wess Daniels
Office Hours: M 9am-12, T
9:30am-1, W 9am-12

Phone:
(360) 818-4293

Email:
wess@camasfriends.org

Purpose Statement: To
love God and love people.

Sabbath By The Sea

Could you benefit from several days spent at an ocean-view retreat center with the express purpose of taking time and space to simply interact with God? Sabbath By The Sea offers you such an experience – a personal retreat in the midst of a caring community. Half-week and full-week retreats are available January 2-29.

Overseeing the program will be Steve Fawver, Pastor of Spiritual Health & Caring at Newberg Friends Church. Under Steve's guidance, each week will be hosted by a different set of leaders who will facilitate community gatherings and offer (optional) one-on-one spiritual guidance sessions.

For more detailed information, please visit www.twinrocks.org or email Sabbath By The Sea director Steve Fawver at steve@newbergfriends.org.

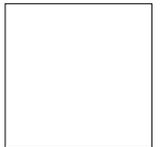
Way Of The Spirit

For those in leadership or service roles within or beyond their faith communities – clerks, pastors, elders, educators, counselors, social activists, and others following their leadings – *Way of the Spirit* builds practical tools for faithfulness.

The program includes committed study, prayer, and reflection in a supportive community. There are experienced facilitators from Quaker Evangelical and Unprogrammed heritage. The curriculum is grounded in Christian spirituality, the

Bible, and Quaker heritage. There is an ongoing connection through an online reflection group, projects, and spiritual guidance. Commit to daily prayer, assigned readings, projects, small group reflection, and regular spiritual direction/guidance. Find more information online at <http://goodnewsassoc.org>.

CAMAS FRIENDS CHURCH
1004 NE 4TH AVE
CAMAS, WA 98607



NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST ZIP CODE

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.camasfriends.org
<http://www.facebook.com/camasquakers>
<http://twitter.com/camasfriends>