



November, 2011

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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 an egg 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. 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

Ways To Pay

Friends, as the December business meeting approaches, as we are returning our participation cards, and as we are thinking of the budget for the upcoming year, I wanted to let you know that you have several options for paying your tithes and supporting our ministries.

Of course we all know that we can put cash and checks in the offering baskets as they are passed around on Sunday mornings. But did you know that most banks also offer electronic checks to be mailed automatically

from your bank to our church? This is an easy way to have your tithe sent in without having to remember your checkbook on Sunday mornings.

We also have a great new service available: PayPal!

We now have a donate button on our website so you can conveniently give to our church's general fund with your regular tithe, or specify a particular ministry that you would like to support with your donation such as Laundry Love. You can use your credit or debit

card, and we are able to transfer the funds from our PayPal account directly to the church's bank account! Using the PayPal donate button is very easy and secure! PayPal does charge a small fee for their service. We would urge you to prayerfully consider if you feel led to give a little more to help cover this fee for the service. The fee is 2.9% of the donation amount.

We appreciate every one of you and the opportunity to share our journeys together!

Which Direction Are We Headed? by Wess

I love traveling, I always have. One thing I have learned is that the type of journey and its destination determine what you'll pack in your bags. If I am going on a backpacking trip in the Alleghenies (PA) and I'll be out for 10 days, I will have to pack much differently than I would (and did) pack for a 3-day backpacking trip in Death Valley (NV). I remember my parents throwing me and four of my siblings into our Oldsmobile station-wagon and heading south. We were on the road headed from Ohio to Alabama to visit our cousins. My parents were, at the time, considering whether or not to move down to Montgomery. As a kid this was an incredible adventure, we packed little, and didn't really know what we'd find when we got there. And while even as a third-grader there wasn't a whole lot about Alabama I found attractive, the road trip was fun. Looking back on it now, I am convinced, more than ever, my parents were insane. But, I have to assume, the destination and the purpose of the journey was what helped them stay focused and kept them on track. We never did end up moving to Alabama, but the trip was well worth it, at least if the goal was discerning whether or not to move there. Within a short period of time we knew the answer.

Our Lives as Road Trips

Thinking about what kind of journey we are on, and where we are headed is a good metaphor for the whole of our lives. I remember the first time we flew home with Lily to Ohio from Pasadena, sitting down on the airplane, breathing a sigh of relief for the miracle of getting to the gate on time and having that shocking realization that "I'm ill-equipped for traveling with this little one." I, for one, underestimated the challenge of our journey. Have you ever felt like that in life? Things pop-up along the way and you realize (probably after the fact that), "I didn't really pack appropriately for this." How about for our children? Are we helping them understand the kind of journey they are on and the destination they're headed towards (or even the ones they should want to head towards)? Our society has certain kinds of "destinations" it values over others, this is what we call, by at least one name, the "American Dream." A good-paying job, a house on the hill (maybe by the lake?), a good education, hopefully enough money to be able to "do what you want" and to offer your kids "a better life than the one I had," are all a part of this story. And while none of this is necessarily bad in itself, doesn't it betray a certain kind of destination? A certain kind of journey? It is all too easy to ride along, without realizing where it is we are headed. When I look back through our tradition as Quakers, and Christians, it seems to me that this question is one every generation has to wrestle with. However, there are other destinations and other journeys, we might call the "rival stories" that we tell. The stories of Noah and his family, Abraham and his, David and Goliath, the stories of the Hebrews' liberation from the Egyptian Empire, the stories of Jesus, his parables, the people he cared for, all break with the powerful images and stories of today. And this shouldn't be surprising to us, Living out the "way of Jesus" is a different kind of road trip altogether.

The journey of the Christian life is a journey toward the cross, and death, and yes, into resurrection. Am I, in all my American-Dreaminess, ready for that? How do I help teach my kids to value this kind of life over the other rival stories they'll be taught all through life?

A Spirituality of the Road

In Luke 10 Jesus sends out his disciples on a "road trip," a time where they get to not just announce peace and the kingdom of God at hand, but to be formed and shaped by the journey itself. You can see this by the very things Jesus tells them to (not) pack for their journey. "See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid (Luke 10:1-10).

What do you notice about what they are to take and to leave behind? What kind of journey are they on? What do you think their destination is? What might we expect them to learn about others, themselves and God on a trip like this? Isn't this a fascinating example for us today, as we think about what should shape and form our own lives and the choices we make? How would our lives be different if we set out for a destination that was molded by the values and practices of Jesus himself? Then I found another connection to this whole "spirituality of the road" when I was reading John Woolman's Journal the other day (Isn't Woolman a wonderful example of a man who was thoroughly shaped by this kind of road-weathered spirituality?). Listen to what he writes to a couple Quaker meetings in North Carolina in 1757: First, my dear friends, dwell in humility; and take heed that no views of outward gain get too deep hold of you, that so, your eyes being single to the Lord, you may be preserved in the way of safety. Where people let loose their minds after the love of

outward things, and are more engaged in pursuing the profits and seeking the friendships of this world, than to be inwardly acquainted with the way of true peace, they walk in a vain shadow, while the true comfort of life is wanting. Their examples are often hurtful to others; and their treasures thus collected do many times prove dangerous snares to their children....

Woolman offers a warning to the paths we are tempted to take. In his day he saw some of the worst kinds of human brutality justified by others who were following along with the stories and values of their time. It's surprising to see how many people Woolman talks to who always kind of thought slavery was bad, but never really cared enough to do something about it, such as free their own slaves! The journey for Christ-centered Friends begins with a humility that seeks the destination of the way of true peace, the way of Jesus rather than the ways that undermine his kingdom. And isn't it amazing that he sees the other way as not only harmful for us, but even for our children?

Our Christ-Centered Destination

I find Woolman's words both compelling and challenging. How do we live into this today? How do we help encourage this in our children and in the life of our meeting?

The things we practice as individuals, the activities we engage in, the things we value (not what we say we value, but what we actually put our time and effort into), the things we practice with our kids, all form us toward certain destinations. What direction are we headed? How will we get there? And will we be happy with what we find when we arrive?

Let's open ourselves to the probing of Christ's truth in our lives, to the guidance of the Spirit, and to the freedom having "eyes single for the Lord." Let's together seek that life of humility and inward peace that speaks only of a journey and destination marked by the Cross of Christ.

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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.

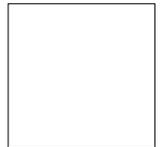
Rummage Sale Wrap-Up

We had a church-wide rummage sale on October 28th and 29th. We will be got together during the week before the sale to set everything up in the large room downstairs. This sale was to help raise funds for Friends Women as well as for

our church retreat and other all-church activities. Received many donated items for sale. We had about 21 volunteers who helped throughout the sale, including set-up, clean-up, baking items, and the sale itself. Everyone had lots of fun visiting while working.

The sale brought in about \$1,363, about a third of which will go to the church and the remainder will be used by Friends Women in support of their ministries. We also donated about three truckloads of items to the Salvation Army at the end of the sale!

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We're on the Web!

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