

SPOKANEWORLD

July
Seventh Month
2017



Spokane Friends

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Spokane, WA 99205

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Sunday Schedule:

Doors Open at 9:00 a.m.

Worship begins in stillness
when first person sits down.

Worship continues with
song and messages

10:00 am

Fellowship

11:00 am

Education Hour

11:15 am

Third Sunday of the Month:

Third Sunday is same
schedule except Education
hour is replaced by Monthly
Meeting and followed by
potluck meal.

This is also
Food Bank Sunday

Quaker Queries

What we are is truly seen in what we do. We may claim to be a people of faith and love, but if our actions belie our claims, the truth is not in us. Faith and works are inseparable. As James so directly put it: "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." Faith without deeds is invisible, useless, a lie. Faith without works is as a dead spiritual tree that bears no fruit. "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Before we begin, I want to say that the yearly meeting I am referring to in the beginning is London Yearly Meeting since that is where the Queries were born. This history eventually evolved to include yearly meetings around the world. Most yearly meetings have their own unique set of queries; ours is in the front cover of our hymnals.

The Quaker practice of receiving and answering Queries is rooted in the essential question: Are we being faithful to the hope that is within us? Receiving and answering the Queries is far more than a mere personal self-examination. It is meant to be a corporate self-examination of the unity of our faith and life together as Friends, as Christ's church.

Before we examine how they might be used, let us recall where our Queries came from, what earlier Friends had in mind, and how they used them. -- not so that we can imitate them, but so we can make a more informed choice about our own use of them.

Our Quaker Queries grew out of a fundamental challenge to Quaker identity, character, and discipline. Also, Yearly Meetings began the practice of querying Monthly and Quarterly Meetings as to how truth prospered among them and how Friends were in peace and unity. The practice established that Quakers were not simply a band of individualists, each doing his or her own thing. They were God's people, witnessing to His presence and power in their lives by the visible fruits produced by their faith and salvation. Quakers were a people who stood for certain spiritual and moral absolutes.

The Queries, then, remind us that the church is not a spiritual supermarket with lots of spiritual fruits for sale in the produce section. They remind us we are not to wander up and down the aisles, testing each fruit to see if we should "buy" it. "This fruit's too hard! I'd never be able to stomach it. This one's too mushy—I reject it. And this one! It's old! No longer nutritious for our time. I'll toss it!" Selective obedience to God's will has never been an option.

Friends have assessed the state of this religious society through the use of Queries since the time of George Fox. Rooted in the history of Friends, the Queries reflect the Quaker way of life, reminding Friends of the ideals we seek to attain. From the Christian tradition, Friends have taken as a standard the life and teaching of Jesus, not only as recorded in the New Testament, but **even more importantly as revealed inwardly, as we seek God's truth and its expression through our lives today.** Friends approach Queries as a guide to self-examination, using them not as an outward set of rules, but as a framework within which we assess our convictions and examine, clarify, and consider prayerfully the direction of our lives and the life of the community. Over the years, the content of the general queries has changed, as each generation finds its own voice.

The earliest general Queries of London yearly meeting asked for specific facts and figures asking 3 questions. 1. What Friends in the ministry, in their respective counties, departed this life since the last yearly meeting? 2. What Friends imprisoned for their testimony have died in prison since the last yearly meeting? 3. How has the truth prospered amongst them since the last yearly meeting and if Friends are in peace and unity? These questions were meant to be answered orally by each quarterly meeting. As the practice of oral replies to the questions became too cumbersome, it was replaced in 1706 by written replies from the quarterly meetings.

As the practice of replying to the Queries became more formal, they were increasingly used to ensure consistency of conduct among Friends and to obtain information as to the state of the society. They included advice and direction to overseers, dealing with personal differences, public scandal, offenses against the church, backbiting, disowned persons not permitted in meetings for business, burials, attending meetings, and the form marriage certificates should take. The purpose of the Queries after 1760 became principally disciplinary; elders and overseers regarded the Queries as a touchstone on which they could rely in administering discipline.

During the early 19th century Friends were much influenced by the evangelical movement, and the queries were completely re-written in 1833. They were expanded and used to emphasize the importance of evangelical principles and beliefs. But 1928 brought another revision, as many Friends had become uneasy about their negativity and the evangelical language then in use, and wished for greater emphasis on the social responsibilities of Quakerism.

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(continued from last page) Although the corporate use of Queries is governed by more flexible regulations than in the past, they should continue to be a challenge and inspiration to Friends in their personal lives and in their life as a religious community which knows the guidance of the universal spirit of Christ, witnessed to in the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Queries are not a call to increased activity by each individual friend but a reminder of the insights of the society. Within the community there is a diversity of gifts. We are all therefore asked to consider how far the Queries affect us personally and where our own service lies. There will also be diversity of experience, of belief and of language. Friends maintain that expressions of faith must be related to personal experience. Some find traditional Christian language full of meaning; some do not. Our understanding of our own religious tradition may sometimes be enhanced by insights of other faiths. The deeper realities of our faith may be beyond verbal composition and our way of worship based on silent waiting testifies to this.

Our diversity invites us both to speak what we know to be true in our lives and to learn from others. Friends are encouraged to listen to each other in humility and understanding, trusting in the spirit that goes beyond our human effort and comprehension. So it is for the comfort and discomfort of Friends that these Queries are offered, with the hope that we may all be more faithful and find deeper joy in God's service.

Over the generations Friends have found that the Divine Presence, the inward Teacher, has taught certain things to us as a group. These lessons are not intellectual creations but practical guides for daily living so that through our personal lives Friends might bear witness to the world of these teachings and to the love and power of God. As we all know, these testimonies had to do with our form of worship in expectant waiting, with plainness of speech and dress, with a lifestyle of honesty and integrity in business and domestic spheres, with peace, equality, and simplicity.

There was a well-defined lifestyle by which any Quaker anywhere could be readily identified. Those who made other choices could not be owned as part of the meeting and its witness to the world. For better or worse, this is no longer the case. However, we are still concerned to live lives of faithful attentiveness. As Friends we are continually invited to bring more and more parts of our lives into harmony with divine love and truth. The Queries offer us an opportunity to hear God calling us to a more faithful life.

Sometimes the discussion of a query was the high point of a monthly meeting. In one meeting it was noted that, after a rather tedious, long-winded, not particularly well-grounded meeting for business, the query that was considered was simply "how do we recognize what we are called to be obedient to?" As people spoke to it, the silence deepened and lengthened between speakers. Finally the speaking ceased altogether and the Friends present were wrapped together in quietness and love. The clerk ended the meeting but they were reluctant to leave. They were in the presence of God and found it good.

Careful and prayerful consideration of the Queries can be the outward structure that unites the individuals and the faith community. If the intent of our meetings and of Friends is to grow ever deeper in our relationship with the divine, and if we have chosen the Quaker path as our way, then the Queries offer a checklist of how faithful we are as we trudge along on our journey, together. There is a Quaker way, it is not quite the same as any other way. This is not to say other ways are not valid, only that it is probably counter-productive to try to walk on several paths simultaneously.

Yes, we can learn from other faiths. Yes, we can worship with others. Yes, we can give thanks that God has taught diverse peoples in diverse ways, all with the same underlying message of love and drawing humans God-ward. But we have chosen one way, the Quaker way. The Queries help us stay on our path and deepen within it.

Our Quaker way professes that the divine will teach us, inwardly. We will be taught individually and we will be taught together, as a faith community. Our responsibility is to be teachable, and not a stiff-necked, stubborn, self-righteous people. A humble opening of ourselves to be searched by the divine through the Queries is one way to remain teachable.

George Fox continually referred to the "power of God" or the "power of the Lord". What is our experience of this power? If we haven't experienced it together, what is hindering its bursting forth among us? What is God trying to teach us, in our meeting, today, through our consideration of these things?

[The above is a shortened version of a message brought to us by Pam Emery in the past. To read the full message, contact the Church Office.]



On June 24, 2017, they sat side by side in two chairs facing the guests during a traditional Quaker wedding. After a period of silence and some spoken blessings by friends, Norman Pasche and Anya Lawrence stood and said their wedding vows to one another. Thus they made public to their family and friends the private commitment they had made to each other before God long ago.

Leading the worship service was Sarah Peterson, a member of Spokane Friends. Family and friends promised to support the couple in their continuing spiritual journey together, and all present signed the wedding certificate as witness to the union of these two lives. Music for the reception was provided by the Crab Creek Wranglers. It was a joyous occasion!

Congratulations, Norman and Anya!!



Shawn McConnaughey resigns as Associate Superintendent of NWYM

[Some of us know Shawn McConnaughey because he grew up at Spokane Friends during the years his father Roy McConnaughey served as our pastor.] The letter below appeared in the most recent issue of NWYM Connection



Friends,

I wanted to write to tell you that I have submitted my resignation from my position of Associate Superintendent for NWYM. My last day will be on August 31, 2017.

Of course, this brings with it a lot of sadness, several unfulfilled hopes, and some “what-ifs”. But let me assure you that the good far outweighs the negative. I have grown so much in my understanding of both local church ministry and the global church. I have been able to walk alongside so many lovely people who have become my teachers. I have felt ministered to even as I attempted to minister alongside each of you. I fear I

won't be able to adequately tell each of you personally how much I have learned and grown because of you.

Working alongside the YM staff has been a huge blessing in my life. What an honor to get to journey together these past nine plus years. No matter how dicey things got in NWYM, I always looked forward to being with my co-workers.

Like many of you, I live with the huge disappointment of our splitting YM. It has had a harmful impact on our Global Outreach opportunities these past couple of years. In spite of that, our work and workers in China, Palestine, Russia, Hungary, and Bolivia and Peru have continued to help people understand God's love for them and come to seek God for themselves. I long to see “us” do better in the future and I even hope for reuniting someday.

I don't fully know what is ahead yet for Katrina and me and our family but we look with some anticipation at the possibilities God is laying out in front of us. We covet your prayers and friendship where ever that takes

Sincerely,
Shawn McConaughy

Attention, Crafters!! It's never too late to begin preparing for the upcoming Christmas season. Plan your table for October 21.

Caritas Needs This Week



Food:

Syrup	Pancake Mix	Jam
Fruit Cups—individual serve size		Canned Meat
Trail Mix—individual packages		Rice—2 lb. bags
Quart size Ziploc bags		

Necessities:

Paper Towels—most needed	Tooth paste
Anti-bacterial ointment	Band Aids
Can openers	



FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

JULY 16-23

READY TO SERVE?



Take Me Out to the Ball Game



Thursday, July 27 - 6:30 pm

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

SPOKANE INDIANS GAME

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND ENJOY A GAME AND DINNER!

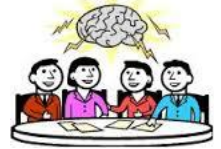
Family Promise

wants to invite YOU

On Thursday evening, July 27, invites all Family Promise volunteers to be their guests at a Volunteer Appreciation Event. This is during the week following our participation as the host church -- what a nice “reward” for our help.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

June 18, 2017



The meeting was opened by Clerk, Jonas Cox with several minutes of silent prayer. 18 people were in attendance. The May minutes were read and approved with one correction. There are 5 churches in NWYM that have decided to separate instead of one third of the total churches. Jonas Cox said he asked Sarah Peterson and Keith Sellers to bring messages to our Sunday morning worship and they both declined. He also talked with Deborah Suess and she said possibly they would look at coming to Spokane in the spring of 2018.

Old Business: In looking at the church priorities we have decided to stick with High, Medium, and Low sections. This may change with time depending on the direction of the church. Evangelism may be referred to as outreach and public relations with some type of marketing. We need to look at college and other students for growth. Eight categories have been accepted as the top priorities.

New Business: Spiritual gifts handouts were passed out to the people attending the meeting today.

Treasurer's report: Another good report for this past month. Wade Schwartz feels like he can now work with a budget.

Stewards & Trustees: Still need to have a meeting with Caritas to sign new memorandum of understanding.

Peace with Justice: The Peace Garden is up and running. The Caritas yard sale is coming up on June 24 Caritas is looking to add more churches to the organization.

Education: Has decided to lay down the Education hour on Sundays for now. May continue with books, radio plays, etc. Still looking at having a bread-making class.

Elders: We appreciated having Leann Williams bring a message recently. We considered possible new members to our church body and will send letters of invitation. We plan to send a letter to our non-attending members to ask them about their membership. Amber Joplin will be bringing the message next Sunday.

Nominating Committee: Will meet later this month.

New Business: Amber Joplin and Anya Lawrence will be attending the joint sessions of NWYM and then attending the group that is starting a new association. Linda Nixon has been asked to go as a representative to the NWYM sessions. She has not made a decision at this time.

The bread-making class will be held on a Sunday afternoon. It will be advertised in the neighborhood. There is no charge but people will need to sign up or call in.

Wade Schwartz announced that he is now on the Fig Tree Board. He will represent them at the upcoming Garland Street Fair on August 12th.

With no further old or new business and all hearts clear, Pam Emery dismissed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

Is God giving you a message for Spokane Friends? If so, please sign up on the schedule entitled "Yes, Lord, Yes" which is posted on the Bulletin Board. Pick the Sunday of your choice to bring the message.

Been attending Spokane Friends for long enough to become curious about Quakers? Think you might be a Quaker? If so, please talk to one of the Elders (Lois K., Norman P., Wade S., Bob W.) who will be able to answer questions and help you begin the process of becoming recorded as a member of Spokane Friends.

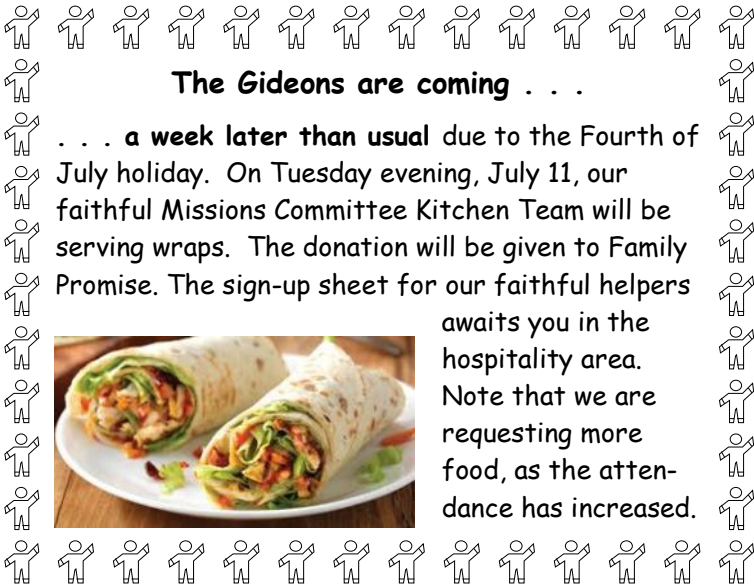


July 23 -26 2017

"When Grace Happens" is the theme of Yearly Meeting this summer. At Monthly Meeting for Business in June, **Amber Joplin and Anya Lawrence** were confirmed as our **Representatives to Yearly Meeting** sessions later this month. Due to the impending split of Northwest Yearly Meeting, there will be some worship and business sessions which all are invited to attend. There will also be some parallel sessions when the two groups will meet separately. Both of our appointed Reps wish to attend meetings with the newly forming association of Friends Churches. Would **YOU** like to attend Yearly Meeting as a **Representative** who would attend the NWYM parallel sessions? **IF SO, please let the Office know.** More information can be found at nwfriends.org under News & Events, including instructions for on-line registration.

The new yearly meeting/association needs a name!

Send your ideas to the Interim Committee member, Carol Whorton, <cwhorton@gmail.com>. The list of ideas will be compiled and considered in Our New Thing business session at Yearly Meeting, July 23-26, 2017. Wouldn't it be great if Spokane Friends came up with the name for the new yearly



The Gideons are coming . . .

. . . a week later than usual due to the Fourth of July holiday. On Tuesday evening, July 11, our faithful Missions Committee Kitchen Team will be serving wraps. The donation will be given to Family Promise. The sign-up sheet for our faithful helpers awaits you in the hospitality area. Note that we are requesting more food, as the attendance has increased.



Current stories in Quaker News:

- Rosedale Friends Church to remain in NWYM
- North Seattle Friends Church to leave Northwest Yearly Meeting and to help build a new organization
- Scotts Mills Friends Church to stay with NWYM.
- Our New Thing to gather for worship and business at Yearly Meeting. Interim committee releases tentative schedule.
- Newberg Friends Church may split by end of September
- The Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference announced the theme for its next gathering

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Other news from Northwest Quakers

The interim committee for "Our New Thing" has given a call for nominations to positions and committees in hopes of filling them at Yearly Meeting this summer.

The group is looking for people to self-nominate for the following positions: PLEASE CONTACT AMBER JOPLIN OR ANYA LAWRENCE to express your interest in any of these positions

Officers:

- Clerk (1 volunteer)
- Recording Clerk (1 volunteer)

Committees:

- Financial Committee (3-5 members)
- Spiritual Care Committee (no set limit)
- Interim Committee (5 at-large members, up to 5 members nominated by local churches)
- Prayer Team (no set limit)

Work Groups:

- Bylaws, Faith & Practice
- People Work
- Quarterly Gatherings (responsible for worship, fellowship, and educational content)



Spokane Friends Meeting
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Holding in the Light . . . During Meeting for Worship, many share joys about changes in their lives, new opportunities, new jobs, new ministries, unexpected blessings. Many also share concerns you may wish to carry on your heart and remember in your prayers.

- The public celebration of a long-standing commitment joining hearts and lives of Norman and Anya.
- Our friends and families who are dealing with cancer diagnoses.
- The laying down and disposition of property of our sister Spring Valley Mennonite Church.
- Spokane Friends as they step into new roles of service, looking hopefully to the future.
- Yearly Meeting July 23-26, 2017 during which Northwest Yearly Meeting and a new association of Friends Churches continue to work out details of the impending split in July 2018.
- Those who do ministry with our support: Jonathan and Carol; Johan and Judy; Elizabeth T; and those organizations with which we work: Family Promise; Caritas Outreach Ministry; The Fig Tree; Faith Action Network and others.
- We also pray for those whose lives are oppressed and are vulnerable to violence here and abroad.
- We pray for our President, Senators and Member of Congress, Governor Jay Inslee; and those who represent us as members of Washington State Legislature.
- For Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC, who are advocating on our behalf against the use of violence to solve our differences with other nations.



*Love is the will to nurture life and growth in oneself and in another.
Love is personal; it is the sacred trust of living things.*

Donald Green, 1982