

SPOKANEWORD

June
Sixth Month
2017



Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.com
spokanefriends@gmail.com

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

Why did Jesus have to die?

For centuries the church has used several different concepts to answer this question, which underlies what we call "atonement." But these concepts are problematic for peace churches, at least in part because they are answering the wrong question.

It might be surprising that the most well-known answer to this wrong question comes from a form of government abandoned centuries ago, although a remnant still influences our society. That well-known answer is that Jesus died in order to satisfy a debt owed to God by sinful humanity, that is, to satisfy the penalty of death demanded by God's law. This concept is called "satisfaction" atonement.

The first full version of this concept appeared in the book *Why the God-Man* published in 1098 by Anselm, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The society Anselm knew was structured by feudalism and ruled by a feudal lord. In this system, when an underling offended the lord, stability of the social order depended on the ability of the ruler either to punish the offender or to require satisfaction.

In visualizing Jesus' death as a debt payment to God, it is obvious that Anselm imagined God in the role of the ultimate feudal lord. Anselm believed that human sin had disturbed the order of God's universe. To restore order in creation, God needed either to punish sinners or to receive satisfaction. Consequently, God sent Jesus as the God-Man so that his infinite death could bear humankind's punishment and, on our behalf, supply the satisfaction God required.

In this understanding of the atonement, the act of God prompts difficult questions like this one that a 5-year old asked his mother after Sunday school: "Parents would never put their child to death on a cross, right?"

We can find the better question and its answer in the New Testament. When we read the story of Jesus in the Gospels, we realize that it says nothing about his death satisfying a debt owed to God or paying a penalty required by God's law. Further, the satisfaction concept deals only with Jesus' death. It does not mention his life, and ignores entirely the resurrection, the real climax of the story of Jesus. Lastly, it features a vengeful God, who has Jesus killed to satisfy God's own justice. This is a violent God for whom justice depends on violence and punishment.

These images should disturb peace church people for several reasons. Let me explain.

In the Gospels, we see that Jesus' life, his actions and his teaching made present the reign of God. He healed on the Sabbath to show how it was being misused, challenged racism against Samaritans, and raised the status of women. These actions challenged the legitimacy of the religious authorities. If people learned from Jesus how to approach God directly and find forgiveness, that would threaten the authority of the religious leadership and the system of temple sacrifices they administered. They developed a plot to have him killed. Evil powers, represented by the religious leadership in Jerusalem and above all by the Roman Empire, put him to death on a cross. But after three days, God raised him from the dead.

This brief outline of the life of Jesus presents the story as one in which the powers of evil are confronted by Jesus' life and defeated by the resurrection. When we accept Jesus and live in his story, we participate in the salvation that comes with his resurrection. Rather than asking only why he died, the real question about Jesus is, "How do Jesus' life, death, and resurrection save?" He saves by living a life that makes God's reign present, and his resurrection invites us to accept Jesus, and thus to join life in the reign of God, both now and after we die.

In classic language, the atonement image that features victory over evil and Satan through resurrection is called "Christus Victor," which means Christ the Victor. In the early church Christus Victor described a confrontation in the cosmos between God and Satan. However, I like to bring the confrontation down to earth. On one side I picture Jesus, who represents the reign of God, and on the other side Rome and the religious leadership, who represent the powers of evil. Because my version uses the story of Jesus, I call it **narrative Christus Victor**.

Think about the action of God in this way of looking at the atonement. God does not require death. On the contrary, God acts to restore Jesus' life. From the perspective of God's action,

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narrative Christus Victor is a nonviolent atonement image. Humans performed the evil that killed Jesus and God acted to restore his life. Restoring life stands in sharp contrast to the role of God in satisfaction atonement, where God needed a death and sent Jesus to be killed for the death required by God.

To make clear the nonviolent role of God, I call this “nonviolent atonement.” It is a concept that features salvation without violence by God. With this understanding, the resurrection invites people to join in the reign of God with Jesus as its Lord.

Feudalism has long disappeared, but the atonement image based on feudalism is still common. And the idea of satisfaction is alive and well under another name in the criminal justice system, in which the state has replaced the feudal lord as the one who punishes or demands satisfaction. Crimes are said to be against society or the state, and it is the state that punishes. At whatever level the trial occurs, from local to federal, the prosecuting attorney represents the state. The idea of satisfaction is clearly visible in the expectation that one who commits a crime must pay his or her debt to society. Justice is said to be done when punishment has been handed out. This form of justice is called retributive justice, in that the punishment is retribution for the crime committed against the state.

With retributive justice, nothing is done for the victim of the crime. Nothing is done to restore a broken relationship or to restore the harm done. Even when a fine is levied, it goes to the state and not to the victim of the crime.

The alternative to retributive justice is restorative justice, which seeks to reconcile victims and offenders. It does not pursue punishment of an offender apart from the victim. Rather, restorative justice focuses on both. It stresses the needs of the victim and the rehabilitation of the offender. As much as possible, the offender brings about restoration. Restorative justice is not a way to let offenders off easy. It clearly calls offenders to be responsible for their offenses, while also focusing on the needs of victims.

Restorative justice echoes the story of Jesus. When he heals, he pronounces forgiveness of sins without punishment (Luke 5:19). He does not punish the woman caught in adultery, but tells her, “Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.” (John 8.11) He does not punish Zacchaeus’ dishonesty. Instead, his welcome moves Zacchaeus to repay four times the amount of money that he gained illegally (Luke 19.8)

Restorative justice corresponds to nonviolent atonement. Sinners are reconciled to God when they accept the invitation offered by the resurrection to join in the reign of God. Joining is actually taking up a new way of life, modeled on the life of Jesus. There is no punishment involved but, as with Zacchaeus, people who join the reign of God will want to restore wholeness and undo the harm of wrongs committed.

There is also a practical reason for supporting restorative justice: It is more effective than retributive justice. Restorative justice has been practiced at all levels, from justice circles in schools to programs under the jurisdiction of a judge in criminal court. Multiple research studies show that there are significantly fewer repeat offenders when restorative justice is applied rather than merely seeking punishment.

The entire discussion of nonviolent atonement, restorative justice, and the image of God is demonstrated in the parable of the prodigal son. The father represents God, and the prodigal son stands in for sinful humankind. After wasting his inheritance, the son decides to return and offer to work as a hired hand. This is repentance and taking on a new life. But the father does not seek punishment. Instead, even before the prodigal’s return, the father is waiting with open arms. He welcomes the changed son with a forgiveness without punishment.

This nonviolent God waits lovingly for God’s people to return. This is the image of nonviolent atonement. This is God’s restorative justice.

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From Steve Allen's latest letter (Steve directs *Family Promise of Spokane*):

There is now a place for homeless families to find help - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. **There is no answering machine and no waiting list. (Call 723-HOME anytime - day or night).**

We CAN help homeless families at the moment they need help. I can hardly say that without **SHOUTING IT IN ALL CAPS IN BOLD LETTERS**. I am so THANKFUL!!! And, not only do we at Family Promise get the privilege of playing a part in helping these families find emergency stability, but we also are helping these families find their way back home.



Over the last six months, **we have seen over 350 children and adults** find refuge in our shelter during the worst winter in recent history. We have averaged **29 adults and children** every day. More than that, over **20 of these families are now back in a home** or transitional shelter programs, like our Family Promise program. It's working! And we couldn't be more excited.

We are humbled and grateful to announce that on Monday, June 5, Family Promise of Spokane will operate **both the DAY and the NIGHT Emergency Family Shelter at our shelter** in the South Perry District. A huge thank you to the City of Spokane for your compassion, financial support and empowering compassion so that no homeless child will ever have to be without help during their most harrowing moments.

IN THIS AGE OF "FAKE NEWS," it would be wonderful to find a truly trustworthy source of information. And who better than Quakers to provide such a source? Introducing

Quaker News

Quaker News is the work of Barclay Press, where we hold to two truths: 1) Sharing stories changes lives, and 2) Open, equal access to information improves our discernment. You can support the work of Quaker News with tax-deductible donations through Barclay Press. Find Quaker News at www.quakernews.com

Why Quaker News?

The traditional, historic Friends testimonies include simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality.

And gossip.

Our work at being a quiet people has spread into our structures and systems with the result that formal lines of communication tend to move slowly, specialize in brevity and function to maintain a sense of objectivity and calm through nuanced technical language.

So we rely on gossip.

Gossip moves through existing relational networks. Gossip moves quickly, especially when people are feeling squeezed by social pressure and cultural tension. Gossip offers context for the vague Quaker speak of our leaders. Gossip brings us closer together, especially in hard times. Gossip is plain speech.

But the very nature of gossip privileges those who are socially connected. It magnifies the sense of those who weren't born Quaker and didn't grow up here that they are isolated, that we have secrets. It suggests that Quakers make decisions behind closed doors. It makes people feel manipulated. It erodes trust. It keeps us from being a people of truth.

The aim of Quaker News is to start over by moving formal communications out of the yearly meeting headquarters and into the hands of an independent and connected network of professional information hunter/gatherers.

The scope – for now – is information of interest and of use to Pacific Northwest Quakers. We've set up and will maintain a basic web presence. We're paying a staff person who will travel to events, observe, interview participants and report on proceedings. We plan to respond to requests for information from local meetings and individuals.

The way we as Friends do business – the way we function – works better when people know what they're talking about

Current stories in Quaker News:

- Newberg Friends may split
- Metolius chooses to stay with YM
- Pocatello worship group to join new fellowship
- Former superintendent releases ebook [Becky Ankeny]

Other news from Northwest Quakers

"Our New Thing" is the temporary way to refer to those exploring the possibility of a new Yearly Meeting. At the April 22nd meeting in Eugene, OR, seventy-seven Friends registered their attendance, representing 17 meetings. The group approved the creation of an interim Steering Committee which will propose a structure for the association of the five churches that must leave NWYM, to be comprised of two members from each of these churches. They will be appointed by May 21 and serve until during the NWYM sessions in July.

Lots and lots of information about "Our New Thing" (one of whose goals is transparent communication with all who are interested) can be found on this website: www.ournewthing.com

(See page 7 also)

Yearly Meeting 2017 announces theme



When Grace Happens is the theme for 2017 NWYM sessions. The historical truth is that over the years Northwest Yearly Meeting has received one blessing after another. NWYM is not the organization, but the gathering together of all the individuals, families and worshipping communities historically a part of NWYM. Then we come together corporately once a year for our yearly meeting sessions. This is our last official yearly meeting session as NWYM as we have known it over the decades. We are in grief, yes. What is before us this week is an open door to worship, pray, love and respect our differences while we anticipate a future of one blessing after another as God leads each group in outreach and ministry. Our time together this year will be different but it is important. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The dates are July 23-26, 2017. More information can be found at nwfriends.org under News & Events including instructions for on-line registration.

The Gideons are coming . . .

 this Tuesday evening, June 6, and our faithful Missions Committee could use our help once again. The donation will be given to Elizabeth Todd. We are not sure what the main course will be, but the usual sign-up sheet is available in the hospitality area if you can help.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

May 21, 2017



The meeting was opened by Clerk, Jonas Cox. 12 people were in attendance. The April minutes were read and approved as read.

Old Business: The recent survey data was presented by Jonas Cox with better explanations, i.e., definitions of different categories. We will encourage individual and corporate service in the community.

High Priority was given to the following combined categories:

1. Administration, Stewards & Trustees, & Finance
2. Congregational, individual, crisis and high need visitation
3. Spirituality & developing ministry
4. Community activities, service, peace testimony, and social concerns

Mid Priority was given to encouraging small groups, Christian education, teaching, social interaction including food and church/community development.

Treasurer's Report: Wade Schwartz presented and reported that the Tithes & Offerings are picking up. There are still a few people that provided pulpit supply that have not been paid their honorarium. We should pay the people the Sunday that they are providing the message. Lois Kieffaber said, as the church secretary, she would also send thank you notes after the presentation.

Stewards & Trustees: Bill Emery has been at a Caritas board meeting. He feels that he is now accepted and can ask and answer questions that they might have. He does get their emails. Caritas decided to start paying \$500 instead of \$350 for the use of our facility. We still need to review the church's Memorandum of Understanding with Caritas. Jonas Cox and Bill Emery will meet with Caritas to perform the review/new agreement.

Hospitality/Nominating/Missions committees had no reports.

Peace with Justice: Several went to the Family Promise anniversary dinner.

Education: The recent adult class went well reading the book The Back Bench by Margaret Bacon. A radio play about the Wedding in Cana was done on Mother's Day. We will continue to publish information in the Sunday bulletin and Newsletter for those interested in becoming a member of this church body.

Elders: Leann Williams attended the last Elders meeting. She also went to the meeting that was held at Eugene Friends to continue discussing the start of a new Yearly Meeting. She estimated that one third of the churches attending have definitely decided to separate from this body and go with the creation of a new Yearly Meeting. Dwaine Anderson, pastor from Deer Park, will be scheduled for a different Sunday than May 28th due to the death of his father.

New Business: Anya Lawrence would like to have a service to bless our animals. This would be conducted by Karen Anderson on a Sunday after worship. Many also asked Pam Emery if she would bring the message that Sunday.

We would like Jonas Cox to contact our prior interim pastor, Deborah Suess, to see if she and her husband Tim would be willing to come to Spokane Friends for a possible extended stay during the summer. We would like Jonas Cox to invite Sarah Peterson and her husband Keith Sellers to bring a message on a Sunday in the future. Anya also asked Jonas if he would be willing to teach a bread making class.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

Calling all Spokane Friends: Our Monthly Meeting for Business on June 18 will be important because we will be discussing the direction of the Meeting and appointing/confirming our Representatives to Yearly Meeting, and giving them our opinions on various matters, as this may aid them in discerning actions taken at YM. Please plan to attend.

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.

Letters from Friends

... From Becky Williams

I am settling into California well. I am enjoying the warm weather and being in the country where all you can hear are the birds singing and breezes through the olive trees. Yes, there is traffic but not as much as where I was living, because we are away from highways and freeways. My mom is doing well, and she continues to amaze me with her energy level.

The house on Regal had 5 offers in the first 48 hours on the market. We decided on the best one and it is going forward. So far so good. God's house and God's timing.

God has been gracious to me in providing good friends and even people I had not known to help me with this move. Here is my new address. My phone number remains the same.

5723 Oak St.
Anderson, CA 96007

Of course I miss friends in Spokane, but God was in this journey all the way. I look forward to hearing how Spokane Friends will move ahead. My prayers are with you as you listen to God's voice on how to make this meeting thrive once again, especially in reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of God's Grace, Becky

... From Nick Block

Here we are in Kennebunk, Maine. We unloaded the trucks into two large storage units and have spent the last five weeks with our daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons. In another five weeks, if all goes as planned, we should be closing on a house big enough to serve a multi-generational family. Along with seven bedrooms it has two full kitchens (in Africa, each wife gets her own cooking pot). You can google it ([82 Summer Street, Kennebunk, ME](#)). The plan is for us to reside in the farm house (dated to 1790) and the kids will be in the barn that has been made over into beautiful living space. Closing is scheduled for mid June after which that will be our new address.

Caleb, our oldest grandson, recently made last minute return visits to his top three choices of the colleges where he was accepted. He decided on Brown in Providence, Rhode Island. We might keep a bedroom for him in the farmhouse with us. His brother, next year a high school sophomore, will be in the barn with his parents. We will use the first floor for our primary living space and leave the bedrooms and bath rooms upstairs for guests.

Kennebunk is a very much a small village. One grocery store, two pharmacies, a Dunkin Donuts (as every cross roads in Maine boasts), a McDonald's (no other fast food place), an abundance of sea food/lobster restaurants (most just now opening up for the tourist season) and a post office. The people are pleasant and welcoming. Everything you might want is accessible in 15 to 30 minute drives on the turnpike. Watching the surf and walking the dogs on the beach is nice.

Nick

... From the Maroni's

Thank You



We just wanted to thank you all again for the shower Sunday, it was awesome! We feel so at home at Spokane Friends and appreciate all of the community's support as we care for Terri and Amberly. Have a great summer! Jon and Krista



And here are the twins -- can you tell which is which?

Caritas News from Kelsie Rowland

Happy Monday!

Our major June event is the **Caritas' Spring Yard Sale!**

It will occur on Saturday, June 24th 8am-3pm. Please plan to

- (1) Donate items in advance
- (2) Join the fun by setting up your own table for a flat \$10 donation to Caritas
- (3) Come and shop!

Preparations for the Yard Sale will be on Friday, June 23rd at 8 am.

New Hours!!

Starting Monday, June 5th, Caritas will have new hours! Here they are:

OPEN Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:30am-1:30pm

The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 3pm-6pm.

We are looking for volunteers willing to commit to the new Tuesday evening opportunity. We will open the doors to clients who otherwise cannot access our daytime options due to work, medical appointments, and transportation limitations. Duties would include welcoming clients, replenishing fresh product on our Table of Plenty, and closing procedures.

Join Caritas and Avista for a **Parking Lot Barbecue** on Wednesday, June 21. **Avista** always brings freebies for clients, volunteers, and visitors.

To get involved, contact Kelsie Rowland by calling 509-326-2249 or via e-mail manager@caritasoutreachministries.org.

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



Our 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 meeting/association?



EFM Undergoes Major Restructure

Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM) sent us a 6-page letter in May announcing that on Feb. 16-17 the Central Office in Colorado was closed and five employees were laid off. The plan is that future EFM office staff will be scattered across the various regions of Evangelical Friends Church - North America (EFC-NA) with no central physical office. During an interim period of about four months, contact information for EFM is efm@friendsmission.com

Phone: (303) 421-8100

Fax: (316) 267-0681

Mailing address: PO Box 771139, Wichita KA 67227

All seven pages from Executive Director Dan Cammack are posted on the hallway Bulletin Board.



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1612 W. Dalke Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205
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Email: spokanefriends@gmail.com
www.spokanefriends.com

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.

- Spokane Friends as they step into new roles of service, looking hopefully to the future.
- The five churches set off as part of a restructure of Northwest Yearly Meeting, and for the other Monthly Meetings who have until June 2018 to choose whether to stay in NWYM, join a new association, or become independent Meetings.
- Friends of families who are dealing with issues of life.
- 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