

# SPOKANEWORD

December

Twelfth Month

2017



**Spokane Friends**

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

[www.spokanefriends.com](http://www.spokanefriends.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**

## Third Sunday of the Month:

**Third Sunday is same  
schedule with the addition  
of Monthly Meeting at rise  
of worship, followed by  
a potluck meal.**

## THE CRATCHITS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

by Charles Dickens

Then up rose Mrs. Cratchit, Cratchit's wife, dressed but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons, assisted by Belinda Cratchit, second of her daughters, also brave in ribbons, while Master Peter Cratchit plunged a fork into the saucepan of potatoes. And now two smaller Cratchits, boy and girl, came tearing in, screaming that outside the baker's they had smelt the goose, and known it for their own.

"What has ever got your precious father, then?" said Mrs. Cratchit. "And your brother, Tiny Tim; and Martha warn't as late last Christmas Day by half an hour."

"Here's Martha, mother!" said a girl, appearing as she spoke.

"Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are!" said Mrs. Cratchit, kissing her a dozen times, and taking off her shawl and bonnet for her with officious zeal.

"We'd a deal of work to finish up last night," replied the girl, "and had to clear away this morning, Mother!"

"Well! Never mind so long as you are come," said Mrs. Cratchit. "Sit ye down before the fire, my dear, and have a warm, Lord bless ye!"

"No, no! There's father coming," cried the two young Cratchits, who were everywhere at once. "Hide, Martha, hide!"

So Martha hid herself, and in came little Bob, the father, with at least three feet of comforter, exclusive of the fringe, hanging down before him; and his threadbare clothes darned up and brushed, to look seasonable; and Tiny Tim upon his shoulder. Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame!

"Why, where's our Martha?" cried Bob Cratchit, looking round.

"Not coming," said Mrs. Cratchit.

"Not coming!" said Bob, with a sudden declension in his high spirits; for he had been Tim's blood horse all the way from church, and had come home rampant. "Not coming upon Christmas day!"

Martha didn't like to see him disappointed, if it were only in joke; so she came out prematurely from behind the closet door, and ran into his arms, while the two young Cratchits hustled Tiny Tim, and bore him off into the wash house, that he might hear the pudding singing in the copper.

"And how did little Tim behave?" asked Mrs. Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart's content.

"As good as gold," said Bob, "and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk and blind men see."

Bob's voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool beside the fire; and while Bob, turning up his cuffs as if, poor fellow, they were capable of being made more shabby-compounded some hot mixture in a jug with gin and lemons, and stirred it round and round and put it on the hob to simmer, Master Peter and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

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Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds, a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course: and in truth it was something like it in that house. Mrs. Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigor; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause as Mrs. Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast, but when she did, and when the long-expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried, "Hurrah!"

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavor, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by the apple sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows! But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Cratchit left the room alone -- too nervous to bear witnesses -- to take the pudding up, and bring it in.

Suppose it should not be done enough! Suppose it should break in turning out! Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back yard and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose, a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid! All sorts of horrors were supposed.

Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating house and a pastry cook's next door to that! That was the pudding. In half a minute Mrs. Cratchit entered-flushed, but smiling proudly-with the pudding, like a speckled cannon ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half a quartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.

Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. it would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.

At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire made up. 'Me compound in the jug being tasted and considered perfect, apples and oranges were put on the table, and a shovelful of chestnuts on the fire. Then all the Cratchit family drew round the hearth, in what Bob Cratchit called a circle, meaning half a one; and at Bob Cratchit's elbow stood the family display of glasstwo tumblers and a custard cup without a handle.

These held the hot stuff from the jug, however, as well as golden goblets would have done; and Bob served it out with beaming looks, while the chestnuts on the fire sputtered and cracked noisily. Then Bob proposed:

"A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!"

Which all the family re-echoed.

"God bless us everyone!" said Tiny Tim, the last of all.

Simple Living Works! is an all-volunteer educational organization "equipping people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly and celebrate responsibly." Used by permission. Creative Commons. For more ideas to simplify your life, visit [SimpleLivingWorks.org](http://SimpleLivingWorks.org). . . Most are timeless. Use them anytime."

### Fall Leadership Schedule

- ◆ Dec 3: Christmas Traditions: Carols
- ◆ Dec 10: Family Christmas Traditions
- ◆ Dec 17: A Christmas Musical Adventure
- ◆ Dec 24: Christmas Sunday --Lauri Clark-Strait
- ◆ Dec 31: The Most Meaningful Gift I Ever Gave

### Is God giving you a message for Spokane Friends?

If so, please contact one of the Elders or the Meeting Office and we will put you on the schedule for a Sunday morning Meeting for Worship

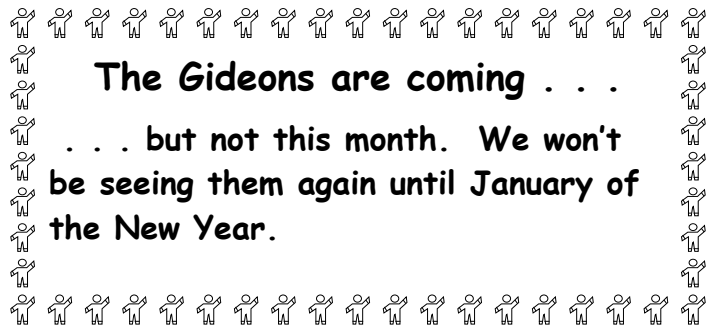


*Caritas passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Annual Inspection  
with flying colors!  
Way to go, Team!*



Thank you for always putting in your best work.  
We had zero issues and everything was in compliance.  
Let's keep it going for 2018!

*Thank you all for your vigilance and heart for this mission!  
We passed our inspection with perfect marks thanks to the  
dedication of Caritas volunteers.*



**The Gideons are coming . . .  
. . . but not this month. We won't  
be seeing them again until January of  
the New Year.**



*Christmas waves a magic  
wand over thir world, and  
behold, everything is  
softer and more b eautiful*

### News From Caritas

During the month of October, 2017, Caritas Outreach Ministries served **697 individuals**:

Children (0-18)	<b>246</b>
Adults (18-54)	<b>271</b>
Seniors (55 & over)	<b>180</b>

We served **279** households.

We distributed **10,332 lbs** of food through both our Bread Wall and our Food Bank. We had **58** volunteers putting in **578** hours.

Caritas celebrated its **25th Anniversary** with a birthday party on Wednesday, November 15, from 11 am to 2 pm. A lovely lunch was served, followed by various speakers representing clients, volunteers, our Operations Manager, Board Members and pastors. Then came the birthday cake!!

Caritas is sponsoring "Adopt a Family" as its Christmas Project. A church, class, or individual who wants to adopt a family will be given a list of family members, ages, and gift suggestions. The Caritas Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 - 1:00 at Spokane Friends Church.

### Caritas Needs

#### Food

- White beans
- Navy beans
- Great northern beans
- Syrup
- Peanut butter
- Canned fruit
- Meat—canned tuna and chicken
- Canned peas
- Pinto beans

#### Necessities

- Kleenex
- Toilet Paper



**Thank you so much!**

### Happy Thanksgiving!

Big THANK YOU to all of our CARITAS  
Supporting Churches  
& Volun- teers!!



### January thru October 2018

7,750 individuals in NW Spokane have been  
touched by your generosity  
4,481 volunteer hours logged  
131,721 pounds of food distributed  
\$6,979 in financial aid paid out to Avista and  
City of Spokane

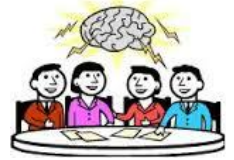
Thank you for partnering with this ministry to care for your neighbors in need. What an amazing community commitment to witness in action.

*2 Corinthians 9:11-12 "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many*



# MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

November 19, 2017



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 11 people were in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved with 2 corrections. 1) Lois Kieffaber and LeAnn Williams were unable to attend the Meeting at Eugene Friends to discuss the organization of the new SCYM. 2) Pam Emery agreed to change the border decorations on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Stewards & Trustees: They still need to present a policy for the use of the Spokane Friends Emergency Funds. Bill Emery will attend the next Caritas Board Meeting. Bill also took care of a heating issue on the main floor of the building by bleeding the air out of the lines. We thank Ben Larson, an arborist and member, for taking care of the outside grounds and trees. The community garden is being shut down for the winter.

Nominating Committee: The slate proposed for the 2017-8 Officers and Committees was approved (attached), with Bob Wiese as assistant presiding clerk until we hear from Jon Maroni about accepting that office. and waiting to hear from Krista Maroni about her becoming an Elder. Jonas Cox was approved for another year as Presiding Clerk.

Treasurer's report: Caritas is still paying \$350 a month instead of \$500 a month, which will become retroactive back to June 2017 as soon as the contract is finalized. No offering taken at the Gideon Meal has been given to any organization for the past 4 months. Pam Emery will look at the past offerings and give accordingly to the organizations that have not been given to. The list approved by the Meeting will be given to her to distribute funds going back 4 months for these.

Hospitality Committee: No report.

Education Committee: Several people would like to have a Bible or book study. The committee will talk to Randy Vigil and Jon Maroni and see if they have an interest in leading some type of series.

Elders: They will offer the option of receiving the Newsletter by email or continuing to get it by regular mail. They are still working on the letter to send to out of town members. They plan to offer an Advent Calendar for personal use. Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year. We have decided on 2 services, one in the morning with a prepared message and one in the evening with carols for worship. The elders will organize these. Anya Lawrence and others have offered to decorate the church before the first Sunday or Advent. \$200 for decorations was approved by the meeting.

New Business: We are looking at writing new queries to start in January 2018. We will start by thinking

1. What is the role of a Yearly Meeting in the life of the church?
2. How important is it to be affiliated with a Yearly Meeting?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of belonging to a Yearly Meeting or being independent?
4. What are your feelings about staying or leaving Northwest Yearly Meeting?.

With no further business and all hearts and minds clear, Anya Lawrence closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



**Q** Been attending Spokane Friends for long enough to become curious about Quakers? Think you **Q**  
**Q** might be a Quaker? If so, please talk to Jonas Cox, Pam Emery, Lois Kieffaber, Anya Lawrence, or **Q**  
**Q** Bob Wiese, who will be able to answer questions and help you begin the process of becoming re- **Q**  
**Q** corded as a member of Spokane Friends. **Q**





### 4 PROGRAMS, 1 PURPOSE



**RENTAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP**  
NEIGHBORS provides rental assistance and targeted case management for families in crisis situations.



**24/7 SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**  
OPEN DOORS is a crisis shelter: assessing families, connecting them to local resources, and providing food, supplies, and showers, all while keeping the whole family together!



**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM**  
BRIDGES partners with 40 local churches to help 3 families at a time get out of homelessness, with comprehensive case management.



**FAMILY MENTORING NETWORK**  
VILLAGE is an "aftercare" program - pairing volunteers with families, creating a "village" of support for formerly homeless families while they get back on their feet.

Open Doors averaged 71 guests during the day and 55 at night during September. We averaged 41 children every day and 31 each night. We also had 33 new guests stay in our shelter during the month.

Bridges averaged 15 guests during the day and at night during November at our partner churches this month.

### CELEBRATION OF HOPE



**Celebrating the One Year Anniversary of OPEN DOORS Emergency Family Shelter**

Join us from 11:00-12:00 pm on Wednesday, December 6 at 631 S. Richard Allen Court for birthday cake and light refreshments.



\*\*\*\*\*  
**IT IS TIME TO WINTERIZE**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Thanks to those who are preparing the Peace Garden for winter under the supervision of Linda Tuinsta, our resident gardener.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Many Thanks to our own "angels" who gave up an afternoon to decorate our Meeting House for Christmas. It looks lovely!  
 You are invited to bring an ornament or your own to add to the tree.



## Two Surveys

Two groups are seeking your input as they continue their work of visioning.

Northwest Yearly Meeting seeks feedback on five questions:

1. What do you see as our biggest challenges at this time?
2. If you could identify one change you think NWYM should consider what would it be and why?
3. What are the biggest questions you have about the future of NWYM?
4. What suggestions do you have for us as NWYM leadership that we should consider as we seek to discern God's path.

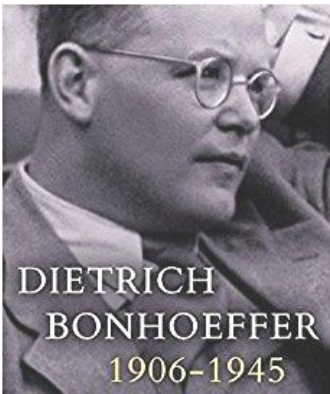
An outside consulting firm, Genysys, will use an electronic Organizational Questionnaire, and hopes for many responses from pastors, meeting leadership and attendees within NWYM. The results will be compiled and sent the NWYM Task Force for consideration, with no names attached unless the person gives permission. If you would like to take this survey, please send your name and email address to Linda Nixon or Lois Kieffaber.

**Input needed by Dec. 5th**

Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting also seeks feedback from currently active members and attendees of churches/meetings on two foundational questions in creating their new structure:

1. Why are we joining together in Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends instead of going our separate ways?
2. How should we make decisions together that affect the whole of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting?

This survey has been forwarded to you by email. If you want to take it but did not receive a copy, please contact the Church Office. **Input needed by Dec. 15th**



Did you know that Christmas was Dietrich Bonhoeffer's favorite celebration and time of year? He wrote many sermons and theological notes around Advent and the birth of Christ. In his book, *God is in the Manger*, Bonhoeffer says, "Through all the Advents of our life, we shall wait and look forward

with longing for that day of the Lord, when God says, 'I am making everything new!'"

## Current stories in Quaker News:

Silverton Friends announced its decision to fully welcome gender and sexual minorities who want to be part of the worshipping community. The congregation approved the following minute in a nearly three-hour business meeting on September 24: *We are a community that loves one another, yet even in our love we do not find ourselves in full agreement regarding all matters of human sexuality. Even so, as Silverton Friends walks the path of Jesus together, the LGBTQ+ community will be welcome to fully participate in the life of the Meeting.* Silverton Clerk of Elders John Pattison explained "this minute puts us outside NWYM Faith and Practice, which means, unfortunately, that we as a church have to make a decision in the coming months about whether or not to join the new yearly meeting or be an independent church."

Read more about these stories at [www.quakernews.com](http://www.quakernews.com) 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.

## SOME CHRISTMAS QUERIES FOR QUAKERS

What gives you stress and makes you lean away from the light of Christ?

What gives you joy and encourages you to lean close to the light of Christ?

What helps you focus on the real meaning of the season and the light of Christ shining in our world?

What really matters to you during the season of Advent/Christmas and how do you eliminate or reduce everything else?

How would you like to draw close to Christ during Advent and Christmas? What is one practice you could establish now to help accomplish that?

What steps do you need to take in order to protect your Sabbath day during the Advent/Christmas season?

What role does your worship community play in your celebration of Christmas?

How do you determine how much you will spend at Christmas?

What non-material gift do you want?

What does "peace and goodwill to all" mean to you?

You can re-experience any past Christmas. What year do you choose? Why?