

# SPOKANEWORD

*February*  
*Second Month*  
*2018*



**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

## Second Sunday of the Month:

After worship we gather for a  
Community Potluck Dinner .

## Third Sunday of the Month:

Monthly Meeting for  
Business will begin at rise of  
worship.

## **The Pool of Healing**

by Bob Bowman

The pool of Bethzatha, or Bethesda, was a place of healing. It seemed that every so often God would send an angel, a symbol of God's own presence, into that pool. The first to step into the God-stirred water would find healing. The story is found in the first verses of the Gospel of John, chapter 5.

For me, the pool of healing is the Sunday morning worship. Sometimes, not often but sometimes, it seems to me that an angel, or the very presence of God, has descended into the gathered sisters and brothers in our worship.

I'd like to say that it was the sermon. Or some special music or a moving hymn. But it is not that simple. The sermon can be excellent and the music emotional but the angel is not there. Even with the best of Sunday morning worship, we can never control the angel of God. Sometimes it is there; more often not. But when it is, shivers go up my spine and my breath comes short and I know that -- at least for a moment -- I am in the presence of the Holy.

That's what the crowd waited for at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. The blind, the lame, the weak, the disheartened, the chronically ill were all waiting for the angel of God. Jesus came by and his eye caught one man in particular.

At this point in the scripture story, I want to ask questions. Why one person? Why only one when the porticoes were crowded with people needing attention? "Why him and not me," I ask because it is easier than asking, "Why me and not them?"

I don't like the answers that come. The first temptation is to say that Jesus knew that this one man, of all the crowd, deserved it most. Or, if not "deserved it," then at least he was the one who was most needy. But that answer falters when I remember that the world I live in does not work that way. It is rare when the most deserving or the most needy gets the richest blessing.

It is also a temptation to say that it is simply a matter of chance. Some are chosen to be healed; others are not. I don't like that answer much, but it is one answer given in scripture. "The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong," says Ecclesiastes 9:11, "but time and chance happen to them all." Scripture also gives other answers, but perhaps some questions simply cannot be fully answered on this side of the Jordan.

The man whom Jesus saw had been ill for 38 years. We are not told the nature of the illness but, whatever it was, the man draws my sympathy. Presumably, he was no longer a young man. One has to wonder what effect 38 years of debilitating illness has on a personality. I have friends who have lived longer than that with a disability but who have lived lives of such abundant joy, optimism, love, and faith that their disability was eclipsed. On the other hand, I have known ones who have allowed their illness or disability to define them. I want to know more about the man whom Jesus saw.

Jesus asked him, "Do you want to get well?:" It is only three simple words in Greek. Surely it was obvious that the man wanted to be well; that is why he was there at the pool of Bethesda in the first place. Why did Jesus feel the need to ask?

Perhaps Jesus wanted the man to articulate his own need. It is not as easy as it sounds to name one's deepest need. Sometimes we think a different job, different location, or different spouse would solve all our problems. What would "being well" mean for this man? What would wellness look like for me?

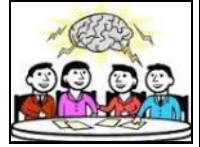
It is not too strange, then, that the man refuses to answer the question of Jesus. Instead he says, "Sir, I have no one. I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am making my way, someone else always steps in front of me."

That "I have no one" pierces my heart. Is it really possible that in his 38 years of illness there was not one friend, cousin, or neighbor whom he could count on? Was there truly no one? We remember one of God's first observations in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good that a person should  
(continued on next page)



# MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

## January 21, 2018



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 15 people were in attendance. The Minutes of the November 2017 meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Wade noted that we haven't been billed for snow removal at this time. The meeting decided to hold any further monies to NWYM for now. A big thank you to Wade for all his work.

Stewards & Trustees: We still need to come up with a policy on how the money in the Emergency fund will be allocated at the time of need. Thanks to Bill Emery for repairing the hall water fountain.

Nominating Committee: Jon Maroni has accepted the position as Assistant Presiding Clerk and Krista Maroni has accepted the position as an Elder.

Hospitality Committee: no report

Education Committee: We are planning to start an evening book group. We are looking at books suggested by Randy Vigil, Charlene Cox and others.

Peace with Justice: There is a meeting at St Marks of the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Elders: We are continuing to fill the Sunday pulpit with various speakers. We will continue having the Church Potluck on the second Sunday of the month after worship and Business Meeting on the third Sunday after worship. This keeps the afternoon from being as long as when both occurred on the same day. Lorraine Watson, former pastor here, will visit for a fact finding meeting with a dinner at Emery's home on Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding SCYM. She will bring the message at church on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: Dwight Kimberly from Reedwood Friends church will be joining us at some time during February to discuss the option of being an independent meeting and joining other independent churches into a possible association of churches. This would be separate from NWYM or SCYM. Our church will pay expenses for the visits of both Dwight and Lorraine.

Anya Lawrence and Lois Kieffaber would like to go to the SCYM Quarterly Meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> at Camas Friends Church. They will keep their receipts and the church will pay them accordingly.

Queries from the November Meeting: [See November Newsletter — we were asked to consider four queries regarding the advantages/disadvantages of belonging to a Yearly Meeting for discussion at our next Monthly Meeting.] Some of the points made during this discussion were as follows:

- Being part of a larger group can be helpful for larger projects than one Meeting can do alone.
- Gathering with Friends beyond our Meeting is an encouragement.
- A Yearly Meeting can encourage equality, and mitigate against an us-them mentality.
- We would need to abide by a Faith and Practice.
- Our current options are to become an Independent Meeting (with possible association with other such Meetings), join another Yearly Meeting (such as Sierra-Cascades, North Pacific, etc..), or remain within Northwest Yearly Meeting.

With no other new or old business and all hearts and minds clear, Lois Kieffaber dismissed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

## Note From Caritas

Here are the needs of Caritas this week:

### Necessities:

Antibacterial ointment  
Band aids  
Paper towels—single roll  
Tooth paste  
Toothbrush



### Foods:

Canned meats—tuna and chicken  
Pasta  
Canned fruit  
Peanut butter

**Volunteers:** We desperately need drivers to pick up food from grocery stores. Teams of 2 are good but we can use singles, too. [326-2249] Thank you.

## FOUR FRIENDS AND A FRIEND

Norman Pasche, Anya Lawrence, Lois Kieffaber, and Wade Schwartz were joined by Fyrne Bemiller (who worships with us occasionally) in attending the 2018 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on January 28, 2018. The theme of the Conference was “Framing Faithful Discourse for the Common Good”. In the morning workshops were given on Environmental Legislative Priorities, Impacts of Mass Incarceration on Communities of Color, Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline, Housing and Homelessness, Doctrine of Discovery and Implications for Issue for Tribes in the NW Today, and Faithful Response to Hate. In the afternoon the entire group got an overview of the Legislation which will come up during the current eight week session. During the breaks and lunchtime, there were almost 20 displays by local groups, from Aging and Long Term Care to World Relief and the YWCA.

Since one of the sponsors of the Conference was Faith Action Network (to which Spokane Friends belongs), we were able to have FAN's Co-Director, Dr. Paul Benz, speak at Spokane Friends on Sunday morning. The Fig Tree was also one of the sponsors of the Conference.

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**

## Oh, those Bulletin Bloopers. . .

“Thursday night — Potluck Supper: Prayer and medication to follow.”

“All the youth choirs of Our Redeemer have been disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.”

7:30 LENTEN SERVICE. The final Lenten Service theme is “Why Doesn't God Do Something?” with Pastor Meidlinger.”

On March 16th, the prayer group met at the home of Margaret Ressler, who is no longer able to attend church. What a blessing!”

Remember how Jesus compared the kingdom to a treasurer hidden in a field?”

Update on  
SB6555  
Hearing



Hey friends,

My daughter Bradyn and I had a great rainy day down in Olympia. I am grateful to Senator Padden and Senator Billig for co-sponsoring this bill to help us get a law passed that would allow us to continue to operate our shelters for Homeless Families in congregations in Spokane.

While it is too early to know exactly what will come of this bill, the word we are hearing is that it will move out of Committee.

**[The Bill that Steve Allen. Family Promise Director, was advocating for would allow Family Promise Guests to stay for short time periods in churches (like ours!) that do not have a sprinkler system. THANK YOU, STEVE!] If it passes, we will not be violating the Fire Code when we have**

Steve Allen representing Family Promise in Olympia



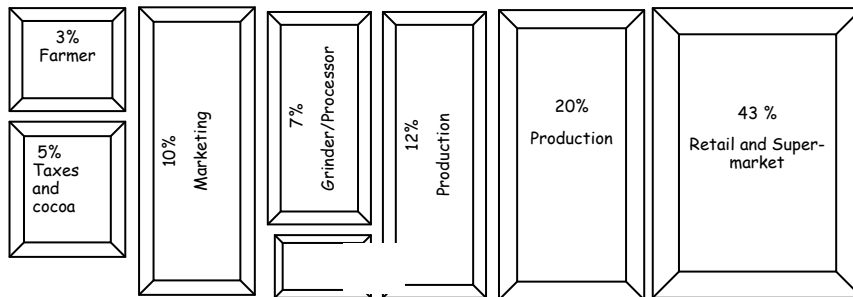


*Planning to give*  
**CHOCOLATE**  
*to your Valentine?*

You might want to consider fair trade chocolate as a more just and sustainable option. Although the global retail chocolate sales in 2014 totaled \$100 billion, very little of this goes to the farmers who grow cocoa.

Cocoa comes mostly from small family farms in the West African countries of Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Many farmers and workers earn less than \$1.25 per day.

This system is not working well and leads to bad labor practices and degradation of the environment, says Make Chocolate Fair: "Farmers stop investing in their farms, they cut salaries, cannot provide workers with proper working conditions, and in the worst cases are prone to use child labor" As many as 2.3 million children work on cocoa farms, are beaten regularly and cannot go to school.



One of the nonprofits that distribute fair trade chocolate is SERRV, an organization that has often had exhibits and products for sale and our Yearly Meeting sessions. SERRV works to make sure farmers and workers get a fair price for their cocoa, leading to better working conditions.

You can purchase fair trade chocolate and many other fair trade clothing and gifts at Kizuri here in Spokane at 35 W. Main St. (their

website is <https://kizurispokane.wordpress.com/> ) or shop on-line at SERRV's website <https://www.serrv.org/>

## And now for something completely different . . .

**Can a teal cowl heal HATRED IN AMERICA?** On August 12, 2017, three blocks from Magpie Knits in downtown Charlottesville, VA, thirty-two-year-old Heather Heyer was killed and nineteen others were injured when a white supremacist plowed his car into a crowd of people who were counterprotesting the Unite the Right rally going on that day. Later, two state troopers who had been monitoring the event from the air died when their helicopter crashed outside the city.

### The Teal Cowl

“We’ve all lived in this nirvana,” said Susan Bashline, co-owner with Blair Williamson of Magpie Knits, about the violence in Charlottesville. “We never thought anything like this could happen here. . . It was a slap in the face that this [hate] exists.”

One week after the protests, Magpie Knits hosted a knit in, providing free kits that allowed people to knit small teal stuffed hearts. More than fifty people showed up. With these teal hearts in mind, Bashline and a friend contacted designer Heather Zopetti about her Safe Harbor Cowl pattern featuring beginning cable and lace stitches that form hearts throughout the piece. North Light Fiber’s Atlantic, a 100 percent Falkland Islands merino, offered the perfect gauge and color for the project, Teal Inlet. Thus the Charlottesville: A Knitting Kit for Healing came about.

The kits include the pattern and two skeins of North Light Fiber’s Atlantic yarn in Teal Inlet.. Bashline explained that the perfect heart-motif with the perfect name showed up at the perfect time, and North Light Fibers had the perfect colorway. “It was kind of crazy,” she said.

Charlottesville: A Knitting Kit for Healing kits are \$70, and \$15 from every kit will be donated to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Founded in 1971, SPLC is a nonprofit advocacy organization that litigates for civil rights, exposes hate groups, and provides education about tolerance. [ **Ed:** *They also took on and bankrupted Richard Butler’s Aryan Nations, a white supremacy group in North Idaho, whose ideology was a mixture of Christian Identity and Nazism in north Idaho.*]

In announcing the kits last month, Magpie Knits posted this message on the shop’s Facebook page: “We believe that the act of knitting can help to heal wounds and sooth souls. After witnessing the retrogressive events of the summer of 2017, we are committed to act and make a difference. . . [by creating] this knitting kit that symbolizes moving forward with love and hope. We have no time to hate; we’re too busy knitting.”

To participate in the informal Magpie Knits Charlottesville knit-along and support the Southern Poverty Law Center, purchase a kit in Inlet Teal or another color from Magpie Knits (434-296-4625) or North Light Fibers (<http://shop.northlightfibers.com/charlottesville—a-knitting-kit-to-stop-the-hate-and-start-the-healing>).

The information above was condensed from an article by Leslie Petrovski in the magazine Interweave Knits, Spring 2018, that Sue Keehnen submitted as a possible end to our January Peace Month emphasis, along with a note that she would offer her time to those who don’t knit.

Susan Bashline (shop owner) and Wade the dog.

# February 2018



*Spokane Friends Meeting*

www.spokanefriends.com

Spokanefriends@gmail.com

327-7852

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		---		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	Caritas Hours Mon, Wed, Thurs 10 am-1 pm 326-2249	Birthdays and Anniversaries	FAMILY	<b>PROMISE</b> TOPS 5 PM Benno Foster	<b>GUESTS</b> 	
<b>4</b> Doors Open 9 am. Programmed meeting 10 am	<b>5</b> Caritas Board 5:30 pm <i>Judi Puckett</i>	<b>6</b> Gideon Meal	<b>7</b> Elders Mtg 5:00 pm <i>Nadine Asher</i>	<b>8 and</b> TOPS 5 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Doors Open 9 am ; Programmed meet- ing 10 am; Potluck Dinner 11 am <i>Krista Maroni</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <i>Mark &amp; Chris Hurd</i>	<b>15 Stewardship &amp; Trustees 5 pm</b> TOPS 5 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Gideons Busi- ness Meeting 10 am —3 pm
<b>18</b> Doors Open 9 am. Programmed meeting 10 am; Monthly Busi- ness Meeting 11 am	<b>19</b>  <i>Larry &amp; Carol Parker</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> TOPS 5 PM	<b>23</b> <i>Stan Robinson</i>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Doors Open 9 am Programmed meeting 10 am	<b>26</b> Caritas Board Meeting 6 pm <i>Terry Moore</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>			



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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.

- Those in the throes of moving households or negotiating divorce
- Friends with serious health issues and those who walk with them
- Those facing employment discrimination.
- 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.
- Victims of acts of terrorism in our country and abroad and their families.
- Openness of hearts and borders of our country to families displaced by war.
- Those whose lives are oppressed and are vulnerable to violence here and abroad.
- 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.*