# SPOKANEWORD

January First Month 2018



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

#### **A Remnant Remains**

by James E. Washington Sr.

"So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not!" Romans 11:1

I am a 73-year-old African-American man who grew up in east Texas. When I became old enough to makr sense out of what life means, it was the early 1950's. It didn't take long for me to learn what my place was in life, if I wanted to work and live.

I vividly remember the instruction of my mother, who would say, "When you go out, smile and say, Yes ma'am, and Yes sir." Then she would say, "This doesn't mean that they (white people) are more important or better than you. It just means you are being polite."

But I knew it meant more than that. When my mom was working for an older white woman, and I was working for her as well, the lady offered me food left over from their dinner a day or so ago. As she went to get it, my mom told me to smile and say thank you and to take it, even if I didn't want it. Later my mother told me that had I not taken the food, not only would I not have a job but she might have been fired.

I lived in an era when racism was overt, meaning that it was legal and even popular to openly call black people whatever names you desired, and to treat them any way you wanted. If a black person showed any sign of disapproval for being called names or being treated badly, it was legal for white people to take the black person and do whatever they wanted to.

In my early teens, it was illegal for me to go into a restaurant and order a hamburger. I had to go to the back door in the alley by the garbage can and ring a bell, and the cook would come out and see what I wanted. He would fix you a burger the way he wanted to, if he had time -- that is, if he was not busy waiting on white people in front. If he was busy, he would tell you to come back another time, or maybe another day.

One day I was on my way to the movies and stopped by to get a burger, but the cook was so rude to me that I don't remember what I did the rest of the day. Did I go to the movies? Or back home? To this day, I don't remember.

We couldn't drink out of the water fountains in the downtown because they were all marked for whites only. We had to go into the alley and drink out of a faucet that was usually by a garbage can. There was only one downtown bathroom, if it could be called that, for all the blacks to use, and there was never any toilet paper. You can imagine what condition it was in.

But my mother kept me and my brother grounded in the Word of God. She would say, "I want you to be strong. A strong person is someone who learns to love people who may not love them back."

She was quoting Jesus in Matthew 5:46: "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?" I didn't know it then, but the reward that we would get for loving unlovable people was not something that someone would give us; it was something that we gave to ourselves. It is called character.

**Then came the 1960s,** a time in history that was a problem for white people in the South, but brought hope to black people. Martin Luther King Jf. Started a movement, of which I was a part. Black people were standing up and openly saying, "I have the same right to live the way I want to live, just as white people"

I remember the 1960s as a difficult time to be a young black man living in the South. It was very difficult seeing some of my friends being locked up just because they were black and wanted to be treated like people, not animals. Some of them were killed. Yet I tried to hold onto that love my mother taught me. I watched as my brother became bitter, and I had to defend myself to him as to why I was not bitter. It wasn't easy. Many times I had to pray and ask God to forgive me when bitterness tried to invade my thinking. There were times when it seemed that hate had overcome me.

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I didn't know it then, but I know now that God demands that our sense of life becomes bigger than just us. As Paul puts it, "It is not I that live, but Christ that lives in me." By the late 1980's it seemed that things got better. The lifestyle of blacks in the South seemed to improve. We were not being called n--- on a daily basis, but we knew people whispered it under their breath. But we could live with that -- after all, you can't keep people from being who they really are. Only God can do that.

People white and black thought racism had gone away and was no longer a problme. It was in the mid-1990's that I discovered racism hadn't gone very far -- it had only changed. Now it showed itself in a different way. Earlier it was overt, or open, but now it was covert, secretive, and hidden. Even in the 1990's I knew that there were towns that I could not drive through at night. Whenever I went to a Church of the Brethren\*\* district board meeting, there was a town I would drive several miles to go around on my way back home.

In the mid-1990's the General Board of the Church of the Brethren called me to be part of an anti-racism awareness team. I quickly said yes, but all the time I was thinking, "What can they tell me that I don't already know?" After I was trained, my eyes were opened to a wealth of information about racism -- not so much about the impact and the pain of racism that I already knew, but about the whys and hows of it all. That's when I became a lifelong advocate of racial equality

The greatest eye-opener for me was to find out that racism isn't really about race at all, it is about color. All of us, black and white, have in our family backgrounds many races. If we are honest, we will admit that almost all of us in America are the product of interracial relationships.

White people and black people feel that they a right to live the way they want to live, and both are right. The problem is, if that involves not allowing other people to live the way they feel they have a right to, then the way you want to live is wrong.

I think we all agree that hate is a sin, and it seems to me that racism is a sin. What do we do with this problem of sin? If hate and racism are sin, then they are a cancer growing in humanity that needs to be cut out so that the body might be saved.

The shame is, there are many in the church today who are racist. Sometimes I feel that there is no hope for us if we keep believing and living the way we do. I read Romans 11:1-5 and, like Elijah, I wonder if I am the only one left who sees the injustice in the world and is saying something about it. God reminds me that I am not the only one, there are many more who are praying and believing that somehow God will bring things out all right.

Somebody say, "Amen!"

\*\* The Church of the Brethren is one of the three denominations [including Quaker and Mennonite] that have a peace testimony. They profess to take the New Testament as their creed.

James E. Washington Sr. is an ordained minister serving at Lake Breeze Church of the Brethren in Sheffield Lake, Ohio, as interim pastor. He also is is CEO of Washington and Brady Residential Services in Cleveland. Copyright Messenger magazine, all rights reserved, used by permission, link to http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2017/a-remanent-remains.html

### Leadership Schedule

- Jan 7: Epiphany Sunday, Anya Lawrence
- Jan 14 Letter from Birmingham Jail
- Jan 21 Peace between the Koreas?
- Jan 28 Just Mercy
- Feb 4 Lorraine Watson
- Lorraine Watson

# Something Newl

Who says that nothing ever changes around here? We are trying out something different for our monthly Community Potluck. Instead of having it after Monthly Meeting for Business (which sometimes makes for a long day), we will try having it on the **SECOND SUNDAY** of the month at 11:30 am. After a couple months trial, we will be polling you to see if this works better for you than trying to do it all on the same day.

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Q	Been attending Spokane Friends for long enough to become curious about Quakers? Think you might be a Quaker? If so, please talk to Jonas Cox, Pam Emery, Lois Kieffaber, Anya Lawrence, or	Q
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# MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES There was no Monthly Meeting in December



# The Gideons are coming!

On <u>Tuesday evening</u>, <u>January 9</u> (a week later than usual), our dependable Missions Committee Kitchen Team will be serving lasagna. The donation this month will go to Caritas. The sign-up sheet for our

faithful helpers awaits you in the hospitality area.

#### **Quaker News**

Eugene Friends Church is seeking applications for the position of Pastor, to fill a retirement-created vacancy.

Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends has received contributions totaling \$10,801.93 which carries us over the \$10,000 goal for 2017.

#### On the Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends calendar;

- Next quarterly gathering will be at Camas Friends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2018.
- Annual Sessions will be at Canby Grove Christian Center, May 18-20, 2018.

#### News from Caritas

Happy New Year!! First and Foremost, a big Thank you for your continued support and generous donations!

Here are the needs for Caritas this week:

#### Food:

Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Ham)
Canned Fruits
Juices
Juices
Syrup
Jams and Jellies
Pancake Mix
Raviolis

Top Ramen, Mac and Cheese.



#### Necessities:

Bandaids Anti-bacterial ointment

Shampoo Toilet paper Paper towels Laundry Soap

Thank you so much for all that you do!

Many Blessings from your Caritas Family

#### **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.

#### January is Peace Month



To love God, we are asked to love our neighbors as ourselves. You have probably heard the idea that our relationship with God is not only vertical (between us and God), it is also horizontal (depends on how we treat those around us). We can also say that our relationship with God is not only internal, but that our internal state of mind affects others and the way we relate to them. So in a way, taking care of ourselves spiritually, leaving space to experience the peace of Christ in our own hearts, is a gift to the world, and calls us out into the world in loving ways.

This week, think about what it means for us to love ourselves – the healing required from God in order for us to love ourselves healthily, and the way this contributes to both internal and external peace.

Romans 12 is one of my favorite chapters. It begins by sharing with us how we are to become transformed into the image of Christ internally, and then details relationships between ourselves and those with whom we live and worship. Then it speaks to us about our relationships with those outside our worshiping community. In each case we must come back to our own state of being, internally with God.

How is Christ calling you to be transformed into a New Creation?

Cherice Bock – adapted from the 2010 Daily Peace Reader

Spokane Friends will honor Peace Month 2018 by devoting the last three Sundays in



January to learning about various active but non-violent ways of working for peace in our communities.

## Letters from Friends

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Dear Friends, December 17

We wanted to thank you for the special monetary gift that was sent with my mother, Becky. She was such a big help with our kids and all the work we are doing here. We hope you are doing well. Thank you for your prayers. We trust you will have a great Christmas in remembering the birth of our Savior. We plan to use the money toward a holiday vacation to a nearby ski hill. The kids learned to ski last year and are anxious to go again this year.

Merry Christmas,

Jonathan, Carol, Eilam, and Myla



#### And a couple more "Thank-You" Notes:

From Friends Committee on National Legislation:

. We hold you in the light and are thankful to receive financial support of our work from Quaker meetings and churches across the country. Please extend our gratitude to members of Spokane Friends Church for the generous gift of \$200.00 which we received on 11/27/2017. . . Thank you for your prayers and partnership with FCNL to promote a more just and peaceful world.

From Russ and Carol Roeber on behalf of the Gideons:

Thank you so much for the kind and loving use of your church for our Business Meeting. God's work was accomplished to His glory and by your sacrifice. We love you all so much and your serving the Gideons for our regular meetings also.

# January 2018



# Spokane Friends Meeting www.spokanefriends.com

www.spokanefriends.com Spokanefriends@gmail.com

Sun	E 0	Tue	Wed	<b>Thu</b>	F	Sat
Birthdays and Anniversaries		2	3 Elders Mtg 5:00 pm	4 Milt Asher	<b>5</b> Pat Nickerson	•
7 Doors Open 9 am. Programmed meeting 10 am	8 Caritas Board	9 Gideon Meal	10	11 TOPS 5 PM	12	13
14 Doors Open 9 am. Programmed meeting 10 am	Martin Lunner King, Jr. Day	16	17 Elders Mtg 5:00 pm	18 Stewardship & Trustees 5 pm TOPS 5 PM	19	50
Doors Open 9 am. Programmed meeting 10 am; Monthly Business Meeting 11 am	22 Robbie Wiese	23	24 Keith Sellers	25 Robert Treptow	26	<b>58</b>
Doors Open 9 am Programmed meeting 10 am Kent and La Verne Biel	29	30	31	Mon, W	Caritas Hours Mon, Wed, Thurs 10 am-1 pm 326-2249	шd

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Email: spokanefriends@gmail.com

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Spokane Friends Meeting 1612 W. Dalke Avenue Spokane, WA 99205



<u>Holding in the Light</u>... 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.

- Friends with serious health issues and those who walk with them
- 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.

Donald Green, 1982

