

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 make 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."

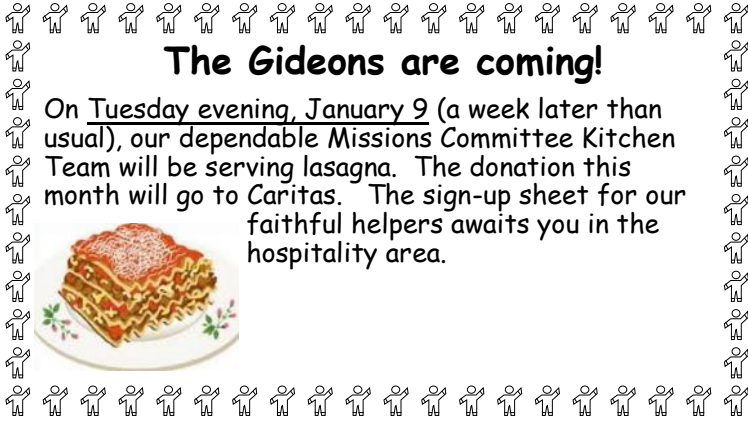
She was quoting Jesus in Matthew 5:46: "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?" I didn't know it then, but the reward that we would get for loving unlovable people was not something that someone would give us; it was something that we gave 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 Jr. 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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MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES
There was no Monthly Meeting in December



The Gideons are coming!

On Tuesday evening, January 9 (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) | Jams and Jellies |
| Canned Fruits | Pancake Mix |
| Juices | Raviolis |
| Syrup | Mac and Cheese. |
| Top Ramen, | |



Necessities:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Band-aids | 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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**Thank
You!!!**

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.



Spokane Friends Meeting

www.spokanefriends.com
Spokanefriends@gmail.com

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	1	2	3 Elders Mtg 5:00 pm	4 <i>Milt Asher</i>	5 <i>Pat Nickerson</i>	6
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	15  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 Elders Mtg 5:00 pm	18 Stewardship & Trustees 5 pm TOPS 5 PM	19	20
21 Doors Open 9 am. Programmed meeting 10 am; Monthly Business Meeting 11 am	22 <i>Robbie Wiese</i>	23	24 <i>Keith Sellers</i>	25 <i>Robert Treptow</i>	26	28
28 Doors Open 9 am Programmed meeting 10 am <i>Kent and LaVerne Biel</i>	29	30	31	Caritas Hours Mon, Wed, Thurs 10 am-1 pm 326-2249		



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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.

- 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