

SPOKANENWORD

December

Twelfth 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 begins at rise of
worship.**

Christmas Poems

by Famous Authors

This month we are sharing some Christmas poems written by famous authors, each with an unusual take on the traditional stories. Are any of them familiar to you? Which one is your favorite?

Journey of the Magi

By T. S. Eliot

"A cold coming we had of it.
Just the worst time of the year.
For a journey, and such a long journey
The ways deep and the weather sharp
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices.
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation,
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky.
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place, it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.



Source: <https://www.poetryarchive.org/poem/journey-magi>

Three Christmas Poems by Christina Georgina Rosetti



In the Bleak Mid-Winter

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Christmas Eve

**Christmas hath darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.**

**Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.**



A Christmas Carol

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cockcrow
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world His Hands had made
Born a Stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem,
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem:
Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass,
Kept a watch together,
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather

Jesus on His Mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Shepherd of the Fold:
Let us kneel with Mary Maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

Source of Rosetti poems: <https://markpallant.wordpress.com/2012/12/14/79/>

A Child of the Snows

By G. K. Chesterton

There is heard a hymn when the panes are dim,
And never before or again,
When the night are strong with a darkness long,
And the dark is alive with rain.

Never we know but in sleet and in snow,
The place where the great fires are,
That the midst of the earth is a raging mirth
And the heart of the earth a star.

And at night we win to the ancient inn
Where the child in the frost is furled,
We follow the feet where all souls meet
At the inn at the end of the world.

The gods lie dead where the leaves lie red,
For the flame of the sun is flown,
The gods lie cold where the leaves lie gold,
And a Child comes forth alone.

Source: <https://www.chesterton.org/a-child-of-the-snows/>



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 11 November 2018



The meeting was opened with prayer by Assistant Presiding Clerk, Jon Maroni. 11 people were in attendance. The Minutes from the October meeting were read and approved as read.

Old Business: The Alternatives to Violence Project (also known as AVP) mini workshop was well attended and we would like to have a full workshop possibly in January. This was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wade reports that we are doing well enough that we may want to consider putting \$3,000 into the Friends Foundation. This was approved. We need to complete an Insurance questionnaire. We may want to look into a different insurance company, and we need to take the pastor off the insurance form. Wade will try and figure out how much more our electricity bill has been since Caritas has been using our facility.

Stewards & Trustees Report: Bill let us know that he has talked with the owner of the trailer that is parked on Dalke. He is thinking he may be a good candidate for Family Promise. We may allow him to move it to our property so he can plug into one of our outdoor outlets to keep it from freezing.

Elders Report: The Elders are working on the upcoming Sunday schedule. On the 18th Pat Shemorry, who attended the ATV mini-workshop, will be speaking. Leann Williams will be bringing a message on the 25th. Mary Ann is no longer doing the janitorial work at the church. Lois has a friend that will be taking over and has been approved to work 2 hours twice a month, under the same conditions as Mary Ann. The office got a letter from someone at Airway Heights Correctional Facility who would like to have a penpal. Lois was asked to circulate the letter via email to the Meeting to see if anyone wishes to respond. A suggestion was brought to Elders by Bob Wiese that our outside property be a site for the Pokémon Go game. It is played via cell phone and there is no cost to us. This was approved. Lois said she will be out of the office and in California from 11/29 to 12/29, and Pam will be doing some part-time fill in while she is gone.

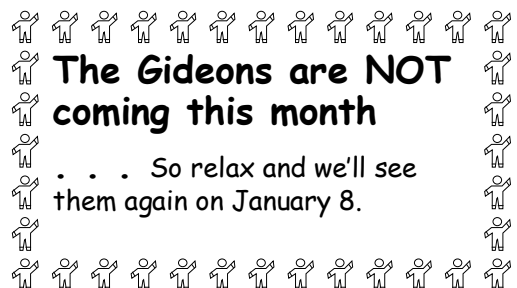
New Business: Church improvements were discussed. Those helping put up Christmas decorations on Saturday, December 1, are asked to look through the church and make a list of things that need attention. Voiced suggestions today are (1) reupholster the damaged church bench downstairs, (2) add a toilet seat cover to the toilet in the hallway bathroom (3) remove the urinal and replace toilets in both bathrooms downstairs and in the office, (4) remove the wallpaper in the ladies bathroom and re-do the walls. Bill is going to look into the costs for the work and see if it can be done without exceeding the amount of money he is able to spend without approval from the meeting. Lois or Wade will reach out to the speakers that have not yet cashed the honorarium checks they were given. Bill and Pam will try and attend the next Caritas Board meeting to bring up concerns.

With no other old or new business and all hearts are clear, Anya Lawrence closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk


Taizé Prayer During Advent
Thursdays at 4:15 pm, Dec. 6, 13, and 20.
We invite you to pray with us in the style of Taizé with music and silence.
The Ministry Institute (TMI)
405 E. Sinto, 2 blocks north of
St. Aloysius Church
We welcome you to this time of reflection and contemplation.


The Gideons are NOT coming this month
. . . So relax and we'll see them again on January 8.



Leann Williams Reports on Sierra-Cascades Quarterly Meeting

Bruce and I had the opportunity to attend the quarterly meeting of SCYMF [at Eugene Friends on October 20.] The morning started with worship through music. Dove John from North Seattle Friends presented, on behalf of the Equity and Inclusion Committee, material on the history of Europeans and Native American people. She included the ways that Quakers were complicit in the destruction of Native cultures. Most related to well-intended, though misguided, attempts to “educate” native children in European ways. She led an activity where she asked 9 out of ten people in the room to leave without explanation. When we returned, she explained those who left represented the 90% of Native peoples who were killed through sickness and warfare in a shockingly short time frame. We spent some time discerning ways to call ourselves to greater awareness of and relationship with the Native peoples in our areas. A place to begin might be to learn the history of the local tribes where we live and worship.

Sarah Hoggatt acted as clerk for the business session. She opened with sharing her dream that some day we as a yearly meeting might be of one of whom it is said, “See how they love each other!”

We received a financial report from Roger Watson. He reported that NWYM has acted with integrity in how they have allocated assets to SCYMF. Joanne Boswell reported for the Coordinating Committee. The focus of our discussions are on *Being* – *Who are we together?* in October (completed), *Doing* – *What are we called to do together?* in February, and *Joining* – *With whom do we affiliate?* in May at our Annual Sessions. In preparation for considering with whom will we affiliate, SCYMF is encouraging members to attend upcoming gatherings for Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and others.

Some questions were posed for us to “sit with” until Annual Sessions. They included: How do we handle membership requests from outside our region? What do we do with dual memberships? Do we have a calling to Friends from other regions to create a spiritual home that is LGBT welcoming and Christ Centered?

Eric Muhr reported for the Communications Committee. They have committed to support Quaker publishing entities financially (Western Friend, Friends Journal) and in disbursing information on publication opportunities for writers. They will also send representatives to the QUIP (Quakers Uniting in Publication) Conference in Canby, Oregon in March, 2019.

Jan Wood reported for the Nurture of Ministry committee. Becky Ankeny’s recording transfer was received. Jan explained that SCYMF is shifting the recording process to include all types of public ministry. Members of the committee are available to come and present the recording process to churches after Sunday meeting for worship beginning in January through April.

Norma Silliman reported for the People Care committee. They are emphasizing the importance of face-to-face visiting among Friends. To that end, a travel fund has been set up to assist in fostering a culture of visitation.

After lunch the discussion revolved around the question, “Who and what is God calling us to be?”

Here are a few snatches of conversations I recorded:

We are called to be at the table. Everyone is included. We need to figure who is not included and invite them.

Our actions reflect our joy. Life, belonging, and hope inspires loyalty.

We are attentive to God’s intention.

Can we find out what it means to be radically Christ centered?

Safety, freedom, and joyful energy connects us. We listen to the heart of another and accept them “as is”.

Our default is YES. We release, not grasp.

We are Christ Centered and therefore welcoming.

What are we willing to give up to include those who are missing?

There you have it! I found it life-giving to be with a group that clearly puts people and relationships foremost in their decisions [in distributing time and financial support] as we follow Christ together.



Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends

Request from the Nominating Committee of Sierra-Cascades YM: We are forming a task force to help the meetings hold threshing sessions around the question, “What is God calling us to do?” We will be discussing this at our next Area Gathering, February 16, 2019. We need volunteers for this task force. If you are interested, please send your name, contact information and home meeting or individual affiliation to nominating@scymf.org.

FAN's 2018 Annual Dinner - Spokane

On **Sunday, November 18, 2018**, Faith Action Network hosted its annual fundraising dinner at the beautiful **Glover Mansion**. It was an occasion to celebrate the victories of the past year, while continuing to move forward our dream for the common good. This dinner coincided with the dinner held in Renton, and it included a live stream of our speakers and the presentation of our annual awards to advocacy leaders. The pictures come from the Seattle Dinner. This is the first year that Spokane hosted an Annual Dinner simultaneously.



Rick Steves and Paul Benz

Our Nearly 480 people warmed the Renton Pavilion while 50 people gathered in Spokane for their first annual, simultaneous dinner. What a night of inspiration and beloved community! We are grateful to Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and travel author and TV host Rick Steves who rallied the crowd with courage for the kind of social change we can make together.

Congresswoman Jayapal spoke words of thanks for all gathered and Faith Action Network: *"Thank you for your strength in blowing forth the winds of change, from ripples to waves. And thank you for your moral certitude in difficult times. We will win!"*



Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal

Rick Steves reflected on his recent travels to Guatemala and Ethiopia, and he shared his encouragement for the advocacy work we do together: *"If we wanted to make our country greater than we could ever imagine, we would unleash the values in this room; we would turn the power of this great nation into these values... This is who we are--we care, we give, we can change the world. But we need to advocate. Advocacy is recognizing it's okay to get political with your faith values."*

The Dinner brought in donations of \$65,000, exceeding the challenge by Rick Steves' to match \$50,000.

Fig Tree Editor Mary Stamp was honored with the Interfaith Leadership Award in Spokane for 35 years of publishing *The Fig Tree* and bringing interfaith voices to the public square.



This space contained two cartoons about the Church and Technology.

The first showed Moses with the stone tables, saying to an Israelite, "I downloaded them from a cloud."

The second showed a pastor behind the pulpit, saying, "This week's sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed."