

SPOKANEWORD

November
Eleventh Month
2019

Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.com

Sunday Schedule:

Unprogrammed Worship

9:00—9:45 am

Programmed Worship

10:00 am.

Fellowship 11:00 am

Third Sunday of the Month:

Monthly Meeting for

Business begins at rise of

worship.

Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church

By Dana Cassell

Is your pastor multivocational?

What exactly *is* multivocational ministry? The term “bivocational pastor,” meaning someone who serves part-time as a pastor, in addition to another paid job, might be more familiar. Many pastors do serve bivocationally; there are pastors who also work as teachers, farmers, lawyers, chaplains, and government employees.

But multivocational pastors don’t necessarily have a second job, which is why the term “bivocational” doesn’t quite fit this group. Some multivocational pastors work in part-time congregational roles while also living out their callings as partners and parents, or caring for their aging parents. Some pastors work part-time in congregational roles even though they have officially retired, some serve in part-time positions without additional income, others serve as volunteer ministers or as part of a pastoral team. There are pastors who intentionally work in part-time roles in order to share their time and energy volunteering in local and international mission. In many smaller denominations, “multivocational” ministry covers an impressive range of situations, and it is the norm — not the exception.

For over 200 years of our tradition’s existence, paid professional full-time ministry was antithetical to Quaker practice. Non-programmed meetings have continued to practice this kind of ministry straight through to the present. A groups of elders leads the church and performs pastoral functions. When one elder becomes unable to lead any longer, the meeting calls another member to fill the vacancy. All these ministers are volunteers who pay their bills and support their families through work outside the church.

Even though programmed meetings do usually compensate their pastors today, we seem to have returned to our historical roots of more creative and collaborative pastoral ministry. What does creative and collaborative ministry look like?

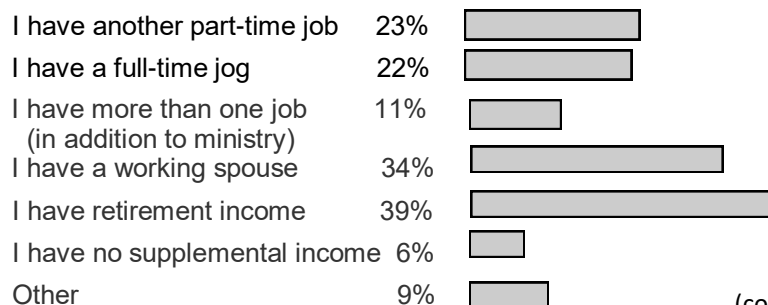
Today, it looks like married couples filling a single pastoral position together. It looks like teams of ministers sharing the work of preaching and pastoral care. It looks like pastors whose contracts include preaching three Sundays of the month, with the meeting inviting a member to preach on the fourth. It looks like pastors who are also public school teachers, hospital chaplains, accountants, and graduate students. It looks like pastors who serve in a meeting for 10 months of the year, then serving in international mission while other members fill pastoral roles during the other two.

Multivocational ministry is a gift to the church; it allows pastors to be deeply invested in communities as well as congregations, invites and involves the whole church in ministry, and demands that our theology of a priesthood of all believers be put into practice.

One small denomination* conducted a large-scale professional survey of all the multivocational pastors in the denominations. Some of the results were to be expected (multivocational pastors are often serving small, rural, older congregations), but others were not (despite an assumption that multivocational ministers feel especially isolated, survey results found that these pastors are more deeply invested in their families and communities than full-time pastors might be).

The survey tried to get a picture of who these pastors are demographically. The results revealed that 76% of respondents are age 55 or older and 87% are married. Thirty-three percent of multivocational pastors are female, and 77% are male. Interestingly, over 12 percent of pastors responding to the survey do not have access to fast Internet connections.

Where do they earn the rest of their income?



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Most revealing, however, was the most common answer to the question about supplemental income. Thirty nine percent reported that they supplemented their earnings with retirement income, underscoring how many multivocational pastors are old enough to be retired.

Also interesting is the picture of congregational life reported in the survey. Most multivocational pastors are ministering to small, older congregations. Fewer than one in three reported average attendance higher than 50, and more than half said their congregation was "mostly middle-aged and elderly members with very few teens or children."

Multivocational pastors, by and large, love their work and their congregations. But they are clear in their responses to this survey and in informal conversations that, in order for a pastor's position to be part-time, a congregation must take responsibility for ministry, too. The working group heard stories from pastors about congregations who expect them to do everything a full-time pastor would be expected to do, just for much less money. Others wondered if there were resources to help congregations be more active in worship planning and leadership. Overwhelmingly, multivocational pastors are saying that in order to make part-time pastoral ministry work, congregations must be deeply invested in mutuality of ministry, sharing the load and clearly defining who is responsible for what.

One multivocational part-time pastor in Virginia offered a summary of this need: in order to hire a part-time pastor, she said, you have to have a full-time congregation. **In other words, a congregation that calls a part-time pastor must already be fully invested and active in the work of the church, willing to care for one another, help plan and lead worship, and tend to the administrative details of congregational life. The characterization of this cooperation can be called Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church.**

It is exciting to think about all the creative and collaborative ways that pastors and congregations are working together in mutual ministry, and to connect today's practices to our own historical roots. It is an opportunity for all of us to learn together, the best ways to continue calling, supporting, equipping, and sustaining the pastoral leaders our congregations need to thrive.

So, is your pastor multivocational? It's very likely that your answer is yes. Now, isn't that exciting?

Certainly for Spokane Friends, the answer to the above question is yes.

Queries: How does Spokane Friends measure up to the description given in bold type above?

In what other ways might we be creative in being a "full-time church?"

* The Church of the Brethren, which is one of the three historic peace churches, alongside the Mennonites and Quakers. The approximate sizes of these denominations are Mennonites: 2.1 million; Quakers 0.4 million; Church of the Brethren: 0.3 million.

[Note: Dana Cassell is the pastor of Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren in Durham, N.C. The information above is based almost entirely on her article in a recent issue of *Messenger*, a Church of the Brethren publication. Copyright Messenger magazine, all rights reserved, link to <http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2019/part-time-pastor-full-time>

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in ways to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

God is like. BAYER ASPIRIN He works miracles.	God is like. SCOTCH TAPE You can't see Him, but you know He's there.	God is like. A FORD He's got a better idea..	God is like . The U.S. POST OFFICE Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.
God is like. COKE He's the real thing.	God is like. ALLSTATE You're in good hands with Him.	God is like. HALLMARK CARDS He cares enough to send His very best.	God is like. B o u n t y . . . He is the quicker picker upper. . Can handle the tough jobs. .. And He won't fall apart on you
God is like. TIDE He gets the stains out others leave behind.	God is like. DIAL SOAP Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?	God is like. ALKA-SELTZER Try Him, you'll like Him	God is like.. DELTA He's ready when you are.
God is like. WAL-MART He has everything.	God is like Maxwell House Good to the very last drop	God is like. VO-5 Hair Spray. He holds through all kinds of weather	God God is like. GENERAL ELECTRIC He brings good things to life.

News from Caritas

Here are the Service Reports from September 2019:

Individuals served	778
Households served	298
Children (0-18)	262
Adults (18-54)	317
Seniors (55 & over)	250

Lbs of food distributed from
Table of Plenty & Food Pantry 15,491

Emergency utility assistance \$ 625.59

Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies \$ 467.00

Fuel Vouchers \$ 30

Bus Passes 3

Number of Volunteers 45

Volunteer Hours 696

Caritas was recently featured in the Spokesman Review for our Little Free Pantry Project (link below). If you are interested in planting a pantry but don't know where to start, Caritas can help you get organized. We are committed to serving our neighbors in NW Spokane and connecting the food insecure with resources for a better future.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Kelsie Rowland

Operations Manager

Caritas Outreach Ministries



A Note From Jeremy Street



I have a friend in prison serving a life sentence for a hate crime. If you are interested in how a sane and morally well developed person might end up committing a hate crime, you can listen to him explain this in an interview. Go to Criminal Perspective at the website below, go down to the October 1 interview - you may need to press the Load More Episodes button.

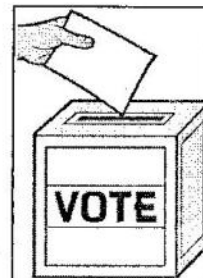


<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/podcasts-from-the-past/criminal-perspective>

Action Alert from FCNL*

Participating in our democracy takes many forms. During election season, there are many opportunities to make a difference before you vote on election day, e.g., asking questions at town meetings. But voting is the most fundamental way to be involved and make a difference. Commit today to vote on Nov. 6 (or before).

* Friends Committee on National Legislation



Early Christmas Shopping?



Supporting Fair Trade for 31 years

Join the celebration of
Fairly Traded Handcrafts
from around the world

Friday, November 8, Saturday, November 9
10 am - 7 pm & 9 am - 4 pm

First Presbyterian Church | 318 S. Cedar
(located at the Maple St. exit from I-90, downtown Spokane)

For more information, visit www.spokanefpc.org

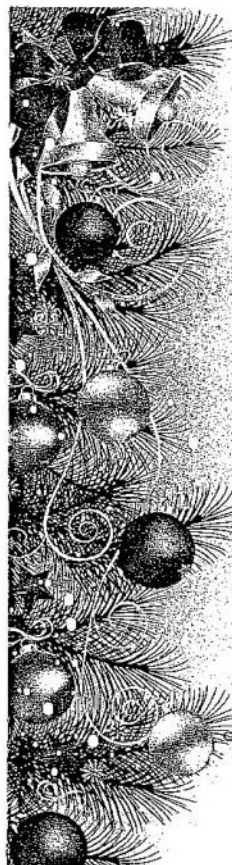
FREE Christmas HANDBELL CONCERT BY BellaCristo

2 pm Sat, December 7
at Audubon Park United
Methodist Church

3908 N. Driscoll Blvd, Spokane, WA
(Corner of Garland & Driscoll)

COME ENJOY HOLIDAY CAROLS & SELECTIONS FROM
AROUND THE WORLD: FRANCE, RUSSIA, UKRAINE,
GREAT BRITAIN, CARIBBEAN ISLANDS, AMERICA & MORE!
BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS FOR A MUSICAL
CHRISTMAS TREAT!

FREE WILL DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 20 October 2019



The meeting was opened by Assistant Presiding Clerk Jon Maroni. Paul Blankenship offered a prayer. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved with one correction. The class that Paul would like to take is not about Quakers but would be studying for a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. He is waiting to hear if he has been accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Wade Schwartz said he is gearing up for the end-of-year reporting. He found out he has to classify the paid staff as regular employees, not reported as a contract employee with a 1099 form for taxes. There is also a way to take out for housing allowance before taxes. Due to his busy schedule he has been unable to look at the costs that Caritas generates. He is hoping to end his time as treasurer soon and the church is currently looking for a replacement.

Elder's Report: The Sunday messages have been critiqued. While Deborah was here, she offered many suggestions for changes and those are being considered. We ask that Caritas be removed from our giving out of the Missions donation schedule. The meeting approved putting the Fig Tree in its place. Peace month is January and we are looking at various guest speakers. We would like to come up with a new statement for the front of the bulletin. We will continue with the current Sunday morning schedule until the first of the year. The greeters need to be aware that they are responsible to be at the church by 8:45 and stay through both services. If they are unable to do that, they could try and find a replacement or notify one of the Elders. The ad hoc committee of Pam Emery, Jon Maroni and Josh West need to get together with Ethan Moon regarding updating our website. Pam asked Sarah Peterson if she would be a consultant to help Ethan as needed. She agreed with this.

Stewards and Trustees Report: No report today

Pastor's Report: Paul met with the Spokane Coordinator for Friends Action Network (FAN) and would like to have more involvement with them. Paul has written an article for Faith and Values (FAV'S); it was about Quaker Perspectives on Peace. He continues his visits and book reading with Sue Keehnen.

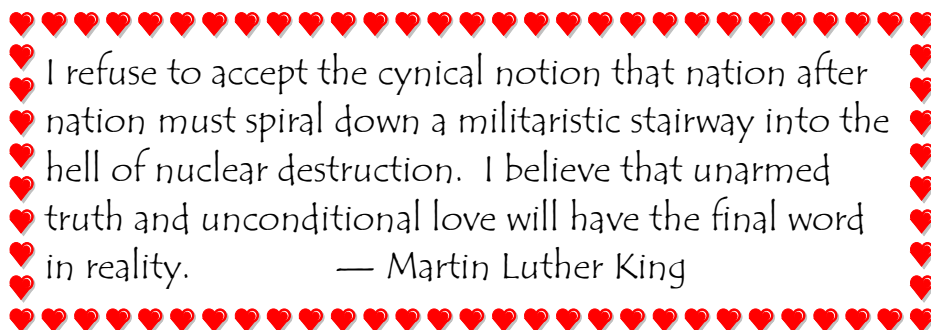
New Business:

1. We would like to see if Paul could incorporate into a message concerns about our stewardship and/or financial responsibility to this church gathering. Tithes and Offerings are two different things.*
2. NA – Narcotics Anonymous have asked if they could use our facility for about 12 hours on Thanksgiving Day. This was approved.

With no further old or new business and all hearts and minds were clear the meeting was dismissed in prayer by Krista Maroni.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

*[The tithes is 10% of one's economic wealth, commanded of Old Testament Israelites, and supported functions of both government and religion (Levites). The New Testament does not mention tithing; rather it asks us to "give cheerfully". Quakers have never emphasized tithing and refer to offerings instead.]



I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear destruction. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. — Martin Luther King

Sunday Leadership Schedule	
Please tell an Elder when you would like to take a turn.	
Nov 3	Paul Blankenship
Nov 10	Gary Jewell
Nov 17	Paul Blankenship
Dec 15	Ruthie Tippin
Dec 22	Derek Taylor

Quaker News

Sierra-Cascades Quarterly Gathering this winter will be at on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, at **Silverton Friends Church** – 229 Eureka Ave, Silverton, OR 97381. More information to come.

The doors are open for **Way of the Spirit** 2020, with a new distance learning option for far flung participants. **Way of the Spirit** is an 18-month retreat and learning program for spiritual deepening from the wisdom of Quaker spirituality. Details: <https://goodnewsassoc.org/spirit/>

Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries is happy to announce the return of the **Deeper Roots** program. A group of committed Friends will take a “deep dive” into the history of our Quaker faith, a Quaker perspective on the Bible and how to benefit from it, sampling spiritual practices and disciplines valuable to Friends, and building authentic spiritual community. Four long weekend residencies over 18 months, beginning 9/10-13, 2020, at **Ben Lomond Quaker Center** in California. For more information, visit Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries at bvqministries.org

Branching Out



BEYOND 35 YEARS

Give The Fig Tree a boost beyond regular gifts as sponsors and at benefits
Your gift will be **doubled**
by a **\$17,000 matching gift!**

As our 35th year ends and our next 35 begin—
The Fig Tree seeks to raise
\$35,000 in 35 days
from Oct. 24 to Nov. 27

to enrich our roots
to add staff, financial & online resources

to grow new branches
to reach new people

to bear more fruit
to share more life-transforming stories

535-1813 • thefigtree.org/donate.html
The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane, WA 99202

Note: Sue Keehnen is a long-time member, friend, Friend (and supplier of the hospitality table with baked goods!) who is recovering at ManorCare Health Services from chemo and radiation treatments. Contributions from Sue to the Newsletter help us feel more in touch.]

Sue's Corner

The sun is now lower in the sky; I'm viewing winter with mixed feelings this year.

The book I've just finished reading is **RED JOAN** by Jenny Rooney. (The movie starring Judi Dench has recently come out.) The story is loosely based on the life of Melita Norwood. Joan is a physics graduate of Cambridge University during WWII. She is befriended by two communists during her time at school and becomes a communist sympathizer.



The story begins with MI5 knocking at the door of 85-year-old Joan, accusing her of leaking secrets to the Soviets for 40 years. Through the interplay of current questioning dredging up memories of the past, we learn about how and why Joan did what she did: from the shock of learning that her top secret lab work is part of a frantic race to develop the Bomb to her horror that two were actually used.

Part of me sympathized with her. Another part wanted her to resist what I viewed as manipulation by two people who worked their way into her life. I also question why, after 40 years, the government feels so justified in prosecuting an old lady. There was no hint that she continued passing secrets after a point in time. Perhaps they need to whitewash the fact that many university professors and men in government did the same thing but many of them have since died or are otherwise untouchable.

Sue

ANOTHER CHANGE FOR YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT GOTTEN ONE YET AND WOULD LIKE A COPY.

Several corrections appeared in last month's Newsletter, and we will continue to print them here, so you can update your own Directory appropriately.

Don and Lorna Hyslop's mailing address is still incorrect. The P.O. Box is 613 (not 6131) and the zip code needs to have one of its zeros deleted: 99029.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE IF AND WHEN THERE ARE OTHER CORRECTIONS TO YOUR INFORMATION. THANK YOU!