

# SPOKANENWORD

*August*  
**2021**



**Spokane Friends**  
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**Sunday Schedule**  
during  
Covid-19 Restrictions

**Morning Worship**  
10:00 am

**At Meeting House**  
And Via Zoom

See Website For Link

## Talk Less, Do More

by J. Jondhi Harrell

Are Friends really addressing issues of poverty in our communities? This is a painful question. What does it mean for Friends to address these issues? Is it enough to form mass incarceration committees or to sit in on Peace and Social Justice Committees once a month? Does forming reading groups to discuss *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander mean that these issues are being addressed?

The answers are disconcerting; they bring up so many more questions.

So what does it mean to really get out of your comfort zone, to make friendships and alliances with others of a different class and race? How many Friends form necessary relationships to make a meaningful impact? How many Quaker schools are extending life-changing education to students from impoverished neighborhoods? How many yearly meetings are truly impacting communities hit hardest by poverty?

Asking such questions goes to the heart of what it means to be a Friend: to talk less, do more, and truly live the principles of Quakerism.

The poverty afflicting communities of color goes back centuries. It is a disease which began in racist thought and instincts and thrives in a system of white privilege that has been the hallmark of the dominant culture since this land was first colonized.

Mass incarceration has its roots in the post-slavery oppression of African Americans. Racism and economic oppression have long been intertwined, used as a tool in our society to control the lives of millions of its darker citizens. In communities of color across the United States, entrenched economic barriers and second-class citizenship have led to two separate, unequal societies. They have created a chasm between the wealthy few and the utter despair of the many. If Quakers are to be relevant in this time, they must learn to answer the painful questions. If they are to involve themselves in the critical issues of our time, they must make a true commitment.

What should be the criteria for judging the effectiveness of our strategies for addressing poverty in our communities? The following might be considered:

- a meeting helping ten African American families out of poverty
- a Friends school enrolling students from families who cannot afford a Quaker education
- a Quaker organization, such as American Friends Service Committee, allying itself with and funding grassroots organizations fighting poverty
- yearly meetings investing in the communities in which they live

In the last two years, I have heard many impressive speeches at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's annual sessions. I have been enthralled by the flow of progressive dialogue that seemed to cut to the heart of what needs to be done to tackle devastating issues. I have sat in a conference at Arch Street Meeting House that was devoted to overcoming racism. There were calls to use portions of Quaker endowment funds to invest in community green projects that would benefit those neighborhoods.

I have participated in conferences to support the ministries of Friends engaged in community work. One young Quaker of color gave a presentation that was both memorable and powerful. He said, "It should not be what Friends invest in, but whom they invest in!" He harkened back to a time when people invested in their own neighborhood: in those they knew and wanted to see succeed. That is the only way to truly build a community.

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It seemed as if I could hear the voices of Quakers past, their spirits floating above us. I have listened to ministry that rises out of the silence from Friends whose hearts are filled with caring and who want to do the work necessary of building.

But the reality remains a simple one: to address issues of poverty, we need more than a moral commitment and more than Sunday messages, evening committees, and endless talk. Poverty will not be allayed by theory or pretty words. It needs financial resources if it is ever to go away. The suffering in our neighborhood grinds on each day; in meetings and churches, the devout still ponder.

Poverty is not a therapy session: one cannot talk one's way out of it. And after some time, the endless words begin to ring hollow.

It is true that Quaker actions are rooted in consensus, and therefore the meeting moves slowly. But suffering doesn't. It is time that Quakers come together to support not just concepts and ideas but real and tangible things: economic proposals, green technology, funding for small businesses, entrepreneurship that empowers families and strengthens communities, creative projects that will actually change the way hundreds of families within a 20-block area think and live.

Such work is not impossible. It has been done and is now on-going. There are neighborhoods we can look at—communities undergoing vibrant changes due to well-financed programs—succeeding in places that are not far away. Then why are we still waiting?

Failing to address poverty in meaningful ways is to give lip service to our conscience, so that we can better ignore it. It is to use Quaker principles and thought as mere decoration. It is akin to driving through poor neighborhoods with our windows and sensitivity rolled up tightly, while trying to think right thoughts.

It is not enough to acknowledge white privilege. It is not enough to discuss poverty in the abstract; that is just another form of denial. As Quakers we must live our principles. We must reach out with our hands, because in the end, it is only our actions that will define who we truly are.

J. Jondhi Harrell is a writer, public speaker, community activist and organizer. After serving 25 years in federal custody, he founded the Center for Returning Citizens to help formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into the community. He is a member of Germantown Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, and co-clerk of the meeting's Peace and social Justice Committee. **Copyright: Friends Journal, all rights reserved, link to <https://www.friendsjournal.org/talk-less-do-more/>**

## QuEST in Seattle seeks Fellows for its 2021-2022 cohort

QuEST is a Quaker-sponsored service year fellowship in Seattle providing **recent college graduates and other young adults with professional nonprofit experience, an intentional residential community, and opportunities for training and reflection.**

QuEST Fellows are matched with one of our partner agencies in full-time year-long positions. The six Fellows live together in a shared house in Seattle's University District and they are provided room and board, a personal stipend, transportation and health care funds, mentorship and training, and student loan support.

QuEST has two open placements in our incoming cohort: Community Organizing Fellow at the [Housing Alliance Action Fund](#) Washington and Radical Hospitality Coordinator at [Recovery Cafe](#). For more information about QuEST and to download an application, visit <https://quest-seattle.org/apply/>. Full placement descriptions can be downloaded <https://quest-seattle.org/current-placements/>, Email Promise Partner, Program Director, with questions: [director@quest-seattle.org](mailto:director@quest-seattle.org). Applications will be considered as they are received until the placements are filled. The program year runs August 26, 2021, to August 13, 2022.

Perhaps you know someone who might benefit from this opportunity.

### July Sunday Morning Schedule

July 4	Queries on Freedom
July 11	Sarah Scott
July 18	Sarah Scott
July 25	Lectio Divina Experience



### August Sunday Morning Schedule

Aug 1	Deborah Suess
Aug 8	John Kinney
Aug 16	Karen McConaughy
Aug 23	Johan Maurer
Aug 30	Johan Maurer

# CATHEDRAL BELLS

*...the art of giving*

by A. Friend

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in," thought Robert Frost. Home for some undernourished and dissipated souls in our city is a doorway hovel, perhaps a dormitory bed, an unhappy aspect of Spokane's reality, although an impressive number of regional institutions are trying to address this problem, who in principle offer concern and charity to ease social burdens.

It's fortunate locally that there are established public agencies such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, VA and Catholic Charities etc., who have risen to current reality and serve serious local issues with grace and an open heart.

For overview, "...charity is the highest form of love" \*, considered reciprocal between God and us, well-thought-out unselfish giving. Take focus on Catholic Charities, with respect for other service agencies, for they openly attend our community, presumably inspired by the teaching: "It's better to give than to receive."\*\*

There's a park bench on Riverside Parkway, donated in memory of Vincent Shat, who sustains connection to our community. His contribution faces the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. The parkway pew is a pleasing two-seater, under shade trees, when at eventide as the passing sun light highlights the facade of the Cathedral, an impressive landmark in the City of Spokane, the image elevates one to meditate in view of iconic representations of Catholic faith. If whimsy counts, at so sensitive a moment, it's easy to think that each brick that houses the Cathedral represents the faithful, serving the greater community.

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington is a vital institution, one that served over 74,000 people last year. For a full understanding of the depth of their administrated charitable service, go to <https://www.cceasternwa.org/>.

It's been said that charitable donations provide a feeling of happiness. This was recently proven as Catholic contributors, joyful and involved, who gathered for an impressive celebration at Arbor Crest Winery in early June 2021, to rejoice in their faith-based support of critical community issues; donations accepted.

As an aside, while reflecting on our humanity and considering the needs and function of charity at a time given to misgivings as the nation is critically divided, a recent editorial in the New York Times makes a point: "It's hard to imagine a more alarming sign of a society's well-being than an inability to keep its citizens alive." If there is ever a time in recent American history to consider principle as a starting point for healing wounds in a deeply divided nation, it's now.

It's fortunate when anticipating population growth in our region, that there are agencies that do not look away from the less fortunate when applying guides for respecting a deserved communal humanity; they are positive examples as regards a nation that theoretically serves its people.

Doubt is a conspiracy that defeats reason. Hope a building block, the foundation of our communities' future, held in place one brick at a time. Charity is the grace of compassion that rewards our more noble aspects. Cathedral bells ring a message of faith, hope and charity: *"Send not to know for*

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES  
17 July 2021



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 10 people were in attendance.

**The minutes from the June meeting were read and approved as read.**

Nominating Committee Report: The new slate of clerks and members of committees were approved. (See below)

Treasurer's Report: No new report at this time.

Elders Report: Sunday messages were reviewed and new messages have been scheduled. We are looking at various options to see if the congregation should remain unpaired with anyone or look into joining Friends United Meeting, Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting or return to Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Stewards & Trustees Report: The carpet squares for the foyer and hallway will be here on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The shed in the back has been placed back on its foundation. We are getting two estimates from contractors concerning the repairs to the two restrooms downstairs. We will be talking to Caritas about giving us another \$750 to complete the carpet.

Laverne Biel reported on the Gideon Meal. We served 25 people. A donation of \$476 was received of which \$53.75 was for expenses. \$422.25 went to See the Need and \$40 went to the general fund.

**Sharing the Light** – The book, *Living the Quaker Way*, has arrived.

**Congregational Care** – Notes have been sent out to various people in our congregation.

**Serving the Community** – Jonas Cox has been in touch with World Relief.

We approved raising the “See the Need” distribution to \$100 every other week.

We will continue giving to our missionaries that we have supported before under Sharing the Light.

With no other business and all hearts and minds clear, Lois Kieffaber dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

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**Spokane Friends Slate of Officers and Committee Members**  
.....

Krista  
Maroni —

1 year

Jonas Cox (*ex officio* as Presiding Clerk)

• Presiding Clerk: Jonas Cox — 1 year

• Assistant Clerk: Jon Maroni — 1 year

• Recording Clerk: Linda Nixon — 1 year

• Assistant Recording Clerk: Sue Keehnen — 1 year

• Treasurer: Jon Maroni — 1 year

• Assistant Treasurer: Wade Schwartz — 1 year

Stewards & Trustees: Bill Emery, Trustee — 1 year

Jonas Cox, Trustee — 1 year

Kent Biel — 1 year

• Elders: Kent Biel — 3 years

Jon Maroni (*ex officio* as

• Tina Weaver — 3 years

Treasurer)

• Charlene Cox — 2 years

• Pam Emery — 1 year

Nominating Committee: Linda Nixon

## Letters to the Editor

### Spokane Police Statistics

Re the July Newsletter 2021, Our Town: The statistic representing crime in Spokane was less than hoped and invites caution. A. Friend <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/does-spokane-really-have-the-LETT3rd-deadliest-police-force-in-the-nation/ar-BB1gArey>

## Time to Unmask?

Who is this A. Friend? It is hard to converse with a faceless person. C.N.

A. Friend responds: Indeed, it is I, Walter Simon. I used that name because I wanted to stir up some controversy locally and did not want my name to deter either positive or negative responses.

## LETTERS FROM FRIENDS

Our latest letter from Karli Norman in Honduras

Hello Friends,

I hope you know I appreciate sending these letters. I often wonder who reads them, who sees them. Sometimes, I imagine Lois opening up the email, and getting the first glimpse and full brunt of all my hurt and frustrations. I imagine her adjusting her glasses and reading anyway. It helps.

Last week, a third grader, Bastian, returned to school after the death of his grandfather from COVID. The family did not have enough money to pay for oxygen. I can only assume this man suffocated to death. And, yet, his grandson sits in my class, a trooper, trying and struggling to communicate in a second language. I coach him through sentences about the doctor and the body, one at a time. "Bastian," I say. "Say: 'I am hurt'. Say 'help me'." The irony doesn't escape me.

When my favorite fourth grader, Walter, coughs in class and asks to get a drink of water, I worry. Who is next? This one now? Will it be Walter who has the gentlest spirit I've seen, and loves animals? Talkative, bossy Isabel-la? Daysi who always sings?

I teach them "I am hurt" and "I ache". I say the words out loud, and I smile and smile and smile, and they send messages: sparkly gifs, and little "I love yous". Sometimes, I want to ask "Why?"

And I think of the people living under the overpass, or in the farming towns, who my friends feed with bags of supplies, when they can get the money to do so. And think about, sitting in the cafe in Cofradia in the late spring, and watch one of those same friends receive message after message from those homeless people, begging for assistance. They sent photos of their starving babies while we ate french fries in a cafe.

The suffering seems endless. I desire to have a peaceful heart, but I am not a naturally peaceful woman. I am restless, and I want justice in an unjust world. I think about my grandmother, a member of the Church of the Brethren, and try to think about what she would do. But, instead, what wakes up inside me is the spirit of my great-great-grandmother Bengta Norman who chased armed robbers away with a broom, and was dragged away by her sons still trying to fight. "Take this broom," she says, inside my chest. "Fight." And I want to take the broom, because I can maybe sweep away the things that are hurting people--the political corruption, the poverty, the starvation, the dying families.

I would fight anybody with that broom, to never have to teach "I am hurt" and "help me" ever again.

I hope, soon, to have joy to report. I hope to find something beautiful to share. Something to uplift, to make my heart peaceful, to silence Bengta, to let me throw down the broom.

Regards, *Karli*

## Meet our New Office Manager!

Hi Friends! My name is Lauren. I attended Eastern Washington University and Spokane Community College for Medical Office training. I am just recently brought back home to Spokane after spending several years living in Boston. It's nice to be home again and I'm excited to be a part of this community of Friends.



## July 2, 1776

Cool summer air, heavy as sweet cream with  
Smoke from a thousand firecrackers.  
A distant evening thunderstorm strains  
Through the patriotic small town chorus.

Old friends sit around a sticky city park table  
Telling war stories, their eyes as round as  
The world they once conquered. They  
Laugh with memories made warm with beer.

Back slapping welcomes, hugs and farewells  
Sweaty summer smells embrace the evening haze.  
Moms and dads on picnic blankets  
Play with children impatient for the dark.

First come the speeches, one from the senator,  
Then the Governor or the city mayor. All, with more  
Brass that a VFW band. All stars and stripes.  
Forever a Fourth of July photograph.

© Robert L Wiese 2004

## \$ Financial Report \$

Giving through July 2021:	\$25,508.86
Expenses through July 2021:	\$32,353.15
Difference:	-\$6,844.29

## Quaker News

- ⇒ **Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends Fall Quarterly Gathering** will be on Saturday, October 23. More information coming soon with details about location and the possibility of joining virtually.
- ⇒ **Quakers Uprooting Racism Coalition:** The movement for racial justice within Quaker institutions, yearly meetings, and Quaker schools has been building over the past 15 years. Now, several Quaker organizations – including the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Council on Education, Friends General Conference, and Pendle Hill – have formed a coalition to accelerate the work to end white supremacy among and beyond Friends. For more information, go to <https://www.afsc.org/quakers-uprooting-racism>
- ⇒ **North Seattle Friends Church**, our sister church whose shared history includes Lorraine Watson and Paul Blankenship as pastors, has recently welcomed a new pastor, **Charity Sandstrom**. She has a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Portland Seminary and nearly two decades of experience ministering in Friends Churches. On any given day you may find Charity reading a good book, writing, composing, baking, drinking coffee with her husband Rich or hanging out with their three children. Whether preaching a sermon or conversing over coffee her message remains: God is closer than you suspect, and loves you more than you can imagine.
 
- ⇒ **The Friends Committee on National Legislation** seeks a Spirit-led, seasoned, and strategic Quaker leader who brings vision, inspiration, and executive experience to lead the biggest faith-based lobbying organization in Washington, DC. More information can be found at [www.fcnl.org/gsearch](http://www.fcnl.org/gsearch). Applications and nominations may be emailed to [gsearch@fcnl.org](mailto:gsearch@fcnl.org).
- ⇒ **Friends Center at Guilford College** is hiring for the Director of the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program. “QLSP” is an almost 30 year old scholarship program that seeks to apprentice participants to the Quaker tradition, for the purpose of living spiritually-rooted, racially just, theologically robust, and experientially prepared lives as leaders within and outside of the Religious Society of Friends. This is a full-time, 12 month position. The application is open until early August. For more information go to <https://guilford.peopleadmin.com/>