

# SPOKANEWORD

November

2021



Spokane Friends

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## Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness  
begins at 9:00 a.m.  
when first person sits down

Programmed worship 10:00 am  
In-Person (masked)  
and Via Zoom  
See Website For Link

Third Sunday of the Month  
Monthly Meeting for Business  
begins at rise of worship

## Gossip, Friends and friends

by Collin Boyd

**“To put it in the language of Friends, community happens as that of God in you responds to that of God in me.”**  
– Parker Palmer

Parker Palmer’s affirmation is easy to visualize. But what can we do to foster community? With the presence of the Spirit, one’s testimonies create community. Still, our communities are not perfect. One can encounter gossip. Perhaps in rare cases, gossip is a message from the Spirit. Most often it is self-led rather than Spirit-led. It separates people and weakens the relationships that are central to a thriving community.

The end result of gossip is the spreading of rumors – sometimes trivial, often unsubstantiated. But the “whys” of gossip are meaningful in their own right. Gossip is fueled by a variety of desires. One may want to fit in and feel included. One may enjoy collecting information about others. One may want to demean someone. One may have the misguided belief that two people become closer when they share private information about another. Quakers are not exempt from any of these actions.

Our communities are weakened by the often-persistent residue of gossip. Our communities are weakened by the often-persistent residue of gossip. Gossip creates cells of people with exclusive knowledge. It creates separations and pushes people away. We begin to feel safe with certain people and move tentatively around others. Gossip results in a loss of the enthusiasm needed to provide service for our communities.

Gossip can corrupt nascent friendships. After Meeting for Worship, Friends turn to each other, shake hands and say hello. We can repeat this for months and never know more than the name and face of an individual. Participation in a Friends meeting does not predict that a mutually caring friendship will develop. Our cultivated friendships within Friendship are the foundation of a caring testimony. Strengthening these friendships is central to a caring Friends community.

Here are some queries to help one contemplate gossip, our relationships and our community:

**SIMPLICITY:** Do I strive for a simplicity in my relationships that makes gossip unwanted and unnecessary? Do I acknowledge the patience and sincerity needed to nurture relationships? Do I avoid the “quick fix” of gossip?

**PEACE:** Do I reach out peacefully to those who instill fear and insecurity in me? Am I an instrument of peace when I gossip?

**INTEGRITY:** Do I avoid sharing information about a person that I would not share if they were present? Do I avoid speaking about a person in ways that I would not want them to speak about me?

Do I acknowledge the disagreements and tensions that arise between others and myself?

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**COMMUNITY:** A community is only as strong as the individual relationships that create and maintain it. Do I acknowledge the disagreements and tensions that arise between others and myself? How does gossip affect the healing of my relationships?

**EQUALITY:** How does gossip affect the equity needed to discover the unique gifts that a person can offer? How does gossip affect my perception of someone? How does my perception of someone affect my ability to experience the Spirit that is gifted to me through them?

**STEWARDSHIP:** Stewardship is much more than caring for the earth. It includes stewardship of our children and our resources. How does gossip affect my ability to be a steward of my self and my meeting?

Avoidance of gossip can be a testimony for any Friend. Our challenge is to ensure that this testimony and all our testimonies permeate into our personal relationships. Dear Friend, let us add the avoidance of gossip to our personal testimonies and embrace the challenge of creating a community of friends among Friends.

**Collin Boyd** is a member of Santa Fe Friends Meeting (IMYM). Before retiring, his civic work included GED instruction for juvenile offenders and runaways. He has worshiped with Quakers in Canada, Mexico, Western Europe, Rwanda and Kenya. This essay appeared in the November/December issue of Western Friend.



# A Banner Year for FAN

The limitations of COVID notwithstanding, we can celebrate a huge achievement in terms of bills passed that were either on our FAN legislative agenda or we supported as the session evolved. Thank you for promoting social justice and racial equity across our state!

## Our values as a state:

**Capital Gains Tax** (ESSB 5096 Sen. Robinson) – Taxes certain intangible capital gains at 7% above \$250,000, which will generate up to \$1 billion in revenue for early learning/childcare investments and help right our upside-down tax code where the lowest income earners pay 17% in taxes and the wealthiest income earners pay only 3%.

**Working Families Tax Credit** (ESHB 1297 Rep. Thai) – Provides an income boost to working people in the form of a tax refund.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reform** (2SSB 5214 Sen. Nguyen) – Allows families receiving TANF to apply for a hardship extension beyond the 60-month lifetime limit in light of the COVID-19 crisis. \$52.2M, or a 15% increase, was also included in the final budget for TANF.

**Community and Technical Colleges Equity and Access** (E2SSB 5194 Sen. Liias) – Requires all WA State Community and Technical Colleges to implement the diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic work plan which includes stakeholders from diverse groups and aids in recruitment and retention of faculty from diverse backgrounds.

**Emergency Food and Cash Assistance** (SHB 1151 Rep. Leavitt) – Bolsters economic recovery in light of the COVID-19 crisis by increasing food and cash assistance access and amounts.

**Eliminating School Lunch Copay** (EHB 1342 Rep. Berg) – Eliminates lunch copays for all students who qualify for reduced-price lunches.

## Reform of our policing and criminal justice systems:

**Police use of force and de-escalation statewide standards** (E2SHB 1310 Rep. J. Johnson) – Establishes a standard for use of physical force by police officers, requiring de-escalation tactics before use of force and limiting use of deadly force.

**Office for Independent Investigations** (ESHB 1267 Rep. Entenman) – Establishes the Office of Independent Investigations within the Office of the Governor for the purpose of investigating deadly force incidents involving police officers.

**Police Tactics restrictions and prohibitions** (ESHB 1054 Rep. J. Johnson) – Prohibits police officers from using chokeholds and neck restraints and issuing no-knock warrants; limits use of military equipment, tear gas, vehicular pursuit, firing at moving vehicles. Requires officers to be easily identifiable and convenes a work group for developing policies on use of canine units.

**Decertification and licensing standards for police and Criminal Justice Training Commission reforms** (E2SSB 5051 Sen. Pedersen) – Expands background investigation requirements for those applying to be police officers and the conduct for which certification can be revoked. Requires all disciplinary matters involving police officers be reported to the CJTC and removes confidentiality so these records are publicly available.

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MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES  
17 October 2021



The meeting was opened with prayer by Assistant Presiding Clerk, Jon Maroni. 12 people were in attendance.

The minutes from the September meeting were read and approved with one correction. The See the Need report will be given every 2 weeks.

Treasurer's Report: A clarification was made that our new church secretary has increased her hours due to the workload. Overall we are doing okay. I spoke with Dave Hampton of the Friends Foundation. One of our CD's is maturing and we will need to make a decision on what to do next.

Steward's and Trustee's Report: A contractor, Mike Buscher, will hopefully be able to start working on the downstairs bathrooms this December. People from our church group will do the painting in the bathrooms.

Elder's Report: We have had good feedback on our recent speakers for worship. We are currently scheduled through December 12<sup>th</sup>. A group has asked if they could use the church building for a few days for some educational meetings. The secretary's hours will be from 9-2 Tuesday through Friday.

**Pillar Reports:**

Serving the Community – Sue Keehnen is knitting several items and will be selling them for a donation during Thanksgiving weekend.

Congregational Care – Painting of the NW rooms off the hallway has been completed. The unprogrammed meeting is going well.

Sharing the Light - The book study is going well with good sharing. Don Hyslop was chosen for the next See the Need.

With no other old or new business and all hearts and minds were clear, Laverne Biel closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



## The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael

by Ellis Peters

Reviewed by **Randy Vigil**

Edith Mary Pargeter, aka Ellis Peters, tells the story of Brother Cadfael, once a crusader fighting a holy war in the Holy land. Brother Cadfael returns to the Welch borderlands and enters the Benedictine monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shrewsbury

Ellis Peters paints a picture of 12th century Benedictine life of a herbalist who solves murder mysteries with all the cunning of a professional sleuth as well as a brother of the Order. The series (21 books) takes place during a period of unrest with civil war always close by. Cadfael recognizes the authority of the civil Sheriff as well as the Abbot of the monastery.

I just re-read the 12th Chronicle, *The Raven in the Foregate*, and it was just as compelling as when I first read it 20 years ago. On our honeymoon Mary Anne and I visited Shrewsbury and the church of St. Peter and St. Paul. The monastery was all but gone but the church was a wonderful place to visit. On the floor of the sanctuary was a tomb to a returned Crusader who gave Ellis Peters the idea for the brother Cadfael character.

You don't really have to start at the beginning of the series, but the first few books set the context for the rest of the books.

Good read!

[**Note:** Masterpiece Mystery dramatized many of the Cadfael stories in which Shakespearean actor Sir Derek Jacobi plays Brother Cadfael and Sean Pertwee plays Sheriff Hugh Beringar.]



## .. from the Meeting's Mailbox

### Becky Williams writes:

*I was hoping I could visit this year in Spokane, but I had a summer filled with visits and trips*

*In August I went to the Czech Republic for a niece's wedding. Jonathan and family also attended on their way back from the U.S. .What a beautiful time with family and being tourists in Prague! Then I returned with them to Central Asia and spent 2 months; what an experience to enjoy them and learn more about what they are doing. One of the highlights was participating in mobile clinics in the country! Oh how I wished I knew the language. The people there are so kind, and the food delicious.*

*I've just gotten back home, still having jet lag, but what an encouragement it was for me to be with them and be Grandma.*

*Oh, yes, I did make it to Hawaii for several weeks and visited Sarita and Marci and family. We all had a week together in July in Redding including Jonathan and family – thought it was hot and smoky, we had great fun. . . It's been a crazy year for all of us with drought, fires and Covid, but we have much to be thankful for.*

*Please give my greetings to those I know in our church family. They remain dear to my heart.*

### A thank-you note from Caritas:

Thank you for hosting Caritas Outreach Ministries! It has been an honor to share your house of worship and serve out clients through your generosity. Over 50,000 individuals have been blessed by the food bank while at SFC. You are a cherished part of our history and we look forward to our continued relationship with you as a sponsoring church well into the future.

## FAN SUCCESSES (continued from page 2)

**Post-secondary Education in Prisons** (2SHB 1044 Rep. Leavitt) – Permits the Department of Corrections to implement post-secondary education opportunities in state prisons and to issue certificates for completion.

**Re-sentencing for 3 strikes with Robbery 2 Convictions** (ESB 5164 Sen. Darneille) – Allows resentencing hearings for anyone currently in prison for life without parole under the 3 Strikes law where one of those convictions was for Robbery 2.

### Housing opportunities and preventing homelessness:

**Renters' Right to counsel for Evictions** (E2SSB 5160 Sen. Kuderer) – Addresses landlord-tenant relations by providing certain tenant protections, providing for legal representation in eviction cases, establishing an eviction resolution pilot program for nonpayment of rent cases, and authorizing landlord access to certain rental assistance programs.

**Just Cause Evictions** (ESHB 1236 Rep. Macri) – Protects tenants from the beginning to end of their tenancies by penalizing the inclusion of unlawful lease provisions and limiting the reasons for eviction, refusal to continue, and termination.

**Document recording fee** (E2SHB 1277 Rep. Ormsby) – Provides an additional revenue source for eviction prevention and housing stability by imposing a \$100 fee on certain recorded documents.

**\$350M in the Capital Budget** to build and preserve affordable homes – \$175 for the Housing Trust Fund and \$120 to acquire properties that can be quickly converted to housing or shelter.

### Addressing Climate Change

**Clean Fuels Standards** (E3SHB 1091 Rep. Fitzgibbon) – Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel to 20% of its 2017 levels by 2035.

**HEAL Act** (E2SSB 5141 Sen. Saldaña) – Reduces environmental and health disparities and improves the health of all Washington state residents by implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.

**Electric vehicles by 2030** (E2SHB 1287 Rep. Ramel) – Prepares WA State for a zero-emissions transportation future.

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### Immigrant, civil, and human rights for all:

**Voting Rights Restoration for those coming out of prison** (ESHB 1078 Rep. Simmons) – Automatically restores voting rights to people exiting prison who have a felony conviction.

**Private Detention Prohibition** (EHB 1090 Rep. Ortiz-Self) – Prohibits WA State operation of and contracts with private detention facilities.

**Juneteenth Paid Holiday** (SHB 1016 Rep. Morgan) – Designates June 19, Juneteenth, as a state paid holiday, to celebrate the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. \

**Open carry of weapons in public demonstrations ban** (ESSB 5038 Sen. Kuderer) – Prohibits the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol.

**Farmworker Overtime Pay** (ESSB 5172 Sen. King) – Provides phased-in overtime standards for farmworkers.

**Billy Frank, Jr. Statue** (ESHB 1372 Rep. Lekanoff) – Replaces the Marcus Whitman statue in the national statuary hall collection with a statue of Billy Frank Jr., Nisqually tribal member who fought tirelessly for treaty and fishing rights.

### Healthcare and mental health access:

**Universal Health Care Commission** (E2SSB 5399 Sen. Randall) – Creates the Universal Health Care Commission to prepare Washington State for providing universal health care for all.

**Comprehensive public health districts** (E2SHB 1152 Rep. Riccelli) – Invests in our state's public health system in ways that make the best use of technology, science, expertise, and leveraged resources and in a manner that is responsive to local communities, including the composition of local public health boards.

**Dental Therapy** – The final budget included a proviso to establish a

## Growing in Gratefulness

“Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.” — American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson

“If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.” — German theologian Meister Eckhart

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.” — American poet Maya Angelou

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy: they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” — French novelist Marcel Proust

“Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not: remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.” — ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus

“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.” — English author A. A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.” — former U.S. President John F. Kennedy

## Quaker News

- ⇒ The new name of **William Penn House** in Washington D.C. is **Friends Place on Capitol Hill**. While the 17th century Quaker promoted freedom of conscience in Pennsylvania, William Penn also enslaved people. At his home he controlled at least a dozen African-Americans. He failed to follow through on his intention to free them after his death. He and other 17th century Quakers did not always see a contradiction between freedom of conscience and individual freedom.
- ⇒ **Vivian Thornburg**, a recorded minister in Northwest Yearly Meeting and mother of Stan Thornburg and Karen Thornburg McConaughy, passed away September 10, 2021.
- ⇒ The **Friends Committee on National Legislation's** upcoming Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting, to be held virtually November 17-21, 2021. Vanessa Julye, co-author of the book **Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship**, is the keynote speaker. She will discuss the complex history of Quaker work for racial justice and the task before Friends today to transform ourselves and our society. Diane Randall's ten years of leadership at FCNL will be celebrated, as she steps down as General Secretary at the end of 2021. More information, at <https://www.fcnl.org/events/annualmeeting2021>
- ⇒ Friends Committee on National Legislation is seeking a **Meeting Planner** to join the FCNL staff. The Meeting Planner is responsible for the planning, production, and execution of FCNL public conferences and events. The position reports to the Director of Quaker Leadership and works closely with staff at all levels and in all departments of the organization. Please see the full job description and application here: <https://apply.workable.com/friendscommittee/j/4EAA9CF576/> at [gsearch@fcnl.org](mailto:gsearch@fcnl.org).
- ⇒ **Other Job Openings:** Paonia Friends Church (CO) in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting is seeking a student ministry pastor. Chandler Friends Church (OK) in Mid-America Yearly Meeting is seeking a lead pastor. Colorado Springs First Friends Church (CO) in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting is seeking a part-time Pastor. Get more information for all these positions at <https://nwfriends.org/job-openings/>.
- ⇒ **Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups** will meet for six months each, starting roughly in mid-November, for one hour every two weeks. The purpose is to provide Friends who are currently parenting children with a space for mutual conversation and support. This year, the project is co-sponsored by New York Yearly Meeting, Friends United Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, but ALL Quaker parents are welcome to participate. More information in the Sept. 24 Newsletter at <https://www.scymfriends.org/newsletter>

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\* **WORLD RELIEF ASKS FOR HELP** \*  
\* **Temporary housing** \*  
\* New arrivals often need temporary places to stay while \*  
\* we find a more permanent housing solution. If you or \*  
\* someone you know has a space for temporary, separate \*  
\* housing for refugees, please email [wrspokane.org](http://wrspokane.org) or call \*  
\* us at 509-484-9829. \*  
\* **Donations needed** \*  
\* Mattresses                      Box springs \*  
\* Bed Frames                      Toys \*  
\* Coffee tables                      Chair Sets \*  
\* Cutlery                              Pots and pans \*  
\* Plates                                Household cleaning items \*  
\* Items should be in good condition, without stains. \*  
\* Items can be delivered to our office address. For \*  
\* pickup, please send us a message. Thank you for your \*  
\* support. \*  
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