

SPOKANEWORD

September
2022



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.com

spokanefriends@gmail.com



Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness
begins at 9:00 a.m.
when first person sits down
Programmed worship 10:00 a.m.
In-Person (masked)
and Via Zoom
See Website For Link

First Sunday of the Month
Potluck Meal at rise of worship

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

A Place at the Table

by Paul Grout

Near the end of my mother's life, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, she slowly drifted away from us. There came a time when she could no longer remember my name.

I was sitting with her one afternoon. My mother had not spoken my name in months. I said to her: "Mom, I'm Paul, I'm your son Paul, can you say Paul?" She couldn't. I said to her, "It's okay, Mom; I love you, Mom." I was in my middle 50s, longing to hear my mother speak my name.

My mother was a gifted athlete. While my brother and I were growing up, it was my mother who taught us to pitch, catch, and hit a baseball. A star basketball player in high school, she coached us in the basics of the game.

We lived in a farmhouse at the edge of our small town. Just beyond our extensive gardens a large field stretched out toward the town. In the far corner of that field was a mowed section we had cleared for a ballfield.

On warm spring afternoons, my brother and I would race home from elementary school, gather gloves and bats, and meet our friends at that field.

My mother, who strongly encouraged sports, would let us play until my father was home from work and our dinner was practically on the table.

It was then that my mother would leave the kitchen, walk out the back screen door, and walk up through our garden to the crest of a small hill that overlooked the field. She would cup her hands around her mouth and call us.

"Paaauuul, Alllaannn, come hooommme."

Our friends understood that for us the game was over. We immediately gathered up our equipment and ran home. It was not that we were such obedient children. We were not afraid of punishment if we were late. We wanted to be there. Our mom had called us, and we raced to the center of our childhood kingdom, which was our home. And the center of our home was a large kitchen table where our evening meal was waiting.

My father, my mother, my brother, and I were together around that table almost every evening of our growing up. Like no other place in our lives, it was around that table that we knew we belonged. We didn't have to be good; we didn't have to be smart; we didn't have to be anybody but ourselves.

It was around that table that we were unconditionally loved. There was a place for us at that table.

You can imagine how it would have been for the disciples: every day for three years walking with Jesus, hearing him teach, seeing him heal, sharing meals together.

Yet after all this time together they did not really see him, they did not really know him.

Then, on their last night together before his suffering and torturous death, he invited them to share one last experience together, around a table.

Before the meal, as they were coming together, he washed their feet.

He knew they would soon flee from his side. He knew they were not ready or strong enough to follow him where he was going. He knew that one of them had already betrayed him and that another would soon deny knowing him.

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page)

Understanding all of this, Jesus wanted them to know there was a place for them at this table. He wanted them to know that this table and everything that it was about would sustain and transform their future.

He broke bread and gave to each one—his body broken for them. He shared a cup with each one—his blood shed for them.

There is a place for you at this table. You don't have to qualify to sit here. You don't have to be good. You don't have to have your life together. You don't have to understand all that it means.

You don't have to be liberal, conservative, progressive, fundamental, evangelical, political, secular, religious, Republican or Democrat, straight or gay. To receive what this table offers, you cannot be looking around trying to decide who belongs and who doesn't. At this table love will show you the way. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, there is one last table to consider. This is how I have come to picture it for myself.

I will take my last breath on earth and expel that breath. As I do this, as I die, a woman will step outside through the screen door of an old farmhouse. She will walk along a garden to a small rise that looks over a field. She will cup her hands around her mouth. This will not be my mother; it will be God. She will call out my name: "Paaauulll, come hooomme."

Upon hearing her voice, I will come running: across a field, down past a garden, and into an old farmhouse through a screen door, into a great kitchen with a table that stretches out beyond sight and time.

All my friends are sitting at that table. All my enemies are there. My father, my mother, and brother are there. There is an empty chair next to them. My mother rises from the table.

She comes to me and takes my hands in hers. I am a little boy again. She looks into my eyes and speaks my name.

"Paul."

I am home.



"Family dinner" by Paul Grout, author of this article

Paul Grout is a former Annual Conference moderator and a retired pastor in the Church of the Brethren (one of the three historic "peace" churches along with Quakers and Mennonites) He now lives in Bellingham, Washington. He is a leader in the A Place Apart community based in Putney, Vermont. Reprinted from *Messenger* April 2022 and online at <https://www.brethren.org/messenger/>



Pendle Hill pamphlets on Quakerism in Spokane Meeting library

By Linda Pierce

Published since 1934 the Pendle Hill pamphlet series includes great pamphlets which range from historical analysis to theological statements to thoughtful advice. The Spokane Meeting library has a number of these pamphlets that are available for the use of anyone interested in Quaker history, spirituality and beliefs. The pamphlets are in the church library arranged by number.

The list below highlights some pamphlets on Quakerism. Feel free to check out the pamphlets. There is a clipboard next to the pamphlets just write down which pamphlet you borrowed, your name and the date. Keep them as long as you need, just return them when you are done.

Pendle Hill pamphlets on Quakerism in our library:

Creeds and Quakers: What's belief got to do with it? #377

Guide to Quaker Practice #20

Turnaround: Growing a Twenty-First Century Religious Society of Friends #387

What is Quakerism? A Primer #277

It's Our Library — Let's Use It



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES
21 August 2022



Fourteen people in attendance. Meeting opened in prayer.

Treasurer's report: Statement of Position

- Jon has almost finished transferring money to Everence.
- The account still needs another name, probably one of the stewards
- The computer in the office crashed, Wade got the data back and running on a new computer.
(Thanks, Wade!)

Statement of Activities: This statement reflects all money passing through the meeting's accounts.

- The YTD net income is -4222.86, mostly due to the bathroom renovation costing more than expected.
- It is difficult to predict what building needs will come up in the future.
- A request was made that one of the columns on the Statement of Activities show the expenses from the previous year so that they can be easily compared.
- Several in the meeting expressed concern about where money to pay a part-time pastor, should we decide to hire one.
- Savings is not a sustainable way to do this
- Increased tithing would be the best way
- This has not been clearly and definitely communicated to the meeting
- Several people voiced a desire that someone, probably the Elders, needs to find out what an acceptable, competitive salary would be for a part-time pastor, and how much the meeting's income would need to increase to sustain this pastor's salary, as well other known upcoming expenses, so that the meeting has the necessary information to make decisions and plan.

The Minutes from last month's meeting were **read and approved**.

Nominating Committee report: Job description for monthly meeting positions

- The job descriptions for the positions of the monthly meeting have been formalized based on six responses to the Google survey sent out last month. These descriptions are meant to be a living document. They will be shared with the meeting via email in the coming week for consideration. The Nominating Committee requests that any suggestions/comments/changes be shared with them as soon as possible.
- The meeting requests that the Elders write a job description for a full- and part-time pastor.
- The Nominating Committee presents these roles to the meeting for consideration:

LaVerne Biel as Presiding Clerk

Wade has volunteered as Assistant Treasurer

Co-Clerk: The Nominating Committee has suggested that it may be a good idea for our meeting to have co-presiding clerks. One clerk would be a regular attender as has been the case. The other would be someone who is not a regular attender at Spokane Friends Church but is still part of our community. This would help us to have input from outside our meeting, help us to not become insular and stuck in our own bubble.

The Nominating Committee will bring further recommendations/conversation at the next monthly meeting.

Elders report

- Jon Kinney, Ruthie Tippin, and Johan Maurer have all agreed to speak on a monthly basis.
- Discussion of the meeting's "Open and Affirming" statement: Several ideas of alternate phrasings have been shared with the Elders; more suggestions are still welcome. The Elders will present alternate statements at the next monthly meeting.
- The Elders have chosen Krista Maroni as the Clerk of Elders for one year.

New business: Several options for refinishing the downstairs partitions are being researched.

The meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted, *Kjiersten Schmidt*, Recording Clerk *pro tempore*

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is an independent Quaker not-for-profit organization sharing the abundance of God's love by working for equity through partnerships around the world. It was founded in 1969 as a project of Friends World Committee for Consultation. Their work is grounded in a sense of stewardship for the world's material, human, and spiritual resources

Right Sharing gives grants and seed money for low-interest loans to groups of marginalized women in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and India and soon in Guatemala. The Right Sharing board chose expanding into Guatemala for its high rate of poverty, one of the highest in Latin America. On the plus side, there are approximately 20,000 Quakers in Guatemala in three yearly meetings. The groups provide training on small businesses before each woman receives a loan. As the women pay back their loans, the money is kept by the group to loan out to other women for new projects. The money stays in the community and never returns to RSWR.

The type of businesses founded with Right Sharing funds include growing and selling vegetables, weaving mats from recycled fiber, second hand clothing sales, food carts, and small roadside cafes, etc. Camas Friends raised over \$5,000 in 2020 for a project by a women's self-help group in rural Kenya.



Learn more about RSWR at <http://rser.org/>

To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives.

JOHN WOOLMAN, 17TH CENTURY QUAKER

The Lincoln Highway

by Amor Towles

Reviewed by Sue Keehnen

This is the best book I've read in a long time, at least since I read A Gentleman in Moscow, Towles last novel.

The story seems to be a version of the *Odyssey*, one long adventure with many side trips. The story line advances through the eyes of the four boys, three teenagers and the eight year old brother of one of them. The brothers want to get to California by the Fourth of July to find their mother. Meanwhile, the older brother's Studebaker is highjacked by one of the other boys who goes to New York City in it on his own mission.

Thus the adventures begin. There are a variety of characters who the brothers encounter along the way. I was always surprised at how innocent but wise the youngest boy was, and by a bubble of protection seemed to surround him.

The characters: a mentally challenged boy, a schemer, the practical one, and the innocent Idaho steers everyone on the straight and narrow. The ending was satisfying.



The Authority of the Court and the Peril of Politics

by Stephen Breyer (Supreme Court Justice, Ret.)

Reviewed by Sue Keehnen

I read this book for a discussion group, thinking that I wouldn't like it since it's nonfiction. However, I did like it. Its a small book, only 100 pages.

Justice Breyer presents a concise presentation of what the Supreme Court can and cannot do, and he makes it very understandable. I disagreed with his philosophy at times; it seemed as if he was assuming his fellow justices were all as 'noble' and clear-sighted on the Constitution as he was. However, he presents, in a reasonable fashion, how he believes decisions should be made.

SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to the Caritas Food Bank 30th Anniversary Fiesta Fundraiser! We are celebrating 30 years serving our neighbors in need in Spokane. Join us for an auction fundraiser and fiesta buffet to support client services at the food bank.



Saturday, October 15th
Assumption Parish gym
3624 W Indian Trail Rd.

Tickets are \$30 each and may be purchased in advance by contacting Caritas or at the door. To reserve a party table (\$240/seats 8), please RSVP to Caritas Food Bank, 1228 W. Nebraska Ave, Spokane, WA 9920 or call 5509-326-2249.

To see updates and get sneak previews of auction items, follow our event page on Facebook, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/events/92452?ref=newsfeed>



Where will you be on October 2?

World Quaker Day is an annual event where we celebrate the diversity of Quakerism around the world and build connections to make our community stronger.

This year World Quaker Day is on October 2 and every Friends Church or Meeting is encouraged to send or receive visitors to or from Quaker Day, and FWCC is encouraging every Quaker Meeting or Friends church in the world to send or receive visitors to another Quaker group to bring greetings, build relationships and share ideas.

The "Early Worship Group" which meets in the Fellowship Hall from 8-9 am on Sunday mornings has invited members and attenders of Spokane Friends Meeting to join them in Unprogrammed Worship on November 2.

This group, now under the care of Spokane Friends, is unprogrammed and was formerly part of North Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Although both groups have invited each other informally to attend their services, Spokane Friends would like to especially invite the unprogrammed Friends to join us in Programmed Worship on that same morning, and to join us in our regularly scheduled Potluck Meal at rise of worship.

Imagine spending four hours on a Sunday morning with Quakers, old friends and new, getting to know each other better and celebrating World Quaker Day together! It only comes around once a year, so be there or miss it.

Quaker News

- ⇒ We are hiring! **Right Sharing of World Resources** [RSWR] — see page 4 of Newsletter] seeks an Associate Secretary of Operations. This is a senior leadership position responsible for organizational operations including accounting, bookkeeping, budgeting, and financial and legal transactions This position is full time and remote. Learn more at <https://rswr.org/careers>
- ⇒ **FCNL** (Friends Committee for National Legislation) will hold its **Annual Meeting, Nov. 16-20**. We will raise our collective voices to urge Congress to increase funding directed toward environmental justice programs. Underlying this whole experience is the worship that anchors our community and strengthens our connections. Our gathering offers many opportunities for listening to Spirit—in small groups, in expectant silence, and in our meetings for worship with a concern for business. **Will you join us (in person or virtually)?** For more information, go to www.fcnl.org/events/annual-meeting-and-quaker-public-policy-institute-2022
- ⇒ **FCNL** has openings for the of **Advocacy Corps Coordinator** and **Advocacy Team Organizer** and also has many opportunities for opportunities for young adults More information is available at <https://www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni>
- ⇒ **Evangelical Friends Mission** has a number of exciting projects worldwide that you are invited to donate to. For more information go to friendsmission.com/campaign/efm-projects-2022 and choose the high-lighted option.
- ⇒ **Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends** is advertising a number of job openings: see these by going to <https://nwfriends.org/job-openings/>
- ⇒ All women are invited to the **Friends Women's SHINE Retreat 2021**, on Sept 30-Oct at Twin Rocks Friends Camp. For more information, go to <https://sites.google.com/rosevalleyfriends.com/shine-retreat2021/home> (Yes, the 2022 information is here, despite the 2021 in the web address.)
- ⇒ **Sierra-Cascades' Fall Quarterly Gathering** will be held on Saturday, **October 29, 2022** at Eugene Friends Church. It will also be on Zoom. We hope you can join us, either in person or virtually, for a day of business, music and worship, and enjoying time together.

Send in Your Stamps! Since 1996, the **Quaker Missions Stamp Project** has collected and sold used postage stamps with proceeds going to Quaker organizations like Right Sharing of World Resources.

The stamp program now accepts stamps of all issue dates and countries, both used and unused stamps, sheets of stamps, albums, boxed collections of stamps, envelopes, and postcards.

Cut the stamp(s) off the envelope or postcard. Leave the perforations (wavy edges) on the stamps. Leave 1/4 inch to 1/8 inch around the stamp so the whole stamp is preserved, including the perforations. The perforations are part of the stamp. When there is more than one stamp and the stamps are close together, cut around the group as a unit. Do not send pre-sorted or non-profit stamps.:

For foreign stamps, if it is still on the postcard or envelope, leave it on. There are collectors who like to receive a whole envelope or postcard with a foreign stamp. This is because of the markings and/or artwork that often are also present.

Send to:
Stamps for Right Sharing
c/o Indianapolis First Friends
3030 Kessler Blvd. East Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46220

This space left blank,
because our workers
abroad ask us not to
share their letters on
line. The letters can
be seen on the bulletin
boards of Spokane
Friends Meeting.