



SEEDS

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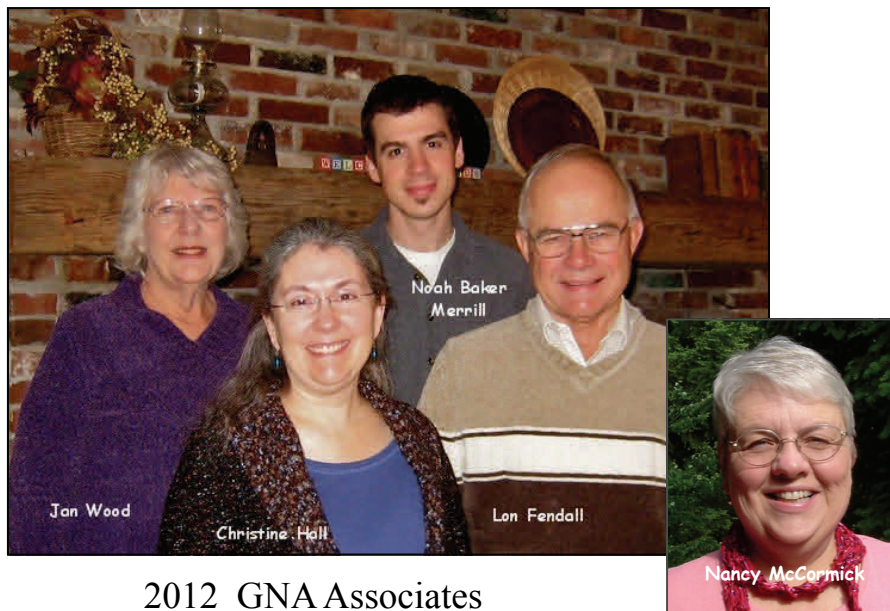
GOOD NEWS Associates

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Welcoming the New Year

by Jan Wood



2012 GNA Associates

As we enter 2012, we are delighted to be joined by our newest Associate, **Noah Baker Merrill**. Noah lives with his wife, Natalie, in Putney, Vermont. He is a Released Minister of Putney Friends Meeting. Noah has packed more experiences into his 33 years than many of us have in a life time! In 2006 he and Natalie began a journey that led to almost four years of work establishing and coordinating an aid, advocacy, and peace building effort providing medical care and other support to Iraqis displaced by the chaos and violence in their country. As he tells it, "This journey, and the inward and outward transformation it helped midwife in me, in our marriage, and beyond, have been deeply formative in my experience of learning to listen and respond to the movement of the Spirit at work among us."

In being faithful to this call, new opportunities and empowerment unfolded. Noah grew into a vibrant public ministry of speaking, facilitating, writing and coordinating and

participating in service and witness activities related to issues of social justice and peace. Putney Friends Meeting affirmed these motions of ministry and partners with Good News Associates to support Noah in all the facets of his faithfulness. Welcome, Noah!

This is a special time for **Christine Hall**. For years she has carried a vision of creating a spiritual formation program that melds study, reflection, writing, community and experiential spirituality. She became a Good News Associate to put feet to her dream. And at long last, the first retreat of the first year's module, *Way of the Spirit*, is gathering at Seabeck Conference Center in Seabeck, WA. Blessings, Christine!

Lon Fendall finds himself in the midst of both fulfillment and pain. Much of his joy comes from the opportunities he has to help groups with reconciliation. Lon has frequent assignments in Kenya, Burundi, Congo and Rwanda. Work in Africa has a tender place in his heart. In the midst of this, painful family events have washed over Lon and Raelene like a tsunami. As they deal with each "next thing," they are a testament to the sturdy love of God in all things. Peace, Lon!

Nancy McCormick continues in her ministries of Presence in southwest Ohio. She and her husband Mike pastor both Chester Friends Meeting and Springfield Friends Meeting. She is a guardian ad litem for the courts. She walks alongside the elderly both as a chaplain/social worker for a retirement complex in Wilmington and for those who are shut ins. In the midst of this the unexpected happened last fall: she had a heart attack. The procedures were successful and she has been faithful to her rehabilitation work., but it changes a person's perspective. Healing, Nancy!

Jan Wood is in a rich patch of ministry. The work of reconciliation has been blossoming across the country. Opportunities have risen to do more organizational consulting among churches and denominational groups. It is both hard and joyful work. Another major piece of Jan's work each year is directing the Leadership Institute for Group Discernment. It is gratifying to see it established as a significant annual event to train and empower folks in congregational discernment. Grace, Jan!

Jan Wood is the Executive Director of GOOD NEWS *Associates* in Seattle, Washington. She has a ministry of speaking, writing, consulting and spiritual direction. She is author of *Christians at Work, Not Business as Usual* and co-author of *Practicing Discernment Together, Finding God's Way Forward in Decision Making*. She can be contacted at janwood@goodnewsassoc.org.



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