

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Second Month 2019

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

ashlandquakers@gmail.com

www.ashlandquakers.org

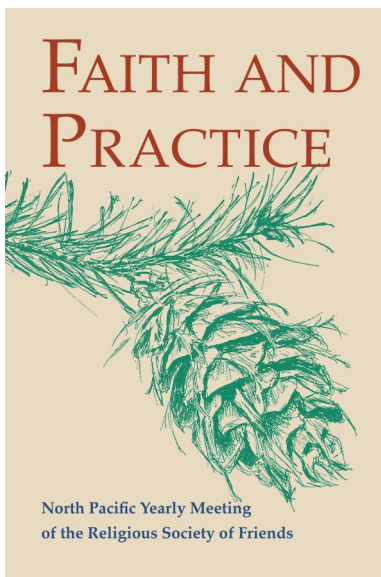
(Near Southern Oregon University)

QUAKER ADVICES & QUERIES

While Friends do not rely on creeds and dogma, there are guides to follow and to measure against. Advices are written reminders of what a life lived in the Spirit might look like. Friends in various yearly meetings have adapted and revised advices according to the Light they are given. Some advices are straightforward suggestions about specific issues of concern to Friends at a particular time; some are wide-ranging challenges for all time.

Similarly, early Friends used queries to ascertain the state of the Society as a whole, both spiritually and practically. Quakers were considered heretics because of their insistence on individual obedience to the Inner Light. Intolerance of the early Friends led to severe persecution and frequent imprisonment. The first queries thus included, *Which Friends, imprisoned on account of their testimony, died in prison since the last Yearly Meeting?* Friends use queries today to challenge ourselves and to open the way for growth in wisdom. Examples of contemporary queries are: *How do we avoid being drawn into violent reactions against those who are destructive of human dignity? Do we reach out to violator as well as violated with courage and love?* Taken together, the advices and queries are a reminder of the common faith and principles held to be essential to the life and witness of the Religious Society of Friends.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith & Practice* has undergone a complete overhaul during the past decade. Advices & queries, which have traditionally been a chapter unto themselves, have now been integrated into various parts of the book. The number of advices has expanded, as have the quantity of queries associated with each set of advices. Ministry & Counsel has been tasked with reviewing the new advices & queries to discern how best to utilize them to enrich the spiritual life of our Meeting and the service we perform in the world. To this end, M&C has decided to publish each of the new advices & queries, one per monthly newsletter.



We will hold off on revising the poster-sized advices & queries which hang in our foyer until we become more familiar with the newer ones. We start this month with "discernment" (details are on page 4).

--Gabrielle Leslie & Bob Morse

1st HOUR: Discussions & Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays

Childcare During Worship

First Hour & Rise of Meeting:

3 February

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

10 February

9:30 am: Winnowing Session on How Are We Called To Act To Uproot Racism? Details on page 3

17 February

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

24 February

9:30 am: Adult Ed Discussion on the Intersection of Mysticism & Social Justice

Rise of Meeting: Fellowship over lunch; core meal provided by Herb. All are welcome to bring ancillary dishes or just yourselves.

SMFM's NEW WEBSITE:

Feedback Requested by 2/3/19

See Page 5

INTO THE HEART OF HOMELESSNESS: A SERIES

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE FLOWERS



Longtime family provider and helper Wally Beckwith was married and earning a living by the time he was 17. Wally and Marion were childhood sweethearts whose romance strengthened over the years. Within the first decade and a half of their marriage, Wally overcame a drug habit, became the father of two sons, and at times earned an annual salary equivalent to \$140,000 in today's purchasing power.

Fellow shelter listener Stephanie Stewart and I chatted with Wally in a downtown café to hear about the triggers and transitions which led to Wally's becoming unhoused. Delightfully funny and conversant, Wally tells a story that is equally about the creativity and determination that's turning his life around.

Wally and Marion were both employed and active community members when they were shocked by Marion's being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on Christmas Eve 2014. Wally maintained his job at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre while caretaking Marion during her grueling six months of chemo. Marion passed away on 19 August 2015.

"Having been together for 40 years, we were like soulmates," Wally mused, sadly. "I grew lonely." In time Wally turned to an escort service, mostly to have someone to make dinner for and join him in watching a movie. The first of many escorts re-introduced Wally to meth which ended his 25 years of sobriety. Wally moved out of his sad-memory-filled abode and into a mobile home. A subsequent eviction left him renting motel rooms. Insurance money, which Wally placed in the hands of close relatives to help support his livelihood and not his habit, was misused. Likewise, the escorts took advantage of Wally's generosity and vulnerability. Wally ended up on the streets, broke. "But I had my street family," Wally asserted.

2017 began with Wally's returning to his native southern California to care for his mom while she underwent chemo. During Wally's seven-month stay, his older brother died, and his dad was diagnosed with cancer. Wally's parents rallied, but grief and loss continued. An arrest for driving under the influence left Wally vehicle-less and travel-challenged. Upon arriving back in Ashland, Wally was jailed for a month by his probation officer for having traveled out of state without the court's permission. Most painful was word just before Christmas 2017 that Wally's younger son had developed tumors on his pancreas.

Wally took refuge in the winter shelters in Ashland and Medford. He described how arduous it is to accomplish simple tasks without a home, car, or bus passes. "Keeping appointments," Wally explained, "is challenging when there aren't public places to charge my cell phone." Wally acknowledged how women, though, bear the brunt of homelessness—routinely getting beaten up and/or raped.

Then halfway through 2018, Wally experienced his darkest moment of homelessness, which furthered the unraveling that widowhood began. Just after dusk Wally rode his bike to a secluded place along the creek, stopping frequently to ascertain that he was alone, anticipating peace, quiet, and slumber. Instead he awoke from a sleep-turned-unconsciousness, his head bloody from being clobbered, with vague recollections of having heard his own unanswered screams. His bike was gone. Not only did Wally lose his sole vehicle, but the trauma also intensified his hatred for being alone, filled him with fear, and left him (still) unable to sleep through the night. (Continued on Page 3)



WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE FLOWERS

(Continued from Page 2)

To Wally's credit, he has participated in peer counseling, as well as grief, drug, and emotional counseling. None of these approaches has adequately addressed the trauma which underlies his loneliness and blocks his path back to self-sufficiency. Of late, Wally has begun EMDR, a trauma-focused counseling modality, which, so far, promises to reach such a depth.

When asked what prompted his current three-and-a-half months of sobriety, Wally replied, "When I turned 59 this fall, I said 'no more.' I want my life back." But Wally began saying "yes" to his creativity when he became settled in winter shelter last year. Wally built upon his knack for color-matching and taught himself origami. Making traditional peace doves morphed into creating self-styled, card-stock paper flowers, each as unique as a snowflake. In keeping with the mission of this year's shelter of encouraging movement toward self-support, homelessness advocates have recognized Wally's artistic talent and commissioned Wally's handiwork as table centerpieces for community events and paper-flower bouquets as gifts to honor fellow advocates.

Recognizing that homeless artists must carry all their craft supplies on their backs along with their life possessions, one shelter volunteer offered Wally a room for four months in which he can live, make and sell flowers, and save up rent money. Other advocates are assisting Wally with such start-up necessities as business cards, helpful contacts, and gentle nudges to sell his flowers. Wally has described his delight when giving them away for free: "It brings a smile to my lips and tears to my eyes."

"I've been on my own and paying my way since I was 17," Wally noted. "The loss of my self-confidence and self-sufficiency has been most crushing." Wally is en route to taking as good a care for himself as he has always done for others. May his creativity set him free!

--Bob Morse, Manager, Shelter Listening Project

How Are We Called to Act to Uproot Racism?

The following (final) paragraph of the NPYM Uprooting Racism Minute is a call to action:

Our Quaker values affirm that of God in everyone. Our faith calls us to eradicate white privilege in our individual lives, in our Meetings, and in our greater communities. We trust that divine assistance will guide us toward greater inclusivity so that by sharing power, all may benefit from everyone's gifts and none will struggle to feel heard and included. We commit to examining our traditions as Friends for barriers that exclude people of color and alter the traditions accordingly. As well, we commit to challenging ourselves and our meetings to take action that dismantles oppressive societal attitudes and institutions, creates equity, and constructs multiracial movements to solve the pressing problems of our times. We aspire to become a beloved community structured by equality of opportunity, respect, and spiritual and economic well-being for all.

We will gather at 9:30 am Sunday 10 February to discuss and discern how we individually and collectively as a Meeting are led to act to become more racially inclusive in our lives, our Meeting, and our community. All voices are welcome.

--Bob Morse

Northwest Quaker Men's Gathering

29-31 March 2019 * Camp Tillikum, Newberg, Oregon

In April 2018, Quaker men from churches and meetings throughout the Northwest gathered to share our stories and celebrate how the Spirit is working in our lives.

We had time for quiet reflection, group sessions, worship, and lots of one-on-one conversations. We ended up making new friends while building bridges across different traditions.

Our 2019 theme is Identifying, Sharing, & Living Into Spiritual Gifts. Our weekend will include times for worship, music, conversation, quiet reflection, play, small group sharing, and 4 sessions:

Session one speaker: Phil Smith: A Quaker Understanding of Spiritual Gifts

Session two speaker: Joe Snyder: Living Into our Gifts

Session three speakers: Ralph Beebe, Eric Maya Joy, Ward Miles: Personal Stories

Session four: Wrap-up & Worship Sharing

Cost is \$225; financial assistance is available.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO, contact Al Hendrix at andgodblinked@gmail.com

EXPLORE CAMP TILLIKUM: camptillikum.org

ADVICES & QUERIES ON DISCERNMENT

Seeking and waiting for Truth's leadings is a discipline through which all can grow in patience, unity, and love. Decisions under the guidance of the Spirit knit the loving community together.

We remain patient and wait upon God as long as needed for a decision to emerge which clearly recommends itself as the right one.

We guard against contentiousness, obstinacy, and love of control and power. We remember that our views, however fondly cherished, may be wrong.

We season our decisions and test our leadings with patience and integrity. We take care to stay within our leadings, lest we outrun our Guide.

Friends approach meeting for business, committee meetings, and other occasions for group discernment with trust that the Holy Spirit will lead us to unity and right action. Unity is always possible because the same Light of Truth shines in some measure in every human heart. Communal discernment takes place in a context of worship as those present seek divine guidance.

Friends expect unity as the outcome, not as the starting point, of communal discernment. We proceed in the peaceable spirit of the light of Truth, with forbearance and warm affection for one another. Light will be shed on matters from many angles. We trust that as Truth is spoken, its power cannot be resisted.

We express our views but refrain from pressing them unduly. It is less important for any individual to be heard than it is for Truth to be given voice.

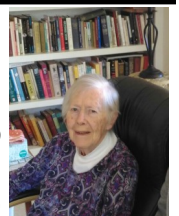
Group discernment and the search for unity may require us to accept with good grace a decision of the meeting we do not entirely agree with.

Contributing to the meeting's discernment is a responsibility of membership. This includes attending meetings for business and being faithful in the service of the meeting's affairs.

- ⇒ *Do we patiently seek divine guidance to discern the right course of action?*
- ⇒ *How do we test our leadings? Do we patiently and prayerfully seek clearness in the Light?
Do we offer spiritual aid for others who are seeking clearness?*
- ⇒ *When our own way is unclear, do we seek the counsel of others in our meeting?*
- ⇒ *What can we do to help others recognize, temper, and strengthen their leadings?*
- ⇒ *Do we hold our meetings for business in the spirit of worship, love, and understanding?
How are we seeking God's Truth together in community?*
 - ⇒ *Do we regularly take part in meetings for business?*
 - ⇒ *Do we uphold the meeting in prayer when we cannot be present?*
- ⇒ *Do we come into meeting for business prepared to be changed? Are we ready to let go of our individual thoughts and wishes and let the Holy Spirit lead the meeting to unity?*
- ⇒ *As difficult problems arise, are we careful to meet them in a spirit of love and humility, with minds open for creative solutions? How do we avoid taking sides and forming factions?*
 - ⇒ *Do we avoid the pressure of time, neither unnecessarily prolonging nor unduly curtailing full consideration?*
 - ⇒ *Are we aware that we speak through inaction as well as action?*

FONDLY REMEMBERING BARBARA, CONNIE, & CHARU

Friend Barbara Rosen died on 19 December 2018. Our condolences have gone out to the family. Ministry and Counsel will be drafting a Memorial minute for Barbara which will be presented to Business Meeting next month and then appear in the newsletter. In consultation with the family, a memorial meeting will be held at some point in the future. When a date has been determined, Friends will be notified.



We have also heard this month of the deaths of Connie Battaille and Charu Colorado who attended and participated actively in the meeting in the past. We remember them with affection. --Maureen, Co-Clerk, M&C

Quaker CSA Year 2 at Morriplum Farm

Conquered the cucurbit beetles and brought home the melons and squash...roughly 1000 # of squash! Totally rocked the tomatoes and had some bonnie basil.

We didn't quite get everything right, but growing organic vegetables to support my family and seven other families was an enjoyable feeling. Folks only had to pay \$50 upfront with whatever they felt like it was worth by fall. This method allowed us "room" to experiment and possibly fail. For the most part, it was a success.

This year we will do it again (!) even though it will be a labor of love with some financial benefit. What I mean by this is that I've decided to grow all I can in the "efficient half" of the garden. Long straight rows with minimal weeding will grow all manner of veggies to feed lots more folks. Our new greenhouse will help get seeds started more easily.

So announcing Quaker **Consumer Supported Agriculture**, Year 2

Start Date: mid-May

End Date: mid-October (approx. 22 weeks)

New this year:

Full Shares (4 people) & Half Shares (2 people)

Half shares (2 people) every other week (11 weeks total)

Swapping of veggies you don't need (Farm pickup only)

Sharing a full or half share is encouraged, but it's your responsibility

Extra seed starts available in Spring

Recipes from our Farm Kitchen

Farm Tours: Monthly w/Home Brew in the Bar in the BarN

Home Delivery within radius; there is an extra cost associated

Payment upfront, but payment plans available upon request

ADVOCACY FOR THE LONG HAUL

FCNL Southern Oregon Advocacy Team Launch

1-4 pm Sunday 10 February

MEDFORD LIBRARY REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

"What can I do to change the terrible things happening in the world?"

Our 75 years on Capitol Hill have shown that the voices of ordinary people can make an important impact on federal policy. In-person meetings with your members of Congress are the **most effective way** to influence policy decisions.

Change in Washington starts with you. We invite you to join FCNL for a workshop aimed at demonstrating how to:

Influence your members of Congress and their staff through face-to-face contacts/conversations

Drive the media coverage you want to see

Build a strategic team in Southern Oregon that lobbies as part of FCNL's powerful national advocacy network

Join our 2019 Advocacy Team Campaign to stop endless wars by urging Congress to reassert its constitutional authority. We will urge the repeal of Congress's **Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)**, and encourage public debate on all issues of war and peace.

Learn More at: fcnl.org/advocacyteams

Register for Workshop at: https://act.fcnl.org/event/advocacy-teams_attend/472 or contact Ivend Holen at: (541) 779-5392

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a Quaker lobby in the public interest that seeks to promote just, peaceful and equitable policies in the U.S. government.

Pickup: TBD based on needs of membership...tentatively Saturday at the farm OR Sunday in Ashland

Payment: \$600 for a full share, \$436 for a half share, \$218 for a half share every other week

Contact me at Morriplum-farmsanctuary@gmail.org or 301.5840 to sign up or if you have questions. Please let us know your preferred pickup location and pickup day as this is not yet set in stone.

--Scott

South Mountain Friends New Website

Our ad hoc tech committee presented Meeting with a new, simple, engaging, out-facing website which Meeting has accepted with seasoning.

Please check it out and offer us **feedback** sometime **before Sunday 3 February**.

The **LINK** to the **website**: <https://ashlandquakers.org>

Thanks,

--Scott, Adam, Bill, and Bob

Meeting For Worship For Business: 20 January 2019

Friends Present: Melody Ashworth (clerk), Ken Deveney, Maureen Graham, Gabrielle Leslie, Anna Monders, Bob Morse, Lisa Nichols (recording clerk), Scott Plummer, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Adam Thompson

Centering

North Pacific Yearly Meeting *Faith & Practice*, Discernment, p. 39

Treasurer's Report

The donations are coming in slowly. If a friend has not donated yet this year, they may wish to do so. \$2,000 of checks have not been deposited by NPYM. Friends expressed gratitude for Herb's many years of service as treasurer.

2019.1.1 The Meeting chooses Adam Thompson to replace Herbert Rothschild as treasurer, beginning January 21, 2019. It also authorizes the removal of Herbert Rothschild and Fran Curtis as signatories on the South Mountain Friends Meeting account at Rogue Credit Union and the addition of Adam Thompson as a signatory.

Ad Hoc Tech Committee

The FGC-hosted web page has been disappointing. Bob Morse has created a simpler, more out-facing design. The ad hoc tech committee (Scott, Adam, Bill, and Bob) seeks approval to move forward with the new website. The cost is the same as what Meeting has been spending via FGC. The website can be reached at

<https://ashlandquakers.org>

2019.1.2 Meeting approves the ad hoc tech committee's going live with the new website. Meeting is asked to explore and season the website and submit requests for adjustment to the ad hoc tech committee by February 3rd.

The finance committee will seek a refund from FGC for the 2019 website hosting cost; otherwise

we will consider our recent payment a donation.

Building & Grounds Committee

The fall work party was on 15 December. A broken valve was discovered in the irrigation System and is under repair. A fire inspection will be conducted soon. Work parties occur four times a year.

Joint Committee

Joint Committee considered the suggestion of permaculture landscape, yet was more concerned with reducing fire hazards. The City of Ashland will send an employee to assess fire hazards in our landscape. There are two retaining walls on or near our Meeting property. The one on the south side of the building is modest and does not hold much up, but could be strengthened when landscaping projects are pursued. The one on the west side of the building is not on our land.

Adult Education

Adult Education was again asked to host Sakre Edson's talk on *Western Friend*. The committee declined to host Sakre on that date. The committee will instead be hosting an adult education session 9:30 am Sunday 24 February about the intersection of mysticism and social justice. It will also be continuing our adult education group for New and Used Quakers on Wednesday 20 February.

Ministry and Counsel

Ministry and Counsel now meets the first Tuesday of the month. It is reviewing the new advices and queries; and they will start being in the newsletter. The minute about scents will soon be posted in the restrooms. The Grants Pass shuttle will resume this month. Three dear f/Friends of our Meeting have passed lately: Charu Colorado, Connie Battaille and member Barbara Rosen. There is

outreach to Barbara Rosen's family, and a memorial minute is being prepared. In the future, if a Friend passes, notification will be given at rise of Meeting, in the weekly announcements, and in the newsletter.

There is much enthusiasm about hosting the board of *Western Friend* on 20-22 September. Herb and Gabrielle are both willing to be point people, Bob is available, and Kathleen will coordinate volunteers for meals, snacks and potluck. A committee will be formed to take care of the arrangements of the weekend. Meeting will host Sakre Edson to talk about *Western Friend* on 14 April.

2019.1.3 Meeting for Business enthusiastically approves hosting the board of *Western Friend* 20-22 September 2019.

Peace and Social Concerns

Peace and Social Concerns has hosted the Hiroshima and Nagasaki vigils for the past two years. Peace House will host the Hiroshima and Nagasaki vigils this year. Peace and Social Concerns received ten survey responses; more are welcome, as are ideas for education sessions. The Friends Committee on National Legislation Southern Oregon Advocacy Team Launch will be Sunday 10 February 1-4 pm at the Medford Public Library. On Sunday 31 March, Peace and Social Concerns will inform Meeting of relevant actions in the state legislature.

Calendaring

Lisa is presently laying down music time. Herb offered to host a fellowship lunch on 24 February. Alex and Javan will host a fellowship lunch on 14 April. Bob will ask MaryBeth if our Grants Pass shuttle could run on those two days.

Respectfully submitted,
Melody Ashworth, Clerk
Lisa Nichols, Recording Clerk

SMFM CALENDAR

February 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fr Sat

					1	2
3 9:30 am Committee Meetings AD HOC TECH COMMITTEE REQUESTS FEEDBACK ON OUR NEW SMFM WEBSITE BEFORE WE MEET AT 9:30 TODAY (p. 5) 10:30 am Circle of Light	4	5 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting at Gabrielle's Home	6	7 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	8	9 Ashland Food Project Pick-Up 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
10 9:30 am Winnowing Session on How Are We Called To Act to Uproot Racism (see p. 3) 1-4 pm FCNL Workshop (see p. 5)	11	12	13 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	14 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	15	16
17 8:30-10:30 am Business Meeting	18 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	19	20 6:30 to 7:30 pm on Quakerism (see below)	21 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	22	23
24 9:30 am Adult Education Discussion on Mysticism & Social Justice Rise of Meeting: Fellowship Over Food; Contribute Pot-luckily or Just Bring Your Presence All are Welcome	25	26	27 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	28 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends		

ADULT ED INTRODUCES A New Monthly Series On 3RD Wednesday Evenings

Deepening the Quaker Experience For New & Used f/Friends

6:30 to 7:30 pm Wed 20 February 2019

HOW EARLY QUAKERISM REVIVED WOULD LOOK

What would it look like to put God at the center? To be in the world but not of the world? To live in a community of mutual accountability and love? Please join us for community and conversation.

--Lisa, Becky, Jim, and Karen

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Melody Ashworth 324-9824

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Recording Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, assisted by Pam Johnson and Sylvie Weaver

Web Administrator: Scott Plummer 301-5840, Adam Thompson, Bill Ashworth; **Website**

Contributors: Bob Morse & Pam Johnson

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940

Archivist: Pam Johnson 535-1940

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

Children's Education & Spirituality: Ken Deveney (convener) 488-5506, Cathy McDaniel

Winter Shelter Coordinators: Alex Reid 707-499-9146 and Bob Morse 482-8449

Please direct all Meeting-related electronic correspondence to ashlandquakers@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse (morse@mind.net) Monday after Business Meeting

Finance Committee: Adam Thompson, Barbara Arias, Scott Plummer, Treasurer *ex officio*

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Wells, Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Glenn Allister, Hazel Ward

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Patricia Morrison, Crystal Bosbach, Cathie McDaniel, Kathleen Hering

Greeters: Steve Radcliffe, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Bob Morse

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Herb Rothschild (clerk), Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister

Library Elves: Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Heather Starbird, Becky Hale

Adult Education Committee: Lisa Nichols (clerk), Becky Hale, Jim Phillips, Karen Roertgen

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 488-0228, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Brent Howell 841-8841, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Clerk/Assistant *ex officio*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520