



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 560

September-October 2009

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CALENDAR

First-day - 8:00-8:55 AM - Early Meeting For Worship
- 9:10-9:45 Hymn sing. Out back if sunny; if not pleasant outside, sing in the meeting room.
All are welcome to sing or listen.
- 10:00 AM Meeting For Worship. Children worship with us for the first 20 minutes, then go to First-Day School classes
Second First-day - 10:35 or so - Meeting For Worship For Business
Third First-day - Cooperative Meal
First First-day - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship, Cornwall Worship Group, Paymaster's Building, Cornwall Manor
Last First-day - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship, Willow Valley Worship Group (Joyce Collins 464-6363 for more information)

FORUMS

September 20 - Social time and cooperative meal—all are welcome
September 27 - Joe Moore & Joe DiGarbo talk about their sojourn in Palestine
October 4 - Tom Latus and Worship and Ministry Committee—Friendly 8s
October 11 - Meeting for worship for business
October 18 - Social time and cooperative meal—all are welcome
October 25 - Cheryl Clark from Schuylkill Meeting on Green Burial

ACTIVITIES

Every Saturday - 11:00-Noon - Vigil For Peace in Lancaster. For more information, call Charles Lane 394-5912

Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:35 AM - Cooperative Meal
Mon. Sept. 21 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
Sun. Sept. 27 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
Sun. Sept. 27 - 9:00 AM-noon - drop things off for the Simplify Your Life yard sale (see below)
Mon. Sept. 28 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Fri. Oct. 2 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - drop things off for the Simplify Your Life yard sale (see below)
Sat. Oct. 3 - 7:00 AM- noon - Simplify Your Life Yard Sale!!!

Sat. Oct. 3 – 1:30 PM – Earlham School of Religion celebration in Phila. (see below)
 Sun. Oct. 4 – 12:30 PM or so Peace and Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Oct. 4 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group
 Mon. Oct. 5 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. Oct. 5 – 7:00-8:30 PM– Worship and Ministry Committee in meetinghouse
 Tue. Oct. 6 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel Committee in meetinghouse
 Sat. Oct. 10 – 9:00-4:00 – Meeting retreat to consider Quaker Quest (see below)
 Sun. Oct. 11 – 10:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. Oct. 12 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Sat. Oct. 17 – 9:00-Noon – Possible Gardening Day at the meetinghouse
 Sun. Oct. 18 – 10:00 AM or 11:00 AM – Caln Quarterly Meeting at Exeter MM (see below)
 Sun. Oct. 18 – 11:35 AM – Cooperative Meal
 Mon. Oct. 19 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Oct. 20 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse (see below)
 Tue. Oct. 20 – Deadline for October-November newsletter
 Sat. Oct. 24 – 9:30-4:30 – Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts at Pendle Hill (see below)
 Sun. Oct. 25 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
 Mon. Oct. 26 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Sat. Oct. 31 – 9:30-4:00 – Extended worship at Newton Monthly Meeting (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON NINTH MONTH 13**

At about 10:40 am, after a brief period of silent worship, Assistant Clerk Thomas Latus took up the business of Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved, and minutes for Eighth Month were read, corrected and approved.

Worship sharing on queries on outreach:

Queries:

1. What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us?
2. How do I ground myself in the understanding of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare to share my faith and beliefs with others?

Responses:

- I'm going to give personal testimony on what I'm doing to connect with the wider community. St. James church in Lancaster has a breakfast program. They feed about 150 people every morning. I have made the acquaintance of the pastor and the person in charge of the breakfast program to see if we could partner with them. There is nothing definite yet, but if there is, I will bring it to meeting.

- I have a generic comment on the queries. I

like them. But I find expressing them in a worship sharing environment difficult. I'd like more back and forth, more discussion. We do little in terms of adult education with the exception of Friendly 8s. What about a discussion of the queries from 9 to 9:50 in the morning?

- This morning one query is "Am I clear about my beliefs?" It seems a propos that an agenda item at Interim Meeting yesterday was a concern for articulating what is common to Quakers at the core of our faith. It was an interesting session, with expression of a diversity of individual beliefs. Our core beliefs may be something for us to consider. It would help in talking with others about what Quakers believe.

- These queries are timely. If you're concerned or confused about these queries and Quaker core beliefs, come to Meeting's October 10 Fall retreat, where we will have a presentation on Quaker Quest, which involves direct answers to these two queries. At the retreat we'll practice articulating our core beliefs.

- I'm glad we're having this Quaker Quest retreat. The first query today is "What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us?" I'm sorry to say I don't think we're doing very much. We have a weekly listing in the local newspaper, a website with good information for those who go to it, and a sign in front of the meetinghouse which has no light so it can't be seen in the dark and is then effectively not a sign. In

the past 5 years we have spoken, as a Meeting, to virtually none of the Quaker testimonies, except for the Iraq war. We're a wonderful light hidden under a huge basket. I hope that we as a community will persistently and effectively communicate our principles to the public.

- A few years ago it was very inspiring to me when a First Day School high school student drafted a letter to the editor about the Iraq war. The letter began with "Thou shalt not kill." I was inspired by this student because the statement went to core beliefs. And it led to our youths collaborating with youths from other Meetings in a day for youth to reach out to those most vulnerable.

Clerk said that since he went through the Quaker Quest program, he is hopeful we will talk more about issues of practical outreach.

A Friend suggested that we further reconsider the recent decision to not read the queries during meeting for worship, since more people are at meeting for worship than come to the business meeting. Clerk said we will consider this further in October or November.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Karen Zimmerman reported that as of August 31, we had a shortfall of \$7,820, which is usual for this time of year. Karen told us that our rental income dropped by about \$1,500 this year because two groups discontinued their rentals. A Friend noted that the building is empty all day Friday; we have is lots of space available for rental.

Threshing session on summer worship: Clerk began by reminding us that for this summer's worship two changes were made: 1) an air conditioner was put in the library and the doors between the library and the meeting room are kept open, and 2) worship time was advanced to 9 am. Clerk said he and Joe Moore got about 15 written comments and that they have talked with many others about the matter. Their summary is:

- 1) There are no issues regarding the air conditioner in the library. Several people said they are grateful for it.

- 2) Regarding the 9 am worship time, about 4 people said it is good or okay. Many said it is a problem for various reasons, including the following:

- Letting people know is difficult, for example, changing notices in Quaker publications like *Friends Journal* is difficult.

- The earlier worship time is difficult for fami-

lies with children. This summer we had about half the number of children we had in 2008.

- Others found it difficult to fit the 9 am time into their life rhythms.

Several Friends felt that this has been our most successful effort and that we may have solved the problem, since no one has complained—though next year we could return to the 10 am meeting. One Friend suggested we get a better speaker for the library. Another Friend felt the quality of our worship this summer was "sleepy" and attendance was down. Another suggested we could meet even later, at 11, like many other meetings. Several brought up the possibility of central air or geothermal heating and cooling, and one Friend reminded us that some have health problems with air conditioning. Several Friends pointed out that whatever we decide, we need to make sure that all announcements (including those on our own website) reflect the correct time.

Clerk summed up the discussion as having 3 strands:

- 1) What is the best time for meeting for worship?

- 2) No one stands in the way of having the air conditioner in the library.

- 3) We can consider central air or geothermal heating and cooling.

Ernie Nute said that the Long Range Planning Committee looked into geothermal and found that the cost would be about \$70,000. For Lancaster Meeting, the payback would take longer because our building is not used enough for a fast payback. There is also the question whether we should do it because it's green and the right thing to do.

Meeting then approved the following:

- 1) We ask Worship & Ministry to consider the time of meeting for worship, including getting more feedback.

- 2) We will consider the air conditioner in the library at a future business meeting, perhaps in January.

- 3) We ask the Long Range Planning Committee to continue their consideration of switching to a geothermal energy source.

Ad hoc committee on support during the economic recession: A Friend said she talked with her daughter, a member of Twin Cities Monthly Meeting in Minnesota, about what Twin Cities is doing to help members. Twin Cities has a "fund

for sufferings” with \$3,000 to \$4,000 in it. They have support committees for those in need; these committees include in their approach helping individuals apply for funds and find employment. Twin Cities Quakers also are good at hiring needy people with skills.

Charles Lane, who recently convened a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, reported that Meeting has two funds to help persons in need and Care & Counsel works with those who are suffering. He questioned whether we need another committee to do this work. Clerk said there are many support committees in our Meeting, though their work is quiet. Another Friend felt that there are concerns not dealt with by Care & Counsel and not addressed by any other committees, plus there is the matter of suffering in the wider community. He asked: Is this all we are led to do?

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1.05 pm. There were 42 present.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Latus, Assistant Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

Present: Adele Berardi, Peggy Bright, Andrea Carthy, Maria Cattell, Joyce Collins, Joseph DiGarbo, Faith d’Urbano, Jean & William Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Erika Fitz, Elizabeth and Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred and Lois Frey Gray, Debra Hewes, Charles & Millicent Holzinger, Mark Horst, James Kalish, Lois Kelso, Amanda Kemp, Shane Knudsen, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Joanne Leatherman, Elise Leytham, Marilyn Morrison, Ernest Nute, Donna Scanlon, Raymond Trayer, Anne Wallace-DiGarbo, Erma Weaver, Karen Zimmerman, and the following high schoolers: Nathan Lewis, Vanyel Leytham-Peterson, Henry and Lucy Scanlon.

IT’S ABOUT TIME

DECUMBER – Feeling weighed down by clutter? Looking for a new home for items you no longer have a use for? Or maybe new items to put in your home? You are invited to participate in a Simplify Your Life yard sale—clean your attic and help raise money for a good cause at the same time! On Saturday, October 3, the Meeting is holding a yard sale and we need your help; we need both good, **gently used items** to sell and we need **people to help** with the sale itself. The money we raise will be sent to two different organ-

izations: Right Sharing of World Resources and the Day Shelter for homeless men and women in Lancaster City.

There are two times you can bring your donations to the meetinghouse: Sunday, September 27 from 9:00-noon and Friday, October 2 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. All items should be clean and in good condition—please do **not** bring clothing. Donate your used clothes to Goodwill. Questions? Call Liz Gates at 581-3416.

BY THE BOONEIES – Exeter Friends Meeting is celebrating the 250th anniversary of their historic Meetinghouse located at 191 Meetinghouse Rd. in Douglassville, PA. They take seriously their responsibility to care for a building which is a gem of 18th century Quaker architecture significant to the history of the county and Friends in the Delaware Valley. Special programs will be held in October: October 3, Saturday: They will be cooperating with the Daniel Boone Homestead Community Days. An exhibit of the Quaker Meetinghouse history will be held in the DeTurk educational center. Trolley shuttle will be available from the Daniel Boone Homestead campus to the Meetinghouse. Tours will be given at 10:30 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm by local historians. During the day Plein Air painters will be on the meetinghouse grounds painting their interpretations of the meetinghouse. October 4, Sunday: Meeting for Worship will be held in the meetinghouse at 10:30 a.m. and again at 1 pm, each followed by a reenactment of a Quaker wedding. October 11, Sunday: Following Meeting for Worship the First Day School will reenact some period skits. October 17, Saturday: A Barn dance will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Crow's Nest Preserve in Elverson. All ages are invited for dance and fellowship. For further information contact Jack Grebinger, Clerk of Meeting, at 610-987-9062 or Courtney Stokes, Clerk of Planning Committee, at 610-689-4383.

Exeter Meeting will then host Caln Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, October 18. Meeting for Worship will begin at 10 am (instead of the usual 10:30 am). 11 am - Quarterly Business Meeting 12:30 pm - Apple themed lunch - pressing of cider, bobbing for apples, apple fritters, and soups. Drinks and desserts will also be provided. 1:30 pm - Seth Henshaw, a well known architectural historian, will be speaking. (An exhibit of photographs, prints, and artifacts, as well as Plein Air paintings, will be displayed throughout the Meetinghouse.)

LIFE VS FAITH – Earlham School of Religion invites Friends to attend an educational and celebratory event at Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia on Sat., Oct. 3. “Vibrant Quakerism, Living Witness: Celebrating 50 Years of Earlham School of Religion’s Ministry of Education” begins at 1:30 p.m. The afternoon will include panel discussions on the intersection of life and faith, with the goal of engaging participants to think practically about how our Quaker principles influence our manner of being and our participation in our communities. Worship focused upon queries generated by the theme will follow the panel discussions. The day's activities conclude with a dinner celebration of Earlham School of Religion's 50 years of educational ministry. Panelists include Shirley Dodson, Carolyn Evans, Beth Lawn, Arthur Larrabee, Edward Marshall III, and Eric Mayer. For more information, contact Matthew Mosey at moseyma@earlham.edu, call 1-800-432-1377, or visit

<http://esr.earlham.edu/50years/>

SEARCHLIGHT – As noted in the minutes above, the Annual Worship and Ministry All-Meeting Fall Retreat will be an “Introduction to Quaker Quest,” on October 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quaker Quest is a dynamic new outreach program which originated in Britain Yearly Meeting and has now been endorsed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) and Friends General Conference (FGC). This is an opportunity to explore as a community our approach to outreach (see Queries for ninth month). Whether or not we go ahead with the full program, this workshop will enrich our Meeting’s understanding of the challenges and opportunities for outreach. There is no cost, but we ask you to sign up on the bulletin board if you intend to come, to help us plan (last minute participants still welcome). Child care will be provided, but if you need child care, please sign no later than October 4. For lunch, please bring a dish to share. For more information go to www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest

OTHER LIGHTS – Downingtown Friends Meeting will hold its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on the historic grounds of Downingtown Friends Meeting (800 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA; Business Route 30, just west of Wegman’s). Featured activities include music, delicious foods, children's activities, crafts and white elephant sales. Once again, the Festival offers a special sale of

fall-blooming perennials that will thrive locally but aren't available at retail outlets in the area. Gardeners will have a special opportunity to speak with internationally known horticulturist David Culp at The Grapevine, which also offers preserves, houseplants, and other items for the home. Admission and parking are free.

SIZE TO FIT – The Spirituality and Science study group will meet on Tuesday, October 20th, at 7:30 in the Community Room of the meetinghouse. Thanks to a brief outline, prepared by Stan Carnarius, of the contents of the 43 essays of the book, *Measuring the Immeasurable*, we will be able to selectively review and discuss those of particular interest to the group. All are welcome to join us. Any questions call Adele Berardi at 391-8915.

SEE HERE – All are invited to the 4th Annual Arts Conference of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts, at Pendle Hill, October 24, from 9:30-4:30. There will be an art exhibit and artists' reception, workshops, musical performances. Information online: www.pym.org/fqa. Or ask Maria Cattell, Clerk of FQA.

QUIET LONG – You might want to consider the Fall gathering for extended worship Saturday, October 31, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Newton Monthly Meeting, Cooper Street (between Haddon Ave & 8th), Camden NJ 08101. A full morning of unprogrammed worship, followed by a bag lunch. In the afternoon there will be worship sharing on the themes that emerge from the morning worship. This is an opportunity to be gathered into worship with others and allow the Spirit to work in us at deep levels. All are welcome. Bring a lunch. We welcome donations to cover expenses. We can try to arrange for childcare if you call two weeks in advance. For more information, please contact: Marcelle Martin: 610-627-0390 Friend-Marcelle at aol.com

MORE ART – PYM and FQA are presenting an Art Show and Sale which opens with a Preview Party (open to all) on Thursday evening, Nov. 5, and runs through Saturday afternoon, Nov. 7. The show, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meetinghouse in Phila., will feature up to 40 artists. On Friday evening November 6 there will be a concert with Livingston Taylor and Liz Longley at Arch Street. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased online. Information about Arts on Arch events is at www.pym.org/pm/arts-on-arch.php

ARTISTS: This juried art show, a benefit for the annual fund of PYM, is open to artists who are members of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT digital images of your work is SEPTEMBER 30. If you are not a member of FQA, you can join at the special rate of \$20 for a year's membership. Contact Elke Muller for more information: maureenelke at verizon.net

ON THE HILL – Looking for inspiration and networking for peace and justice work? How about solid grounding for a new clerk or new attenders? This fall Pendle Hill offers several workshops designed to support the life of Quaker Meetings. ... New York Friends Helen Garay Toppins and Pamela Wood will lead “Nurturing Our First Day Schools” September 25-27. Designed for Meetings with few or many children, this workshop will include focus on an anti-bias, multicultural curriculum. ... For those interested in an introduction to Quakerism, Pendle Hill offers an Inquirers’ Weekend November 6-8, led by British teacher and author Ben Pink Dandelion and Deborah Shaw of Guilford College. Ben will also lead a worship-rich short course, “Celebration of Quakerism,” November 8-12, based on his new book. ... PYM’s General Secretary Arthur Larrabee will again lead his popular Clerking workshop November 20-22. This workshop is expected to fill quickly; those interested are encouraged to register early. ... For more information, visit www.pendlehill.org or call (610) 566-4507 or (800) 742-3150, ext. 3. Matching scholarships and several discounts are available; please ask. Pendle Hill is a Quaker retreat and study center in Wallingford, PA.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING

8 TOPICS – Is there a particular topic you would like to explore in Friendly 8s groups this year? Are you interested in facilitating a Friendly 8s group focused on a particular activity? Please let us at Worship & Ministry Committee know of your interest. In October, we plan to start up small groups following the process of past years. However, this year we envision a menu of small group topics/activities for Friends to select from, including reading groups, spiritual nurture groups, and groups for food and fun. Please consider how you might contribute to small groups this year. Contact Tom Latus (399-1987, thomas_latus@yahoo.com, convener W&M.

\$ HELP – The Ad Hoc Committee on Sufferings requests that anyone who is in need because of the economic conditions let us know by writing to tell us what your situation is and what kind of need you have, e.g. financial, counseling, training, etc.. Send your note to Karen Zimmerman at PO Box 124, Lampeter, PA 17551. In this way your query will be kept confidential and will be passed to Care and Counsel Committee for follow-up.

FOOD FOR FOOD – Kim Kalish has been away from meeting for some time because of a car accident. She hopes to be back by Oct. 4. She also hopes to make serious progress on the Meeting cookbook and would love to try to get together with people who are still interested kakalish at lancastergeneral.org or 426-2639

THOUGHT FOOD – Everyone in Meeting will want to read *Letters from Szechwan, 1923-1944*. This book is the collection of letters written by Quaker missionaries Robert Simkin and Margaret Timberlake Simkin from China to family and friends. You will not be able to put this book down as you learn about their very interesting lives through their letters back home. Look forward to reading what they write about Evelyn and Ted Herman! If the book isn't on the table in the library, ask a member of the Library Committee to be on the waiting list

JUST ASKING – Queries for Tenth Month are concerned with Stewardship of the Environment:

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation? (from PYM *Faith and Practice*)

How do we exercise our respect for the balance of nature? Do we use the world's resources with care and consideration for future generations and with respect for all life? (Intermountain Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*)

YOUNG POSSIBILITY – Every few years, a Quaker Youth Pilgrimage takes place somewhere in the world. Sponsored by Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), this trip brings 28 high-school aged youth (ages 16-18) from all parts of the world and all forms of Quakerism for a month of travel, learning, and service. The 2010 Pilgrimage will take place in the Pacific Northwest July 16 - August 13, 2010. Please go to the Pil-

grimage website:

http://fwccamericas.org/events/2010_qyp_pilgrim_ap.shtml. Applications should be received in the FWCC Philadelphia office by November 30, 2009.

LOVELY IN GREEN – Friends Center, at 15th and Cherry Streets in Center City Philadelphia, celebrated the official opening of its renovated and “greened” premises on the afternoon of Sept. 12. For those attending it was a euphoric experience to learn about the planning and the carrying out of the project, which has completely changed both the buildings and the people who use them. Friends Center consists of the old 15th Street (Hicksite) meetinghouse, which is a National Landmark building, and the newer (1974) office building. Together these buildings are occupied by: AFSC, PYM, and Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. These three organizations are also the owners in partnership of the complex.

Of great interest are the “green” features of the complex: a vegetated roof which collects rain water for flushing toilets, solar panels which generate a minor portion of their electrical needs, a geothermal heating and cooling system, reconfigured office space to maximize the use of natural light, the reuse or recycling of old structural items and the use of new elements from sustainable or recycled sources, just to mention a few. The effect is a very inviting and friendly set of spaces. The meetinghouse was renovated with its original elements intact, but refurbished, to keep the overall effect of the old building, while upgrading everything behind the walls and ceilings. Such an undertaking required a tremendous amount of work and patience and faith that it

would all come out right. Much of the \$7.2 million funding came from Meetings and individuals in the Yearly Meeting, while the rest came from national, state and foundation grants.

The overall result is now a model for many other organizations interested in doing similar projects. Friends Center is hoping to achieve “Platinum” LEEDS status, meaning that it meets the highest standards for energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in the growing “green” ecology schemes. Friends and others are encouraged to visit the renovated center for Friends activities in central Philadelphia, and be astounded by what careful planning, hard work, perseverance, and gentle persuasion can achieve.

ELDER AID – PYM’s new Greenleaf Fund will provide grants and loans to elderly PYM Quakers, and those in sympathy with Friends, who are in need of assistance to meet their housing, medical, maintenance and living costs. First application deadline is November 15, 2009. Application forms and guidelines will be available soon at www.pym.org and from either of the co-clerks of Care and Counsel Committee. Questions? Contact PYM Care and Aging Coordinator George Schaefer at 215-241-7068 or georges at pym.org

HELP PARENT – The Quaker Parenting Initiative, a project of PYM’s Education Standing Committee and Friends Counseling Service, and sponsored by Friends’ Institute, may have something to offer you as you attempt to raise a Quaker child in a non-Quaker world. Check out their website: www.quakerparenting.org