



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 564

January-February 2010

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Assistant Clerk: Tom Latus

Recording Clerk: Maria Cattell

Treasurer: Karen Zimmerman

Assistant: Christine Fuller

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Circulation: The Scanlon Family

Caln Quarter Coordinator: Marie Ryan (610-777-5825, coordinator at calnqm.org)

CALENDAR

First-day - 8:00-8:55 AM - Early Meeting For Worship

- 9:00-9:50 AM - The Bible & Friends' Testimonies study. All welcome

- 9:10-9:45 Hymn 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 (see below for a revision of the February schedule)

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

January 24 - What and why of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) (see below)

February 8 - Rev. David L. Johnson on religious peace witness (see below)

February 14 - Meeting for worship for business

February 21 - Caln Quarter meeting for worship for business (see below)

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. Jan. 17 - 11:30 AM or so - Cooperative Meal, all invited, collection for Food Bank

Mon. Jan. 18 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Tue. Jan. 19 - 7:30 PM - Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse

Wed. Jan. 20 - 7:10 PM - Working Group on Work in meetinghouse

Wknd Jan. 22-24 - Middle School Friends gathering

Sun. Jan. 24 - 9:00 AM - Environmental Committee in meetinghouse

Mon. Jan. 25 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Sat. Jan. 30 - Young Friends Contra Dance (see below)

Sun. Jan. 31 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
 Mon. Feb. 1 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. Feb. 1 – 7:00 PM– Worship & Ministry and Care & Counsel Committees in meetinghouse
 (see below)
 Sun. Feb. 7 – 8:30 AM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Feb. 7 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group
 Sun. Feb. 7 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Feb. 7 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse
 Mon. Feb. 8 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Feb. 2 – 7:00 PM – Working Group on Work in meetinghouse
 Sun. Feb. 14 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. Feb. 15 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Feb. 16 – Deadline for February-March newsletter
 Tue. Feb. 17 – 7:00 PM – Working Group on Work in meetinghouse
 Tue. Feb. 17 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse
 Sat. Feb. 19 – 6:30 PM – Healing Racism Group in meetinghouse with pot luck meal
 Sun. Feb. 21 – Winter Gathering of Caln Quarterly Meeting at Lancaster MM, including meeting
 for business, cooperative meal, and program (see below)
 Mon. Feb. 22 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON FIRST MONTH 10**

At about 11:40 am, after a brief period of silent worship, Clerk Joseph Moore took up the business of Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved, and minutes for Twelfth Month were read, corrected and approved.

Worship sharing on queries on meeting for worship.

Queries

1. In our meetings for worship, is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst? and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives?
2. Do we come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God?
3. Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Spirit?
4. Are we faithful and punctual in our attendance at meetings for worship, and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival?

[From North Carolina, New England and Philadelphia YMs]

Responses:

- I would say that sometimes I feel the intense presence of God’s spirit among us, and I feel drawn into that. It doesn’t happen every week. Some weeks are dry or unfocused. But the fact that it happens sometimes is what keeps me coming every week, because I don’t want to not be here when it happens.

- The first time I came to meeting was a very difficult time in my life, and the messages given said to me, like Julian of Norwich, “All shall be well.” I felt like it was just for me. In life, sometimes when I have most needed it, something comes, and I know it is possible for Spirit to speak to me.

- It may not be possible to rate our meetings on whether they are “successful,” and perhaps we shouldn’t try. But remember that we each bring something to meeting, and that’s the power of meeting for ourselves and others.

- This is the most difficult set of questions I recall ever reading in our business meetings. The first 3 ask for judgments that I don’t feel I can make. Silence, yes—but is it “living”? I don’t feel “drawn together in the light of Christ” as I am not a Christian. But meeting is a group of people come together to somehow live in the light, whatever that means. It is the commitment to look together that makes meetings powerful for me in trying to live in the light. I can’t make judgments about other people. But the queries are provocative. I am

deeply grateful that people gather in friendship with one another to live somehow in relation to the divine, without creed or much vocabulary, brought together at a common time with a common purpose.

- I was sitting in the library watching Friends exit the meeting room, and it was an experience I have sometimes of seeing people with new eyes. I felt a sense of appreciation, safety and joy as I looked at and recognized each individual and I also had the feeling of a spirit of the whole. I don't see with these eyes most of the time. But every once in a while there'll be a moment when that kind of vision, appreciation and connection are realized. My touchstone of connecting such moments with moments here in meeting makes me feel a divine connection.

- I've been experiencing meeting for worship as non-compartmentalized. It's when we leave *this* meeting that the *next* meeting for worship begins. I see it as a flowing experience, which is why I try to carry it with me.

- There is a lot of language in these queries that makes it hard for me to say that I know what this feels like or that looks like. Feeling palpable silence—I love that as an ideal, but I'm not sure I have an unequivocal memory of what that looks or feels like. For me, I know I'm not adequately prepared. I spend most of meeting trying to still scurrying thoughts. But I recall a meeting in December when I was aware of sounds outside, the sounds of traffic and commerce. I looked around the room and saw people who had stopped and bowed their heads against the commerce outside. It is so important to do this because it is practice in knowing that not every empty space has to be filled. When I can't come up with a palpable sense of spirit among us, I come to that. It's why I keep coming.

Treasurer's report. Treasurer Karen Zimmerman reported total income for 2009 of \$78,314.99 and total expenses of \$74,032.04, with a surplus of \$4,282.95. Of total income, 23% was received between December 26 and December 31—so please consider making regular contributions through a bank account.

Of total expenses, 14% went to meeting committees, 34% to meetinghouse operation, and 52% was donated to Quaker and non-

Quaker organizations. Committees spent only \$10,000 of the \$17,000 allotted to them. Questions were raised about why committees under-spend: is it because they are less active than they could be? because most things committees do don't require a lot of money? because individuals donate not only their time, but also in a material way? A Friend pointed out that having a bit of excess in committee budgets allows committees to take up new opportunities as they arise. Another Friend suggested that individuals might let the treasurer know about in-kind donations even if they do not expect reimbursement for them.

Care & Counsel—membership. Liz Gates reported that Emilita Poling, who was married under the care of this Meeting, has joined the Orthodox Church and asks that her membership be laid down. Her husband is studying to be a priest.

Report on Quaker Quest. Tom Latus read a brief report from Amy Kietzman, PYM Quaker Quest facilitator. Amy facilitated Meeting's Quaker Quest retreat in October. Amy's report:

"The general sense from the evaluations is positive regarding the experience of the workshop, with one or two exceptions. I am assuming that the main information you want is whether there is interest in going forward with Quaker Quest (QQ).

"5 of the 17 expressed interest or enthusiasm for doing QQ.

"6 others mentioned doing more outreach but without specifically mentioning QQ.

"Doing more work on spiritual hospitality and doing more to help articulate individual and corporate beliefs/ideas/experiences were frequently mentioned.

"In answer to the 2nd question: what might this mean for your meeting? one person wrote, 'Hopefully, healing dialogue.'

"One person found the approach of QQ too evangelistic.

"Most were appreciative of the chance to connect with each other, learn more about each other and deepen the sense of community."

Tom said that Worship & Ministry has discussed the report and felt some enthusiasm to

go ahead with Quaker Quest, but not sufficient enthusiasm to do it. With some having reservations, there is not unity about going forward, though just about everyone appreciated some elements of the retreat experience. So, Tom asked, where are we going with this, and with outreach and inreach in our community?

Tom briefly reviewed the QQ process which includes a series of 3 or 4 workshops which repeat, each dealing with a topic such as "Quakers and simplicity." There is sharing by 3 Friends and a half hour meeting for worship. It is primarily experiential and de-emphasizes Quaker history.

Friends then offered comments. One spoke of the value to the individual Friends who present at a QQ workshop and the possibility of doing this within our Meeting. It was noted that QQ takes a lot of time and energy. Friends spoke of outreach to other faith communities and ways we connect with visitors to our Meeting. One Friend suggested we do more outreach than we realize, for example, about 6 people who are not Friends participate in our current Friendly Eights groups, and our building is used by non-Quakers. We also engage in outreach activities such as the "Day of Informed Recruitment," the annual contra dance, and Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) work. Activities currently being planned include a labyrinth experience at the Unitarian Church including both Friends and people from Community Mennonite Church, a film to be shown at Community Mennonite, and an invitation for these other churches to come to us for meeting for worship, a forum and shared meal. Two committees, Peace & Social Concerns and Worship & Ministry, are planning forums to which others could be invited.

Clerk summed up the discussion by saying he did not sense unity to undertake Quaker Quest but that many look favorably on elements of the QQ program which involve outreach and inreach.

Summer worship. Clerk reminded us of our many discussions about summer worship. The Long Range Planning Committee is working on long-term strategic questions about environmental issues. For now, we need to decide just

one thing: the format for 2010 summer worship. Clerk proposed that we not change meeting for worship to 9 am and that the air conditioner in the library be run with the meeting-room doors open so those in the library can hear and give messages. Meeting approved.

Other matters. Jim Herr announced that Caln Quarterly Meeting will hold its meeting for business in Lancaster on February 21. Concerns about icy sidewalks were mentioned; Clerk will speak to our Meeting caretakers about that. Anna and Joe Moore thanked Meeting for love and care during their recent bereavement.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1:00 pm. There were 33 present.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Moore, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

Present: Ronald Ashby, Peggy Bright, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Joseph DiGarbo, Faith d'Urbano, Jean & William Eaton, Christopher Fitz, Erika Fitz, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Debra Hewes, Millicent Holzinger, James Kalish, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Haydn McLean, Anna & Joseph Moore, David Morrison, Ernest Nute, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Deborah Spence, Anne Wallace DiGarbo, Erma Weaver, Karen Zimmerman.

CALENDARATED

PRETTY OLD – 2010 is the 300th Anniversary of permanent European settlement by Swiss-German Mennonites in the Conestoga wilderness of what would become Lancaster County. (The 1719 Hans Herr House survives from this era.) During 2010, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House Museum are planning Native American initiatives and hosting a series of public events with the following goals: celebrate the arrival of the first permanent European settlers in Lancaster County in 1710; celebrate the contributions of the Native Peoples who lived here before and after the 1710 settlement; celebrate the rich diversity and the many

peoples who make up Lancaster County today in 2010.

Commemorative events start Sunday, January 31, 3:00 PM, with a Festival of Roots and Music, at Strasburg Mennonite Church. This free public program will be an interdenominational service of songs and readings, planned jointly with the Lancaster Council of Churches and the Parish Resource Center; featuring narrator, Kim Lemon, and soloists, Amy Yovanovich and Jeryl Metzler, Ephrata Cloister Chorus, Vietnamese choir, and bagpipe soloist.

There are many other things planned all year. If you're interested, check out www.lmhs.org/Home/Get_Involved/Lancaster_Roots_300

TOGETHER AGAIN – A yearly joint meeting of Worship & Ministry and Care & Counsel Committees is a tradition which is encouraged in the Meetings of PYM, though we haven't done it for several years. This year, though, it's going to happen Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:00.

PLAYING AROUND – Amanda Kemp's wonderful Theater of Transformation will perform her play "Show Me the Franklins," Sun., Feb. 7, 3:30-5:00 PM, at Reading Monthly Meeting, 108 N. 6th St. Free admission.

YOUR CHOICE – Joe DiGarbo and friends will offer the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) basic workshop on a weekend in February, either the 13th and 14th or 20th and 21st. The workshops last from 9-5 each day, and take place in the meetinghouse. Lunch and snacks will be offered. Interested? Please contact Joe with your preferred weekend: 627-0837 or jdigarbo at gmail.com

EAT LATER – Next third First-day, Feb. 21, our usual meeting for eating will be altered somewhat. Lancaster MM will host the winter gathering of Caln Quarterly Meeting. So here's the plan: We'll worship as usual at 10:00 with Friends from many of the other 8 Meetings of the Quarter. There will be a very short break for coffee and light snacks. At about 11:30 the Quarter will take up its business with clerk Jody Kinney of Downingtown. Although there are times Caln's business meeting takes hours, we'll hope this is not one of them. Around 1:00 we plan to have our cooperative meal. Then, at

1:45 or so, Ed Martin, who was the AFSC Country Representative for Iran until the end of 2009, will speak to us about his experiences in and with that country.

OCCUPATION – Are you unemployed and feeling the pinch? You're not alone! Join a day-long conference for unemployed Friends and Meeting members who are trying to help. Attendees are also welcome. The conference will be held Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. at Burlington Conference Center in New Jersey. You will have a chance to learn skills in resume writing, interviewing, internet job hunting, and handling your finances. Plus, you will meet lots of other folks who will lift your spirits and offer moral support, friendship, and ideas. Thomas Swain, presiding clerk of PYM, will speak from his own experience of going through a period of unemployment and will give encouragement and perspective. A number of Quakers from related professional fields will contribute their time and skills by leading workshops. Computers and assistance with using the internet and writing resumes will be provided on site. The conference is sponsored by Friends Counseling Service of PYM and financially supported by Friends groups who are concerned about the growing problems of unemployment, with its financial difficulties and resulting effect on morale. There will be a special workshop for Friends who are working with unemployed people in their meetings. Registration is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. If you are unable to afford this, please let us know so we can make arrangements for you to attend anyway. To find out more information or to register, contact Melissa Elliott, conference coordinator, at pudinriver at sprintmail.com or telephone her at (215) 843-4827.

INFORMATIZED

FOOD MONEY – As suggested recently in meeting for business, at today's cooperative meal there will be a collection taken for the Lancaster County Food Bank.

CONVENORS? – The group in charge of composition of this year's State of the Meeting Report hopes to have something to share with us at the February business meeting. Two Sundays ago they guided a threshing session,

which laid their groundwork. Now they're hoping all committee convenors will tell them of experiences last year so they can round out the report. Please send your summaries to Joanne Sadler (mailing address: 2310 James Buchanan Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022) or to Myke Rogers (email, mykerog at verizon.ent). Please send as soon as possible, time is getting short.

BIG MEETING – The forum next week, Jan. 24, will provide some information about Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM): what is it, why are we part of it, and why should we care. Last year these issues were raised at business meeting, so come, learn, and talk about our Yearly Meeting.

PEACE GOING? – For the forum on Feb. 7, Rev. Dr. David L. Johnson will speak to us as part of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee speaker series, "What will be the Religious Peace Witness for the 21st Century?" He hopes to enjoin the Meeting in a spirited dialogue.

Rev. Johnson is a member of the Churches for a Middle East Peace (CMEP) Leadership Council in Washington D.C. and a retired Lutheran pastor from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster. From April through October 2008, Rev. Johnson served as the Acting Regional Director in the Middle East for the American Friends Service Committee, living in Amman, Jordan, and travelling extensively in the region.

Rev. Johnson is one of the voices at CMEP raising hopes that the Obama administration will broker peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine. The CMEP is comprised of a coalition of 23 Catholic, mainline Protestant, and pacifist churches. They are one of several organizations who seek to balance the influence of a Zionist lobby on American Foreign Policy.

Rev. Johnson also served as parish pastor for an international and ecumenical congregation in Cairo, Egypt and for nine years he served the Lutheran World Federation as its Representative and Field Director in Jerusalem and the west Bank, overseeing medical, educational and social services for Palestinians including the Augusta Victoria hospital on the Mt. of Olives.

FRIENDS TOGETHER – Contrary to the way

it may seem, there are at least two other liberal religious groups in Lancaster: the Unitarian Universalist Church and Community Mennonite Church. This year, our three faith groups will gather at each place of worship to share in learning experiences. Together we will explore spirituality, faith, and will discover some of the similarities we share.

This exploration will begin February 7 at the UUC. Worship that Sunday will involve some storytelling with a professional mime, Terri Mastrobuono. We'll explore the story "One Grain of Rice," a humorous tale about outsmarting greed in leadership to help a community that is going hungry. Following the service and a break, we are invited to join an Interfaith Healing Workshop at 1PM. This will involve walking their labyrinth to discover how it can be a means for spiritual healing. Seeking wholeness by using the body's energy centers helps guide the mind, body and spirit toward integration and connectedness. The labyrinth becomes a self-reflective tool that promotes awareness, empowers change, and inspires inner peace. Because this is a workshop and course, there is a \$7 registration fee, due Sun., Jan. 31. Please send a \$7 check made payable to "UUCL" and write "February Labyrinth Walk" in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to: Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster, Attention Kate Prisby, 538 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster looks forward to sharing in this experience with friends from Community Mennonite Church and Lancaster Friends Meeting.

On Friday evening, March 12, we're invited to join Community Mennonite, 323 West Orange Street, for a film and discussion. Exact times and the film title will be determined at a later date.

Then, on Sunday, April 25, our friends from the UUC and Community Mennonite will be invited to join us for worship at 10:00 and the forum following, entitled "Encountering Bigotry: Befriending Projecting Persons" by Janneke van Beusekom. We'll have lunch following the program.

BIG KIDS – The high school/Young Friends First-day School class is quite active.

They want to thank all who contributed to

the Arch Street Center chili making. The evening of cooking was lots of fun and the director of Arch St., Susan Lilly, picked up the cornbread and chili, and spoke to our class about Arch St.

Any adult who would like to be a friendly adult presence at the Third Annual Youth Contra Dance, Jan. 30 and/or the Caln Quarter youth overnight following the dance is asked to contact Anne Wallace-DiGarbo. FAPS are asked to gather at St. John's Episcopal Church at 6:30 p.m.

LMM is hosting a gathering of youth from local peace churches and from Caln Quarter to meet 2 students from Elizabethtown College, one from Egypt and one from Iraq. The event begins at 11 a.m. on March 20 and ends at 2:30 following lunch. Help is most welcome. Contact Anne.

CITY PARKING – Arch Street Meetinghouse parking permits for the calendar year 2010 are now available! Vehicles with permits can use the parking lot at Fourth and Arch streets in Philadelphia at any time. Any member or attender of a Friends Meeting or employee of a local Friends organization is eligible. Tags are priced at only \$160 flat rate for the full year. To request an order form, simply contact Jess Purvis, PYM Administrative Assistant for Business & Finance, at 215-241-7234; jessp at pym.org; address: 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

HELPFUL? – Our Comfort and Assistance Committee strives to console members of our Meeting in need. However, there are times when no one on the committee is aware of situations in which the Meeting could be of help to members or attenders and their families. Please notify anyone on the Committee or get word to us if you are aware of any need where we might be of assistance. We promise privacy and discretion.

PSYCHO GOD – For nearly sixty years, *Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology* has gathered on Memorial Day Weekend to provide a respite for individuals of all spiritual and religious backgrounds who wish to delve more deeply into their inner world. FCRP is one of the oldest conferences in the U.S. dedicated to individual spiritual exploration with a focus

on in-depth psychology, specifically Jungian psychology. Although it initially took place at Haverford College, it now takes place in Annville on the campus of Lebanon Valley College. Consider saving the weekend. More information will come in the future.

A guest speaker develops the conference theme in four plenary sessions (informal talks) over the four-day period. Within a nonjudgmental and retreat-like environment, participants open ourselves to the speaker's message and its personal resonance in their lives. Small group workshops use discussion, art materials, writing, dreams, and body work to process and integrate insights. Throughout the weekend, community builds as well through informal sharing at meals and in free time. Each morning of the weekend, everyone is welcome at Quaker meeting for worship where silence provides a container for reflection and participants are sometimes moved to share meaningful moments from their journey.

The Conference is open to all interested people. Consider reserving this weekend on your calendar. For more information, speak to Erma Weaver or visit <http://fcrp.quaker.org>

PONDER THESE – The queries for Second Month, 2010 concern Meeting for Business: 1.) Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance? 2.) How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?

PYM, *Faith & Practice*, 2002

SPRING YET? – Perhaps it's time to start thinking about this year's family weekend at Camp Swatara 4/30-5/2. The weekend theme is "Carrying the Light of Quakerism into the Future" which is also the title of Arthur Larabee's keynote address.

Although the planning committee meets this Sunday, Jan. 17, at Reading MM to finalize the brochure, if you get this newsletter by email you may still have time to offer a workshop. Please send your workshop description to Jeanne Elberfeld of Reading Meeting at jelberfeld@gmail.com

VOCATION – The Workgroup on Work provides support and an exchange point for people

wishing to change or improve their work lives. People with work life issues have much to offer each other in the change process. Consider attending if you are in the job search process, or are concerned about your current employment status, or are a re-entrant to the workforce, or are a contractor or consultant, or are a small business owner looking to improve your market. Meetings are the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of the month, starting around 7:00 PM.