



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 570

July-August 2010

Clerk: Joe Moore

Assistant Clerk: Tom Latus

Recording Clerk: Maria Cattell

Treasurer: Karen Zimmerman

Assistant: Christine Fuller

Meetinghouse Scheduler: Jean Eaton

Newsletter: Editor: Jim Herr, 360 Blossom Hill Dr., Lanc. 17601 (569-7848) (e-mail to herrs at bellatlantic.net)

Keeper of the Label List: Karen Zimmerman

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

- 9:10-9:45 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 - 11:35 or so - Meeting For Worship For Business

Third First-day - Cooperative Meal. (On summer break until September.)

Third First-day - Letter writing campaign from FCNL (NOT on summer break!)

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)

Every Fourth-day - 7:00 PM - Mid-week Meeting For Worship

FORUMS

August 8 - Meeting for worship for business

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. July 18 - 3:00-4:30 - Chris Fitz & Playback Theater in Stahr Center, Lanc. (see below)

Mon. July 19 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Wed. July 21 - 7:00 PM - Mid-week meeting for worship

Sat. July 24 - 9:00 AM - Carpool to Rodale Institute (see below)

Sun. July 25 - 9:00 AM - First-day School Committee in the basement

Sun. July 25 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Wed. July 28 - 7:00 PM - Mid-week meeting for worship

Sun. June 27 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Sun. Aug 1 - 10:00 AM - Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Sun. Aug 1 – 8:30 AM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Aug 1 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Aug 1 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Aug 1 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse
 Mon. Aug. 2 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. Aug. 2 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse
 Tue. Aug. 3 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse
 Wed. Aug. 4 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sun. Aug. 8 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. Aug. 9 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Aug 10 – 7:00-9:00 PM - “Out in the Silence” film in the Community Room (see below)
 Tue. Aug. 10 – Deadline for July-August newsletter
 Wed. Aug. 11 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sun. Aug. 15 – 10:30 AM – Caln Quarterly Meeting summer meeting at Old Caln meetinghouse,
 Meetinghouse Rd & Kings Hwy, Coatesville (see below)
 Mon. Aug. 16 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Wed. Aug. 18 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Thurs. Aug. 19 – 3:00 PM – Outreach Committee in the Community Room
 Sat. Aug. 21 – Garden day around the meetinghouse
 Sun. Aug. 22 – 9:00 AM – First-day School Committee in the basement
 Aug. 22-28 – PYM Young Friends at Camp Onas (see below)
 Mon. Aug. 23 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Wed. Aug. 25 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Wed.-Sun. July 28-Aug. 1 – Summer Sessions of PYM at DeSales University (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON SEVENTH MONTH 11, 2010**

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 Fourth Month were read, corrected and approved.

Worship sharing on queries on social responsibility and witness:

Queries

1. Have I recently examined ways that my lifestyle and my investments contribute to improvement or to injustice in the human condition and ecological balance?

2. What might Spirit be saying to me, and to Meeting, about our role in the local community, especially in the current economic situation?

[Source: Chris Fitz, Worship & Ministry Committee]

Responses

• My wife and I make an effort to adjust our lifestyle so we consume less. But simply living in the U.S., especially in a suburban setting, makes us part of a broad lifestyle which, knowingly or unknowingly, is quietly destructive of the environment. It's a dilemma. So we are mindful and try our best to make our lives conform to good environmental practices.

• My wife and I also try to be intentional about our consumption and its impact on the environment. But when we bought reusable shopping bags to avoid getting plastic bags, then we had to buy plastic bags as trashcan liners. So we got painted in the corner because of convenience, and the plastic bag problem is not solved yet. However, recycling all the paper in our house has been a good lesson for me.

• At any one time in Lancaster County there are at least 500 homeless children. There are more than 500 churches in Lancaster County. So if each church undertook to solve the homelessness issue for one child, the problem could be solved.

• I've been thinking a lot about having a green meetinghouse, how valuable it would be.

We have money from bequests and the Milner Fund. To make our meetinghouse green would benefit all of us and also the larger community as an example, like Friends Center in Philadelphia and the FCNL building in Washington DC, both of which get many visitors because of their green buildings.

- At the Gathering we were surrounded by reminders about reducing our ecological footprint and about the current economic situation. I reduced my own demand for paper by carrying a cloth napkin and washing it a few times. I saw the vast acreage of grass which is an ecological waste and requires daily waterings and came back determined to reduce the grass at my house. Also, I remember when there were no plastic bags and trashcans were washed out. So I'm thinking there is so much to look at when considering social responsibility and witness. And I ask: Are we really so poor as a Meeting that there is nothing we can do for the larger community's suffering?

- I think the real heart of the issue of social responsibility and witness is the concept of stewardship. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. All that is is the Lord's." And we are put here as stewards. I ask myself: How do I see the world, as a place to save or as a place to consume? I believe that the time will come when we will have to account for what we've done in our lives. There will also be an accounting if we use up all of earth's resources.

- I am also just from the Gathering and got very positive messages there, not about what we should be doing, but about being in the position that we can't *not* do something. George Fox told William Penn, "Wear thy sword as long as thou canst." When you can't not do something, then there is grace in what you do that informs your whole life.

- In the context of Friends I have made some changes in my life. I have tuned into the effort to eradicate homelessness in Lancaster County. Perhaps—within my own limitations—in purchasing my next living space I can make choices to share with a family or person who would not be able to manage their own residence. That is already happening. My clearness committee walked me through my currently doing this with a property in West Chester. By connecting with Bridge of

Hope I am able to use a space there for a woman and a baby who would otherwise be homeless, without negative outcome for me—the taxes and expenses are covered. I share this with some hesitation but with conviction because a conversation with others would be good for me. It's a seed in me and a seed I can perhaps share with others.

- Often I get caught up in political and spiritual work. But I'm thinking in terms of mindfulness. What if I were truly mindful, for example, as mindful of the end of the carrot I don't eat as I am of the part I do eat? What if I were mindful about how I travel? What if I were mindful about what I wear every day, asking where did all this come from, and what message do my clothes give? If I were mindful about everything, issues would be solved for me and would have enormous impact on others. For me the question is not how to be more socially responsible, but how to be truly mindful in every moment.

Treasurer's report. Treasurer Karen Zimmerman reported that as of the end of June, this year's income was \$27,097 and expenses were \$33,251. That makes us short by \$6,154 but last year at the same time we were short \$10,045 even though expenses at this time last year were almost the same as this year (\$33,514). So 2010 continues to have higher income than in 2009 at a given date. Karen expects things to come out all right by year's end but urged us to continue our earlier giving and also to consider monthly payments from your checking account. Instructions are in a folder on the library table. Karen also reported that the final total for AVP-Guatemala was \$739 and for the Food Bank, \$182; these checks have been sent. She noted that these are off-budget contributions. Meeting approved the report.

Worship & Ministry Committee. Tom Latus reported on Worship & Ministry's consideration of the issue, raised at June's business meeting, of suspending reading of the minutes at future business meetings. Members of the committee have heard from many Friends on the matter, and it is clear that there is no unity. The committee recommends that we continue our practice as it has been except that instead of reading responses to the queries (which will

still be recorded), Recording Clerk will say, "The queries for the month were read and a period of worship sharing followed."

Friends' responses made it clear that we are not in unity. Though some Friends agreed with the recommendation, one Friend felt that reading the queries and responses to them is more important than reading the rest of the minutes, because the responses are a rare window on thoughts and concerns in meeting. Another Friend asked us to think about who will be drawn to our community with reading of the minutes. Several urged more seasoning of the matter.

Several practical suggestions were made. One was to have a forum each month to discuss the queries. Another was to think about returning to the "advices" which used to be part of "queries and advices." The question of timing arose because for some, hearing the previous month's queries and responses just before the current month's worship sharing can be confusing.

Tom Latus said Worship & Ministry will continue to season the matter, along with the related matter of whether to read the queries during meeting for worship. Tom urged everyone to express their thoughts to the committee, preferably by email, because emails are easy to share by reading them aloud during Worship & Ministry's meetings. Members of Worship & Ministry: Stan Carnarius, Faith d'Urbano, Chris Fitz, Erika Fitz, Tom Gates, Albert Geier, Lois Gray, Bob Lowe, Haydn McLean. Also, everyone is welcome to attend the next Worship & Ministry meeting on Monday, August 2, at 7 pm in the meetinghouse.

Outreach Committee. Haydn McLean announced that Outreach Committee will be showing "Out in the Silence," a film dealing with GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) issues, in the Community Room from 7 to 9 pm on August 10. This showing is directed primarily at the Meeting community, because Outreach is not clear where we are on GLBT issues. Later there may be a showing directed at the larger Lancaster community.

Friends mentioned two local issues regarding GLBT issues, one being the current attempt by two county commissioners to lay down the Human Relations Commission and

the other being the fact that in all of Lancaster County, only the City of Lancaster has a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Haydn said that eventually Outreach will be making a proposal regarding a statement for Meeting's website to affirm our openness to anyone who wishes to attend meeting. Meantime, give your comments on this matter to any member of Outreach: Joyce Collins, Tom Gates, Grayfred Gray, Elise Leytham, Haydn McLean, Myke Rogers. All are welcome to attend the next meeting of the Outreach Committee at 3 pm on August 19 in the Community Room.

Care & Counsel Committee. Jim Herr spoke on behalf of Care & Counsel concerning Emily Higgs's application for membership. Though Emily lives in Philadelphia, her parents live in the Lancaster area and she feels Lancaster Meeting is right for her. Emily's clearness committee met with her and wholeheartedly recommends Emily for membership. Jim will post Emily's letter on the bulletin board for everyone to read as a way of getting to know Emily better. As is our custom, we will make a decision at our next meeting for business.

Clerk said he continues to be grateful for the depth and spirituality of this Meeting.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1:10 pm. There were 33 present.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Moore, Clerk
Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

Present: Maria Cattell, Stephen Dotson, Faith d'Urbano, Jean & William Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Christopher Fitz, Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred Gray, James Herr, Emily Higgs, Millicent Holzinger, Eugene & Judith Homan, Mark Horst, James Kalish, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Stephanie Martin, Haydn McLean, Andrea Miotto, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Deborah Spence, Raymond Trayer, Anne Wallace DiGarbo, Karen Zimmerman.

SOME TIDDLY BITS

HAVE A SEAT – Need a blue recliner that's

only been used for about 18 months? Loren and Joanna Sadler have one they're willing to give to a good home. 361-5605

RETURN OF THE NATIVE – Michael and Nancy Comeaux were members of Lancaster Monthly Meeting (LMM) years ago until they moved away. Eventually they moved to Louisiana to a wonderful little place near the shore—just before Hurricane Katrina. With more calamities hitting the area, they are feeling that within a year they'll be ready to move back to Lancaster. They are looking for a small rental property in a non-urban setting. Michael will need a job, too. Please send them helpful suggestions: 17112 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403.

NIBBLES – As of last Sunday we needed people to set out/clean up snack time after worship on August 1, 8, 15, and 22. ...The process is very simple. There are snacks around, though you're welcome to bring special treats. You need to get the coffee and hot water ready to plug in at 10:00, so as not to disturb the intergenerational meeting in the room from 10:20-11:20.

Contributions to the Meeting's collection of snacks are always welcome. Pretzels and chips in 11 oz. size can be used completely at one social time. Salsa, juices, fruit, cheeses, vegetables, crackers, and breads are desired. Contributions of candy and soda are not really appreciated. If brought for a special event, please take leftovers home.

MENDING – Though they all went through some physically challenging times recently, Frank Berardi, Joyce Collins, and Milly Holzinger are all doing much better.

IRREGULAR ENDS – LMM's newly formed Lancaster Friends Care Group for Death and Dying had its first meeting on July 12. Planning members include Debby Spence, Anna Moore, Dave Morrison, Mary McLane, and Debra Raudenbush. Anyone interested in having a funeral without a funeral director, please contact Dave Morrison 560-1500 for a one-hour session to review some preliminary information. He will set a time to meet with you and together determine where you will meet.

QUICK – Those of us who make announce-

ments after worship were reminded of the attempt to coordinate the rise of meeting with the end of First-day School (FDS) at 11:20.

ROOMIE – Jim and Pat Kalish will have their third floor room available for rent in September. They prefer to rent to friends or friends of friends.

GREEN TIP – Karen Zimmerman reports her electricity usage went down by 12% - 8753 to 7702 – comparing years July 2008-Jun 2009 to July 2009-Jun 2010. She's particularly amazed since she didn't do anything radical. Although she replaced some of her regular incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, the main thing she's done is put outlet strips on all her electronic equipment, including her TV and computer/printer/modem. When she's done using them, she switches off the strip—the same as pulling the plug from the wall.

BOOKIE – Jean Eaton schedules use of the meetinghouse. If you are expecting to hold a meeting or otherwise occupy one or more of the rooms, please talk to her. Would be a shame to show up with everyone in your group to find the space already occupied.

OFF STREET – When we decided to build the community room onto the meetinghouse, the township almost wouldn't let us. They said we don't have a large enough parking area for the number of people for which the building is designed. We told them we had an agreement with the Wheatland Shopping Center and they reluctantly agreed to our plans, with one stipulation. We were not to park in the street. In the interest of community relations, please keep this in mind.

TEEN TEACH – Myke Rogers has agreed to be a high school teacher, but the program could still use some help. If you're willing, please contact Anne Wallace-DiGarbo anneofmary@gmail.com or 627-0837

PARTY PICS – The Meeting picnic, held at the meetinghouse last month, was a delight. Many people in attendance. Good food. Games and fun. These pictures are just 2 of many taken by Ron Ashby. If you want to see the rest, look on the round table; for your own copies, contact Ron ronashby@comcast.net or 295-9956.



KID TIME – Our summer FDS program continues with a wonderful variety of religiously expansive and basically enjoyable activities led by different adults every week. This First-day, for instance, Karen Alderfer will be teaching about and leading the children in sacred circle dance.

WORSHIP TIME – Mid-Week Meeting for Worship continues every Wednesday evening after its beginning June 2. Bring friends and tell others about this new opportunity for worship. For info contact Bob Lowe ralcast@comcast.net or 273-2074.

WANTED HELP – Hi, I'm Salem the cat. My mom attends meeting and is a Friend. Do you have any odd jobs she can do so that I can stay out of the shelter and she can stay in Lancaster? Do you need babysitting, pet care, elder-companionship, someone to sit with folks in the hospital, help with canning or preserving, yard work, mowing, cleaning, organizing, filing,

proofreading, or editing? Mom will help! She is hardworking, reliable, compassionate, and in desperate need of finances. If my mom can help you or if you have ideas, please email or call Andrea Miotto amiotto@yahoo.com 917-2657 Thank you for your prayers and support.

LOOKING FORWARD

PLAY THING – Hope you can find time this afternoon! As part of the “SoulStock Urban Arts Festival,” a fund raiser for the Stahr Performing Arts Center, River Crossing Playback Theatre will have a performance inviting audience stories from 3:00 to 4:30. This is the first performance in Lancaster of the ensemble Chris Fitz has cultivated for 3 years. See it at 438 N. Queen St..

FARM GREEN – Still time to join the Environmental Concerns Committee trip to the Rodale Institute near Kutztown next Saturday, July 24. Learn about Rodale’s organic farming methods and their latest research. Everyone will car pool from the meetinghouse parking lot at 9 am. Plans are to take the self guided tour that costs \$5.00.

SLEEP-AWAY – The deadline has been extended to July 24, so there’s still time to get the early-registration discount for residential Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) at DeSales University, near Quakertown. Annual sessions are a great opportunity to refresh your spirit with some wonderful workshops, interest groups, and plenary speakers. You also have the opportunity to meet Quakers from a wide region. And you can participate in the business sessions of your Yearly Meeting. In addition, there are activities for children of all ages so the whole family can participate. It starts Wednesday evening, July 28 and continues through lunch on Sunday, August 1. Come for all and stay in the college’s dormitories, or just make a day-trip of it. Lots more information, including schedules and registration information, is available at www.pym.org/pm/ann.php or from the sessions coordinator Lou Ann Merkle LouAnnM@pym.org or 215-241-7238.

??? **AUGUST** – Here are the queries on peace for Eighth Month, 2010. They are taken from the *Faith and Practice* of North Carolina YM (c)

and North Pacific YM.

Do we endeavor to live in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?

In my daily life, what are the biggest challenges I face as I seek to live in accord with our Peace Testimony?

As we work for peace in the world, are we nourished by peace within ourselves?

FROM 1726 – Every year the spring meeting of Caln Quarterly Meeting takes place at Camp Swatara and the summer meeting takes place at an antique meetinghouse near Coatesville called, of all things, Old Caln Meetinghouse. If you read this newsletter, you are entitled to participate. It's worth the 50 minute drive to worship in a very old building, even without the fellowship of Quakers from all around central PA. Worship begins on Sunday, Aug 15 at

10:30, followed by a brief meeting for business. Take your own lunch; desserts are provided. In the afternoon you can stay for a talk by Zan Lombardo from Downingtown Meeting entitled "That's not what you're supposed to be thinking about during Meeting for Worship! One Artist's Perspective on Spiritual Life." Zan says his spiritual inspiration often comes in unconventional ways; he tends to take seriously the reminder found in Faith and Practice "the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." Families and children are very much invited, but please tell Marie Ryan, Caln Coordinator, if you plan to bring kids. She likes to prepare age-appropriate activities. coordinator at calnqm.org 610-777-5825.

CAMPY – If you're in high school, don't forget the Young Friends summer gathering at Camp Onas August, 22-28.

www.pym.org/youngfriends/Pages/Summer_gathering.htm