



## Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 569*

*June-July 2010*

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Recording Clerk: Maria Cattell

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### **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. (After today's picnic, cooperative meal will be on summer break until September.)

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 (see below)

### **FORUMS**

July 11 - 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. June 20 - 11:20 AM - Meeting picnic at meetinghouse

Wed. June 23 - 7:00 PM - Mid-week meeting for worship

Thurs. June 24 - 7:00 PM - Voices of Cecilia concert in Musser Park

Sun. June 27 - 9:00 AM - First-day School Committee in the basement

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

Wed. June 30 - 7:00 PM - Mid-week meeting for worship

Sun. July 4 - 8:30 AM - Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse

Sun. July 4 - 9:00 AM - Environmental Concerns Committee in meetinghouse

Sun. July 4 - 10:00 AM - Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group

### **- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Sun. July 4 - 12:50-1:50 PM - Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse

Sun. July 4 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse  
 Mon. July 5 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Mon. July 5 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse  
 Tue. July 6 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse  
 Wed. July 7 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship  
 Thurs. July 8 – Noonish – High School canoe party at Elsie Eberly's (see below)  
 Sun. July 11 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business  
 Mon.–Fri. July 12-16 – Camp FoxTales in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Mon. July 12 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. July 13 – Deadline for July-August newsletter  
 Wed. July 14 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship  
 Sat. July 17 – 6:30 PM – Healing Racism Group with pot luck meal  
 Sat. July 17 – Garden day around the meetinghouse  
 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.–Sun. July 28-Aug. 1 – Summer Sessions of PYM at DeSales University

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING  
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 ON SIXTH MONTH 13, 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 Fifth Month were approved as read.

**Reflections on reading minutes.** A Friend asked if we need to continue reading the minutes aloud, or can we assume everyone has read them in the newsletter. Some said they had not read last month's minutes in the newsletter. Another commented that he doesn't read the written minutes all that carefully. Several Friends said they think reading the minutes in business meeting helps bring us together, though one person said that for him, "it's in one ear and out the other." Another Friend pointed out that some people are auditory learners. A member of Worship & Ministry suggested that the idea needs seasoning for two or three months by the committee before coming before business meeting. Meeting approved.

Clerk said that these reflections make him appreciate the sharing of clerkship. "We are all clerks," said he.

**Worship sharing on queries.** Clerk told us he

puts the queries out at about 9.50 on First-day morning so anyone who wishes to reflect on them during meeting for worship can have a copy.

One Friend extended his comments on last month's queries on education by pointing out that though Quakers value education, it can be disruptive of a religious community, as happened historically when Quaker farmers who became educated no longer wanted to farm and so left their farms in southern Lancaster County. Mennonites then moved in but later left farming, like the Quakers, with the farms then being taken over by Amish.

**Worship sharing on queries on equality.**

Queries

1. How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice?

2. Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation or class?

3. Do I show through my way of living that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

[Source: PYM's *Faith and Practice*]

Responses

• A basic inequality underlies all our problems of prejudice and discrimination, and that

is our patriarchal society and patriarchal culture, which follows both Old and New Testaments in placing greater value on men than on women. We need partnership.

- My heart broke today when I couldn't tell our Spanish-speaking children about the picnic. I need to promote equality here by working on my Spanish.

- In the Healing Racism Working Group, the question of equality comes up again and again. We haven't fixed it yet. We need to work hard on it.

- In the past 50 years this meeting has been in the forefront of efforts to address these issues.

- I read on a conservative Quaker blog about a woman who attended a conservative meeting in Ohio and had such a positive experience there that she brought a gay friend to the meeting. When the woman inquired about a gay person being in the meeting she received negative responses, though other Ohio Yearly Meeting members have written on the blog that not all Ohio Quakers think that way. Lancaster Meeting continues to be welcoming to all.

- Concerning the comment about our patriarchal society, I find in myself that wanting equality for everyone sometimes conflicts with the peace testimony, for example, I wouldn't want the Taliban to come to power in Afghanistan.

- Concerning economic inequality, in the past the Friends Committee for World Consultation had a set registration fee for FWCC's world conferences. For the 2012 conference there will be a tiered registration fee, ranging from 20£ for those coming from the poorest nations to 550£ for those coming from the wealthiest nations. It is important for everyone to pay their fair share. FWCC is not there yet, but we are working on it.

- In various Christian denominations the question arises again and again: can women have the kind of leadership they feel called to give? I thank this Meeting because I grew up in a church with no opportunity for women to lead in ministry and service. In this Meeting I have had the opportunity to grow. The Quaker tradition of women (white, heterosexual) being leaders and ministers enabled me to grow and to give. Quakers have been in the light in

showing the way forward.

- In my business I need to see the person before me and to know their background. I might see 80 or 90% of a person, never all. But the point is to understand, and then to put that aside. Our prejudices make us get hung up on details so we don't see the whole person as unique.

- I recall an older Friend telling me about separate men's and women's meetings, with the men responsible for the graveyard and the meetinghouse and the women responsible for education. Such Meetings have been laid down. However, we have not heard a woman speak at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) annual sessions.

- How do we help root out patterns of prejudice? The main way is through what we speak to and what we do *not* speak to. The Disciples United Church of Christ website says "We are an open and affirming church." That speaks to GLBT issues. I think our Meeting has not spoken to GLBT issues. What does our silence say? At PYM residential sessions two years ago it became clear that there are Meetings which oppose same-sex marriage. It is important to be public in what we say, not just speak in this building.

Clerk thanked us for the comments.

**Treasurer's report.** Clerk reported for Treasurer Karen Zimmerman that from January through May of this year expenses exceeded income by about \$1500. Contributions are well ahead of last year, but please continue to give earlier. Meeting approved the treasurer's report.

The shared meals have raised the following amounts: \$253 for the Food Bank, \$294 for Compeer, and about \$600 for AVP-Guatemala.

**Nominating Committee report.** Tom Gates thanked Meeting for its high level of involvement in Lancaster Meeting and other Quaker organizations. The Nominating Committee had 159 slots to fill and 85 people have agreed to serve. Tom presented a preliminary final report because Care & Counsel and the Milner Committee need a new member. We also need a Child Care Coordinator, who is important not just for the children but also so their parents can attend forums and business meetings. Tom also urged us to consider serving on the

Personnel Committee, which supervises employees. He asked everyone to let Nominating Committee know if they are willing to serve or know of someone they think might be interested. Members of Nominating Committee: Tom Gates (c), Donna Scanlon (c), Mary Anne Eise-mann, Albert Geier, Kay Lahr, Ernie Schreiber.

Meeting approved the report as presented with several slots still to be filled.

Meeting expressed its appreciation to Nominating Committee for its work. Clerk noted that Nominating Committee is task-oriented but its work involves both practical and spiritual discernment in matching individuals and "jobs."

**Minute of release from LMM committee service for Elizabeth Gates.**

Elizabeth Gates asked for a minute of release from Lancaster Meeting committee service while she is serving Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) as co-clerk of FWCC's International Planning Committee, which is planning the World Conference of Friends to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012. Liz is involved with the planning on a daily basis and in addition is mentoring her co-clerk, who has no clerking experience. Friends noted that the minute of release for ministry has a long history among Quakers and that it will signify that Lancaster Meeting respects Liz's ministry and supports her in it. Meeting then approved the following minute:

In October of 2008 Lancaster Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends minuted its support of Elizabeth Gates for her work as Assistant Clerk for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) at the world level; both Caln Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting endorsed that minute. Continuing our support, Lancaster Monthly Meeting releases Liz from all committee service for our Meeting as she devotes her time and energy to additional service as co-clerk of FWCC's International Planning Committee, a committee charged with planning the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Friends to be held in Kenya in 2012. We continue to support Liz's call to service beyond the bounds of our Meeting.

We recognize that Liz is not "going away" in the sense that she will continue to attend

meeting and be part of our community. We want her to know her quiet presence in our community is more than enough until such time that she is free to return to those meeting responsibilities to which she feels led.

**PYM report.** Bob Lowing and Maria Cattell reported on PYM activities. Bob asked us to consider attending annual sessions to be held July 28 to August 1 at DeSales University near Allentown. He also urged us to contribute to PYM's Annual Fund, which closes on June 30. A Friend commented that everyone who contributes to Lancaster Meeting contributes to PYM through the covenant. Another Friend questioned whether the glossy mailings being sent out by PYM reflect a prudent use of resources.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 12.55 pm. There were 40 present.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Moore, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

**Present:** Nancy Bieber, Michael Bomberger, Maria Cattell, Joyce Collins, Jean & William Eaton, Mary Anne & Philip Eisemann, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, Debra Hewes, Millicent Holzinger, Eugene & Judith Homan, Carole Jeffers, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, Shane Knudsen, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Robert Lowe, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Anna & Joseph Moore, David & Marilyn Morrison, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Ernest Schreiber, Barbara Spiegelberg, Raymond Trayer.

## PROPOSALS

**SPLISH SPLASH** – We're going to have the second annual high school canoe trip/ games in the Conestoga. Shane Knudsen has agreed to "get down and wetty" again, Thursday, July 8, starting at Elsie Eberly's house on Eden Road. Participants are asked to bring a brown bag lunch, to plan to play vigorous water games, and to not worry if they don't know how to canoe or even know how to swim. The river is mostly shallow enough to walk through and everyone wears a life vest. Shane's a great paddling teacher. Start time is noonish. A campfire supper will follow the river time. Potluck foods

are welcome. In the evening we'll learn games to lead at Camp FoxTales, & maybe, more water. Young Friends go to Shane Knudsen's Facebook to RSVP, for permission form, and information. Canoe owners and FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences) contact Elsie Eberly 396-9445 or ebereleb at aol.com.

**GREEN STUFF** – Join the Environmental Concerns Group on a trip to Rodale Institute near Kutztown on Sat. July 24. We'll take the \$5 per person self-guided tour to learn how agriculture can either contribute to environmental problems or be a significant solution in solving global warming, improving human nutrition and preventing famine throughout the world. Car pool from the meetinghouse parking lot at 9 am.

### **FACTOIDIAL**

**HOLY WEDNESDAY** – Bob Lowe's leading to have a mid-week Meeting for Worship has borne fruit. Now every Wednesday evening you can worship at 7 PM in the meetinghouse. Although this gives many of us a chance to worship more than once in a week, it offers a special opportunity for those who work or travel on weekends, and perhaps through this we can reach new people in the larger community. For information contact Bob Lowe 273-2074 ralcst at comcast.net, or just show up.

**PLEASE COMMIT** – The final list of Committee Assignments will be published sometime in the next few weeks, when we have filled some remaining holes. In the meantime, we have some glaring needs. We need one person willing to commit to a four year term on the Milner Fund Committee. We need two or three Friends willing to serve on the Personnel Committee, which supervises and sets policy for employees of the Meeting. And most importantly, we need an individual to serve in the important position of what we have been calling "Convener of the Childcare Subcommittee," but is probably more accurately described as the "Childcare Coordinator". This individual does not necessarily have to DO childcare, but just make sure that childcare gets done. Primarily, this involves working with, scheduling, and supervising the students from Millersville, and also the teens within the Meeting who help with childcare. This person is assisted by oth-

er members of the Childcare Subcommittee, who act as back-up resources. However, we have learned by experience that the system works best when there is one person primarily responsible for these tasks. If you are willing to be this person, or to help with any of the other needs, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee (Tom Gates, Donna Scanlon, Albert Geier, Mary Ann Eisemann, Ernie Schreiber, or Kay Lahr).

**RICHER** – Meeting has a Youth Enrichment Fund to provide financial assistance for young people who want to have an enriching experience such as a Quaker summer camp or classes in yoga or almost anything interesting. If you, or your child, might be helped by this fund, please contact Rachel Perry 285-5989 or cperry2nd at aol.com

**PEACE EFFORT** – At our last cooperative meal, \$377 was contributed for the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Guatemala. Anne Wallace DiGarbo and Joe DiGarbo matched this, allowing us to send \$744 to the program. It will be much appreciated.

**WHO?** – Erika Fitz is our nametag maven. If you'd like a nice one, find the little box, usually on the table inside the front door, and leave her a note. Or find Erika and ask.

**SNACKEROO** – There's a signup sheet on the round table for volunteers to cover snacks at social time after meeting during the summer. It's easy, fun, and information is posted in the kitchen on the ABC's. Or you can ask Jean Eaton and Marilyn Morrison

**FOX HELP** – In keeping with the theme of "Stewardship," our summer camp for children ages 5-12, Camp FoxTales (July 12 – 16), is looking for some specific expertise: woodwork-ing (for making window boxes), making & working with clay, and how to make a solar oven. If you can help with these things or would like to involved in other ways please let Andrea Carty know apcarty at embarq-mail.com.

**TEEN TEACH** – Kay Lahr has decided to step down as teacher in the high school class of First-day School. So we're looking for a co-teacher for the upcoming school year. Anyone interested in co-teaching or in participating in

any way may contact Andrea Carty, Karen Alderfer, or Anne Wallace-DiGarbo 627-0837 an-neofmary at gmail.com.

First Day School is deeply grateful to Kay for her long-time involvement with the Youth.

**\$?** – The Scholarship Committee is looking for applicants for interest-free education loans for the coming year. Application forms are located in the library. If there are questions please contact Chris Fuller, Charles Holzinger or Cynthia Lowing.

**OUT LOUD!** – As noted above, during this month's Meeting for Business our practice of reading aloud the minutes of the previous meeting was discussed. Should we change this practice? At least 3 possible options were raised: 1.) No change: continue reading the minutes aloud in their entirety. 2.) Some change: continue to read minutes aloud but omit reading the section "worship sharing on queries."

3.) Bigger change: discontinue reading minutes aloud; make sure Friends have access to written minutes and have time to read them silently on their own time—or at start of the meeting. There are, of course, other options. Some concerns raised in our discussion include: Is reading minutes aloud good stewardship of our time? Is reading minutes silently a sufficient way to understand what happened at Meeting for Business? Meeting charged Worship & Ministry Committee to consider the options and make a proposal to the Clerk and Meeting. PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ON THE PRACTICE OF READING MINUTES WITH MEMBERS OF WORSHIP & MINISTRY COMMITTEE: Michael Bomberger, Stan Carnarius, Faith D'Urbano, Chris Fitz, Erika Fitz, Tom Gates, Albert Geier, Lois Frey-Gray, Tom Latus, Bob Lowe, Hayden MacLean