



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 566

March-April 2010

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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
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

March 21 - Social Time & cooperative meal
March 28 - Finance Committee begins listening sessions on bequests (see below)
April 4 - Easter, no Forum
April 11 - Meeting for worship for business
April 18 - Social Time & cooperative meal

ACTIVITIES

Every Saturday - 11:00-Noon - Vigil For Peace in Lancaster. For more information, call Charles Lane 394-5912
Sun. Mar. 21 - 11:30 AM or so - Cooperative Meal in the meetinghouse
Mon. Mar. 22 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
Tue. Mar. 23 - 7:00 PM - "Minds on the Edge" screening and panel discussion in meetinghouse (see below)
Wknd. Mar. 26-28 - Yearly Meeting Sessions in Philadelphia
Sat. Mar. 27 - 8:30-10:00 AM - Taxes for Peace at Church of the Brethren (see below)
Sun. Mar. 28 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Mon. Mar. 29 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Sun. April 4 – 8:30 AM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. April 4 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. April 4 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group
 Sun. April 4 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse
 Sun. April 4 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse
 Mon. April 5 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. April 5 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse
 Tue. April 6 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse
 Wed. April 7 – 3:00 PM – Listening Session on bequests at Eatons’ house, Homestead Vil.
 Thurs. April 8 – 7:30 PM – Listening Session on bequests in meetinghouse
 Thurs. April 8 – 7:30 PM – LIPW Spring Peace Forum at F & M
 Sun. April 11 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. April 12 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. April 13 – Deadline for April-May newsletter
 Sat. April 17 – 6:30 PM – Healing Racism Group with pot luck meal
 Sun. April 18 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative Meal in the meetinghouse
 Sun. April 18 – 1:00 PM – Workshop on the labyrinth at Unitarian Church (see below)
 Mon. April 19 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. April 20 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse (see below)
 Fri. April 23 – 7:00-9:00 PM – Coffee House and talent show (see below)
 Sun. April 25 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
 Wknd April 30-May 2 – Camp Swatara family weekend (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON THIRD MONTH 14**

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 Second Month were read, corrected and approved.

Worship sharing on queries on spiritual nurture, ministry and religious education.

Queries

1. Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship?

2. Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all to learn about the Light, the Bible, the writings of Friends and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends’ principles?

3. Do I frequently read the Bible and the records of the lives and experiences of Friends?

[Source: PYM *Faith and Practice*]

Responses

- Concerning the second query, I’m not sure we’re doing as much as we might in learning about other religions which are in this country. This week we saw a movie at the Community Mennonite Church as part of our program with them and the Unitarian Church. It was about a Buddhist holy man in Korea who lived in a temple for many years. It made me realize how very different that religion is and how difficult it is for us to understand it. It also made me realize how important it is to understand others’ religion in their daily lives and the pursuit of the divine, which was central to the life of the Korean holy man. I also went to a play about a Los Angeles barrio, which presented yet another different way of life. Were George Fox and other early Quakers aware of such differences as they wandered England in search of the light? And if so, did that help shape the openness of Quakerism?

- Regarding the second query, ever since I started coming to meeting around 1988 I’ve been aware of encouragement, usually from Worship & Ministry, to participate in the Inquirers’ Weekend at Pendle Hill. I never did it myself but I’ve talked with many who’ve gone to it, and they say it’s very helpful in learning

about Quakerism. A couple weeks ago I led a workshop at Pendle Hill, whose director said to me, "Of all the Meetings in the entire country, it seems to me that Lancaster makes the most use of Pendle Hill, especially Inquirers' Weekends. How do you do it?" But I think that's one way our Meeting is helpful.

- I was talking with a couple from Cuba who said they've been trained in AVP. They told me there are Quakers in Cuba who take AVP into prisons and get arrested. It's so uplifting to know that such daring and courage have been an integral part of Quaker history and Quakerism today. It's very easy not to take a risk. So I rely on these stories to inspire me.

- Concerning what was said about Inquirers' Weekends, I was lucky as a new attender to go to Pendle Hill, and it was an amazing experience. The Friendly 8s, Quakerism 101, discussions and readings, and other things are also helpful.

- I support the suggestion that we, especially our young people, become aware of other religious traditions. For example, in Columbia PA there are various ethnic groups with various religious practices. It's a wonderful experience for young people to share such experiences. It helps them realize there is God in everyone.

- For me the spiritual journeys shared in Lancaster meeting have been something new. They exemplify Quaker education because we talk about ourselves as experiencing religion, and they showcase that form of education. They show patterns and examples and are testimonies about our religious lives and beliefs.

- Over the years I have participated in many venues for such education, for example, in Quaker Talk, reading *Faith and Practice* and John Woolman's journal, and also in Bible Studies. One of the most important for me was the spiritual formation program. I've noticed since we did that a deepening of our worship together.

- Being a universalist, I'm glad to be in a congregation that supports my spiritual journey and the reading of sources other than the Bible. The metaphor of "being in the light" opens up the way for me.

- Another book we read in Quaker Talk was *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat

Hanh, who said it is important to be true to and value the religious tradition in which you grew up.

- I'm a new attender here but am a member of another, much smaller Monthly Meeting. When this concern came up in that other Meeting, we were concerned that there weren't opportunities for such education. So we started an adult education hour similar to Lancaster's forum, in which we offer Quakerism 101. I learned much from that, even though I'd been attending for a long time. Another thing is offering new members and inquirers a free subscription to a Quaker publication such as *Friends Journal*.

- Our *Faith and Practice* asks: Are we open to the light from *any* source? It stands to reason that other cultures and other religions have the same light. But all too often learning about other religions may lead to watering down our own expressions of truth. That is not good. We need to affirm our own religion, which allows true equality for all religious expressions. I've been impressed by the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who said humans have spent too much time trying to convert X's into Y's, and Y's into X's, such as Christians into Muslims, and Muslims into Christians, when they should be making X's into better X's.

Clerk said he always has some reluctance to end these worship sharings on queries because they are very enriching, so there is a tension in deciding how long to continue. Clerk also gave a "shout out" to First Day School and Worship & Ministry committees because they have so much to do with educational opportunities in our meeting.

Treasurer's report. Clerk reported for Treasurer Karen Zimmerman that income for January 1 through February 28, 2010 totaled \$7,547 and expenses totaled \$7,840, which puts us ahead by \$293. Further contributions to the Solanco Pastor's Heating Fund have increased that total to \$177.

State of the Meeting report. Joanna Sadler read the State of the Meeting report. A few corrections were made and one suggestion, which was to include names for the Meeting version of the report to help new attenders know whom to contact in regard to particular issues. Meeting approved the report as amended. Clerk

thanked Laura Faist, Carl Perry, Myke Rogers and Joanna Sadler for their work in preparing this very comprehensive report.

Milner Fund request. Thomas Latus clerked this part of the meeting.

For the Milner Fund Committee, Mal Fuller presented a request from Joe DiGarbo and Joe Moore for funds to assist them in going back to Israel and Palestine to do further AVP training there. They have been invited back to the Spafford Center, which has incorporated AVP training into its program as a result of their previous work. Joe and Joe plan to be in Israel and Palestine from May 11 to May 28. They are asking for \$5,000 to help with transportation and other expenses, and also are seeking funding from other sources within PYM. Any unused funds will be returned to the Milner Fund. The Milner Committee wholehearted endorses their request.

Joe DiGarbo told us that their goal is to establish AVP facilitators in organizations in the two countries who can eventually continue the work on their own. In Israel the trainings include both Arabs and Jews, but in Palestine it is not safe to have members of the two groups in the same training. However, they do try to have a range of Arabs from conservative to less traditional plus Palestinian Christians in the trainings in Palestine. They will spend six days training nursing staff in all three levels of AVP at Nazareth Hospital in northern Israel, where the culture of violence is especially strong.

Joe Moore emphasized that in doing this work, he and Joe DiGarbo are representing Lancaster Meeting. They want meeting to understand their work and feel that we are a part of it.

Minute: Meeting approved the request for \$5,000 for Joe DiGarbo's and Joe Moore's work in AVP training in Israel and Palestine (also known as "the occupied territories"), with any unspent funds to be returned to the Milner Fund.

Minute of travel for religious service. Tom Gates will be spending two months (April and May) in Kenya at Friends Lugulu Hospital, where he has served previously. Meeting approved the following minute of travel for religious service:

Minute of Travel for Religious Service
March 14, 2010

To the Religious Society of Friends in Kenya:

Loving Greetings from Lancaster Friends Meeting (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, United States.

We recommend to your care and support our member Thomas Gates. He will be traveling in Kenya from 20 March to 21 May, 2010.

Tom has been a valued member of our Lancaster Meeting family for 15 years. His wisdom and leadership has served us in many ways. His vocal ministry has enriched and deepened our worship and his spiritual understanding has guided our community as we have grown in the Spirit. Tom has sought out opportunities to develop his gift for ministry and strengthen his own journey with God through participating in the Spiritual Formation Program, the Way of Ministry Program and the School of the Spirit of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He has ministered to other Quaker Meetings in a variety of ways. One on-going commitment is his work with a project called Deepening and Strengthening our Meetings as Faith Communities. Tom carries a deep concern for the spiritual health of the Religious Society of Friends.

Tom also has a deep longstanding concern for Friends in Kenya, and specifically for the work of the two Friends Hospitals there. He worked as a physician at Friends Lugulu Hospital from 1991 to 1994, living there with his wife Elizabeth and their sons Matthew and Nathan. The Gates family returned to Lugulu for two months in 1997, and Tom returned to Kenya for briefer visits in 1998, 2000, and 2008.

Tom's interest and skills are not only as a physician but also as a medical educator, and we trust these will be of service to you at Lugulu during his sojourn with you. We also recommend to you his wide knowledge and understanding in Quaker history, faith, and practice, and trust they may be of service among Kenyan Friends as well.

We of Lancaster Meeting support and encourage Tom in this work of ministry. We ask that you will welcome him and offer to him your loving support for his time of travel and service among you.

Grace and Peace to our Brothers and Sisters in Kenya,

Joseph Moore, Clerk
Lancaster Monthly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends

Support committees. Clerk said he has been part of a support committee, which meets regularly. At each meeting, two of the members present on their spiritual lives. If anyone is interested in setting up such a committee, please talk to Clerk Joe Moore.

Representatives to March sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Maria Cattell and Jim Herr agreed to be Meeting's representatives and to report back to Meeting on their experiences at March sessions.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1:10 pm. There were 39 present.

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

Present: Karen Alderfer, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Joyce Collins, Joseph DiGarbo, Mary Anne & Philip Eisemann, Erika Fitz, Mahlon Fuller, Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Charles & Millicent Holzinger, Eugene & Judith Homan, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, John & Kay Lahr, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Jonathan Lind, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Haydn McLean, Andrea Miotto, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Muth, Ernest Nute, Carl Perry, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Deborah Spence, Raymond Trayer, Anne Wallace DiGarbo.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

MENTAL HELP – Mental illness is a tremendous challenge for individuals who live with a condition like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, for their families and friends and, ultimately, for the community. The dimensions of this urgent problem are brought to light in “Minds On The Edge: Facing Mental Illness,” a television program produced for broadcast on PBS that will be shown in a free public screening this Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Community Room. Our Meeting is teaming up with The Samaritan Counseling Center to make this

possible.

The program illuminates challenging ethical issues as well as medical practices that can be barriers to treatment. It also explores our growing reliance on the criminal justice system to manage people with mental illness, a consequence of limited community-based treatment options and support. In diagnosing the problems resulting from a fragmented mental health care system, “Minds On The Edge” provides a glimpse of many solutions that are currently being implemented across the country. These innovations, many shaped by the guidance and expertise of people with mental illness, offer promising solutions and hopeful direction to transform the mental health system.

Following the screening of the program, Gerald Ressler, Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center; Grayfred Gray, author of mental health legislation for the state of Tennessee; Mary Steffey, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Lancaster County; and retired police officer William Gleason will participate in a public forum. ... An extensive website at www.mindsontheedge.org offers more information on the television program and the issues that it raises.

YOUR TAXES AT WORK – Troubled about paying for war while praying for peace? You are invited to participate in the upcoming gathering of the Taxes for Peace interest group of the Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness scheduled for 8:30-10:00 a.m. next Saturday, March 27 at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave. A light breakfast will be available for a donation. This is an opportunity to explore the consequences of the U.S. military budget, to learn about alternatives to paying federal taxes that support U.S. war making and to seek ways for people of faith to witness on behalf of life-enhancing uses of their taxes. If you wish to attend, or for further information, contact Harold Penner 859-3529 penner@dejazzd.com.

WHAT? – Within the past year, Lancaster Monthly Meeting (LMM) has received a couple of bequests that total a considerable amount of money, all of which was given without restrictions on its use. At first, the Finance Committee was given the task of deciding how to allo-

cate it. But they quickly realized the task is much too large for them alone. They need your help. For this reason, the committee has decided to hold a series of "listening sessions." The first will be a forum next week, March 28. They will then gather people at 3:00 PM on Wed., April 7 at the Eatons' home, 1896 Villa Court in Homestead Village. There will be an open session in the meetinghouse at 7:30 PM on Thurs., April 8. And finally they plan to gather folks at a "listening table" during the cooperative meal in April. In general, the Finance Committee is looking for the "sense of the Meeting," not just on what to do with these bequests, but perhaps with bequests in general. Please plan to help.

CIRCLE BACK – Remember, at the beginning of February, there was an invitation to participate in a workshop on the labyrinth at the Unitarian Church? That workshop was postponed because of snow. The new date has much less probability of being postponed for that reason: April 18, 1:00 PM. The workshop will focus on using the labyrinth for healing.

The healing may be physical, mental, emotional, spiritual or any combination of these and may be immediate or occur gradually over time. Seeking wholeness by using the body's energy centers guides the mind, body, and spirit toward integration and connectedness. ...There will be a general presentation on chakras and healing followed by how walking the labyrinth provides healing on a subconscious level and also how one can consciously use the labyrinth to facilitate one's own healing. There will be time to walk the labyrinth and, if desired, discussion afterwards.

Registration is requested so there will be sufficient handouts. The labyrinth is accessible by elevator. There is a \$7 charge for the workshop, which will be led by Sandy Yeager ...To register please call Kate Prisby at the office of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster 393-1733 ex 202 or email syeager@supernet.com.

GOD OF MECHANICS – Spirituality and Science study group will meet on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 in the Community Room of the meetinghouse. The discussion of the book *Quantum Theology* by Diarmuid O'Murchu, will continue—moving on to Part Three (The Rela-

tionship). This part consists of Chapter 6-The Horizon of Belonging and Chapter 7-Beyond Our Isolation. ... All are welcome to join us. Any questions, please call Adele Berardi at 391-8915

TALENTS – Our high school First-day School class is organizing a coffee house for Friday evening, April 23, from 7:00-9:00 in the Community Room. This will be a fundraiser for a service project; donations will be appreciated. The evening will include a talent show, but we're assured that no talent is required to attend. Sign up on a sheet on the round table or contact Sara Hernon-Reeves 295-3706.

CAMP AWAY – Please make sure you register for the family weekend at Camp Swatara, April 30-May 2. This wonderful tradition brings Quakers together from all over Central PA to a summer camp almost in the mountains an hour north of here. Information and registration forms are on the newsletter table and available from Jim Herr by email herrs@bellatlantic.net.

CAMP HERE – FoxTales, LMM's Quaker Day Camp for children ages 5 through 12, will be held at the meetinghouse this year during the week of July 12 through July 16. The camp is from 9am to 2pm. This year's theme will be Earth Stewardship. We welcome and encourage all children of the Meeting to attend. For more information, contact Beth Reeves (295-3706) or Andrea Carty (285-3830).

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

OUTSIDER VIEW – Here is a link to an article in *The Christian Century* that is a wonderful reflection by a protestant minister on the nature of Quaker worship: www.christiancentury.org/article.lasso?id=8171

CAFFEINATOR – Scott Walck has made a connection to the AFSC Coffee Project through which he's making organically grown, fair trade coffee available to us all. Regular: \$6.25 for a 1-lb bag; decaf: \$7.55 for a 1-lb bag. Catch him at meeting, email: scott.n.walck@gmail.com, or call him 717-867-6153.

TAKE PART – A couple of weeks ago, a great long list of people received from Ernie Schrei-

ber of the nominating committee an email with a form attached. If you were not one of the lucky recipients, or if you threw his message in the trash because it looked like spam, allow me to urge you to pick up the form from the round table in the meetinghouse. As Ernie says in the email, the committee hopes to take the responses from these forms and do their work during April for a report to business meeting in May. Please be aware that the activities of our Quaker Meeting are accomplished largely as a result of our committees. And if you're reading this, you are eligible to participate. It's a great way to get to know others in our community. ... If you don't expect to be in the meetinghouse any time soon and would like a form, please contact Ernie Schreiber: 872-2823 or lancasterpaquakers@gmail.com

OUT OF WORK – Due to flagging attendance, the Workgroup on Work meetings are being suspended for now. The intention for these sessions was to form a group of folks who would check in regularly and support each other with work issues. While the meetings attracted a diverse group of participants, both seeking work and currently working, there have been very few repeat visitors. ...If anyone has an idea for a modified approach that might attract more interest, please contact Tom Tucker: 394-4464 tom@tbasso.us

NON-SUNDAY – Bob Lowe is still interested in having a mid-week meeting for worship in the meetinghouse. Are you? Please contact him: 273-2074 ralcst@comcast.net

APRIL ASKERS – Here are the queries to consider for April:

1. Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

2. Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

(From *Faith and Practice*, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 2002)

FUN, TOO – The Youth Enrichment Fund is intended to support the youth of LMM by enabling them to participate in activities that will nurture their spiritual growth and maturation as individuals and that are in harmony with Quaker faith and practice. Its funds are available to help underwrite the cost of participation in such things as Young Friends gatherings, Quaker conferences, service projects, camps and other growth opportunities. Youth would generally be considered to be those ranging in age from 8 to 18.

Either the parents of the young person involved or the young person himself or herself may apply to the Youth Enrichment Fund. It is expected that families and/or young people will provide financial support as they are able; the Fund may be used to make up the shortfall in the funding needed.

Applicants need to send a letter to the Youth Enrichment Fund Committee outlining the reason for their application. The letter, mailed or e-mailed, should include: a detailed description of the activity being considered, how participation will support and nurture the young person participating, the total cost of the activity, the amount of money being requested, the other sources of funding that will be used, and detailed information describing when and where funds are to be sent. Applications should be submitted well in advance.

The Committee will consider the needs of the child and his or her family; preference will be given to activities with a strong Quaker connection. The Committee may agree to provide all or only part of the funding requested. ... Applicants will be notified of the amount of funding granted to them in a timely fashion so they may proceed with activity registration or enrollment procedures within established deadlines. The Committee will disburse funds directly to the organization/activity involved, not to the applicant.

The Youth Enrichment Fund Committee expects youth who receive grants to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them in a responsible manner. Within 30 days of the end of the experience, the Committee wishes to receive a letter, or report, from the student outlining what the student has learned and their opinion of the experience. The Committee also would appreciate a brief note or letter

from the parent or guardian of the youth about the value of the experience for their child. The sole purpose of this correspondence is to guide the Committee in future referrals to that activity. Parents seeking camping opportunities for children this summer may be interested in this information:

www.quakerinfo.org/quakerism/camps.html

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND

HAPPY BABY – Billy and Leah Trimble Fischer, married under the care of our Meeting, are now the parents of a baby boy.

REPORTLESS – As mentioned in the minutes above, we have this year a wonderfully comprehensive State of the Meeting Report. In the

past, these reports have been included in the newsletter. This one, however is considerably longer than usual. Unfortunately, if the news goes beyond 5 sheets of paper, the postal service requires a second stamp for delivery; with the Report included, this issue would fill 6 pages. So here's what's happening this year: Those who receive the news by email will receive a second message with the Report attached. It will also be posted on our website. Friends Journal usually prints at least some of what we send them. And there will be a copy in the meetinghouse to look at. If none of these options fulfill your need, please contact Jim Herr. I will be happy to mail a copy to you.