



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 568

May-June 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

June 13 - 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. May 16 - 11:30 AM or so - Cooperative Meal in the meetinghouse
Sun. May 16 - 4:00-7:00 PM - Movie *Departures* sponsored by alternative burial group
Mon. May 17 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
Tue. May 18 - 7:30 PM - Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse
Fri. May 21 - 6:00 PM - Nontheist group pot luck (see below)
Mon. May 24 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
Wknd. May 28-31 - Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology at Lebanon Valley College
Sat. May 29 - 6:30 PM - Healing Racism Group with pot luck meal
Sun. May 30 - 9:00 AM - First-day School Committee in the basement
Sun. May 30 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
Mon. May 31 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Tue. June 1 - 7:15 PM - Care & Counsel in meetinghouse

Sun. June 6 – 8:30 AM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. June 6 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. June 6 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group
 Sun. June 6 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse
 Sun. June 6 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse
 Mon. June 7 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. June 7 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse
 Sun. June 13 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. June 14 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. June 15 – Deadline for June-July newsletter
 Sat. June 19 – Garden day around the meetinghouse (see below)
 Sun. June 20 – 11:20 AM – Meeting picnic at meetinghouse (see below)
 Sun. June 20 – 11:00 AM - Meeting for worship in Old Bart meetinghouse
 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

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON FIFTH MONTH 9, 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 approved as read.

Worship sharing on queries on education.

Queries

1. What is the role of education in our religious life together?
2. Do we nurture opportunities for minds to flourish and individual gifts to be developed?
3. Do we provide ways to pass on Quaker traditions and spiritual wisdom?
4. How do we strive to make quality formal education possible for all?

[Source: Erika Fitz of Worship & Ministry Committee]

Responses

- What immediately came to my mind was Meeting's financial support for members and attenders to attend Pendle Hill's Inquirers Weekend. This is a way Meeting supports people in learning more about Quakerism.
- Our whole lives are a journey in education, in seeking and learning truth. I believe Friends historically were cognizant of this, for example, they didn't limit education to men but extended it to women. The only pitfall is the question of what we are teaching and pos-

sibly how we teach. We need to be careful about teaching things that aren't true.

- My major education in Quaker traditions and ideas came from David Ritchie's weekend workcamps in Philadelphia. I learned more about Quakers, about who they are and what they think and do, in those workcamps than I learned anywhere else. I also learned about Quakers in society when some founders of this meeting had a project in southeast Lancaster city. This opened my eyes to hidden racism in Lancaster. I don't think we do enough today to educate our young people on how injustices are imbedded in our society and how the injustices can be addressed.

- Educating people about Quakerism is difficult because in our own Meeting we have both theistic and non-theistic views, Christocentric and non-Christo-centric approaches. It's important to have as much experiential learning as possible because we learn through our individual perceptions of God and through good works, not just through classroom education. Experiential learning is imperative in our religious tradition.

- One way we educate ourselves is through these queries. Often I am unable to be here so I miss them. Having the queries put before us in worship and evoking responses is an important educational experience.

- My heart is looking to the inward teacher. Whatever individuals' theology, the idea is that we come together, turn to, are open to what others say and believe. It is central that there is a cacophony of voices, with different people seeing different things. This Meeting is very

strong on promoting education focused on spiritual life in many ways such as worship, AVP training, theater, Friendly Eights, and programs for young people such as First Day School and Camp FoxTales. We don't say "Here are answers," but we continue to pursue the important questions. This is a powerful thing we do for ourselves. For me the big deficiency is that we don't reach out more into the larger community.

- For me the deepest, most vital educational experiences are when I'm a Quaker incognito, out in the world meeting kids and teachers. Our encounters are around problems. When I interject myself into the process of problem-solving, that's when I really learn what it means to be a Quaker. Most such experiences can't be put into words. You have to be there. I take what I learn here, apply it, bring it back here, learn more, and so on.

- I see a very strong tradition of education in Friends' history. Many private schools and elite colleges sprang from that tradition. It has been a form of empowerment because such education was not available to the children of Quakers. But it seems that now we are in a different era and that something new is called for. Now we need to unlearn how the world works and learn how spirit works.

- The need for education never ends. I work with young people all the time. Kids ask questions, and the need for education will be there as long as there are questions.

- In our culture there are different ideas about what education is for. I've asked my students, "Why do you want to study Hebrew?" And they answer: "Then I'll know what's really in the Bible." But such exercises are not so much answers as they are a way to learn to ask questions. Asking questions requires humility, sensitivity to data that is off the radar, being present, sitting still, and again, humility. What Quakers need to teach is a way of being that seeks truth and enables us to hear it when truth appears.

- The most profound truth I ever heard from my brother was this: "The purpose of education is not to learn how to make a living, but to know what to do with the living after you've got it."

Clerk thanked us for the comments. He al-

so thanked Erika Fitz for creating these queries based on her own experiences.

Treasurer's report. Clerk reported for Treasurer Karen Zimmerman that income for the year is up but there is still a shortfall. Karen is confident we'll catch up but encourages us to make regular contributions and to make contributions sooner rather than later.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee request. For Peace & Social Concerns, Barbara Spiegelberg presented a document developed by a group calling itself Acknowledgment and Apology to Native Americans Committee. The committee includes Mennonites and Presbyterians and consults with others, including Native Americans. Clerk read the document. Several Friends spoke in favor of the document. One Friend suggested we need to consider not only genocide but also ecocide. Meeting approved the document. Clerk will write a letter stating Meeting's support to send to the Acknowledgment Committee and to Caln Quarterly Meeting. This is the document:

Acknowledgment and Apology to Native Peoples

Vision: Bring forth healing to our First Nation People by honoring their culture and restoring the original vision of William Penn and Lenape Chief Tamanend for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be a place of peace and sanctuary.

History: All First Nation Peoples held a common view that life was interconnected and interrelated in harmonious ways and shared with all. The vision of peace and sanctuary that Penn brought to Pennsylvania found resonance with the view of native peoples. Not all immigrants agreed with and upheld Penn's vision, however, which generated human catastrophes:

- *Government and military dishonest actions*
Massacre of the Lancaster Conestoga tribe by Paxton militia, failure to render justice to native peoples according to existing Pennsylvania laws, lack of proper burial following the massacres and later desecration of the mass grave, breaking of treaties made by Penn with native peoples, promotion of Manifest Destiny.

- *Social injustices and prejudices by immigrant peoples*

Collusion in the destruction of native cultures and identity, introduction of rum into native communities that fostered lifestyles of addiction, encroachment onto the treaty designated native lands and poaching of fur animals and deer herds that created native poverty, creation of social systems that stigmatized native peoples and caused them to hide their identity.

- *Sins of those bearing the name of Christ*

Lack of effective response by the church to the failure of justice, participation in the encroachment of treaty-designated land and the grab of those lands after the second massacre, removal of native children to boarding schools like the one at Carlisle.

Outcomes: In an effort to own these human catastrophes, to apologize, and to bring reconciliation and healing to native peoples in a way that is consistent with Penn's vision, the following outcomes would give tangible form to attitudes and gestures of reconciliation:

- Collect data on the presence of native peoples living in Pennsylvania in order to determine their current status.
- Secure formal recognition of native tribes by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Restore the identity of native peoples that was purposefully removed by the dominant culture.
- Promote healing among all peoples affected by these experiences, past and present.
- Promote Lancaster County, in this anniversary year, as a leader in restoring the original vision of William Penn and Chief Tamanend.

(Contact person: Becky Gochnauer, Director, 1719 Hans Herr House & Museum, 717-464-4438; director@hansherr.org)

Nominating Committee report. Albert Geier asked everyone to review Nominating Committee's draft report and make corrections on their own committee assignments by contacting any member of the committee. The final report will be presented in June.

Auditors' report. Auditors Deb Hewes and Carl Perry met with treasurer Karen Zimmerman for review of her financial records and

found them to be satisfactory. They will meet with assistant treasurer Chris Fuller in the next few weeks to review the loans and scholarships records. Meeting approved the interim report, and Clerk thanked the auditors for their work.

Caln Quarterly Meeting: report on Camp Swatara. Chris Fitz reported a total of about 150 attendees at Camp Swatara, with fewer than usual from Lancaster Meeting. Children have a structured program while adult activities are more diffuse with business meeting, keynote address by PYM General Secretary Arthur Larrabee, workshops, and worship sessions. Evening activities included the opening campfire, for which Chris developed a program, a talent show and contra dancing. Clerk added that some Monthly Meetings reported lack of attendance and participation, which made him feel glad to be part of Lancaster Meeting. Maria Cattell added that part of Arthur Larrabee's vision for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) is a project which will get our core beliefs in writing.

PYM annual sessions. Maria Cattell reported that a major theme of March annual sessions was ecojustice, with "eco" standing for both ecological and economic justice. The theme will be carried through in two upcoming events, the Peace & Concerns Standing Committee's annual event to be held on May 15 and PYM annual sessions to be held July 28 to August 1 at DeSales University. She urged others to attend annual sessions in order to participate in the wider Quaker community.

Mid-week meeting for worship update. Bob Lowe spoke of his leading to develop a mid-week meeting for worship, under the guidance of Worship & Ministry Committee. The Wednesday meeting will provide another worship option, especially for those who are unable to attend worship on First Day. Of course, everyone is welcome. The first Wednesday worship will be June 2, from 7 to 8 pm. Bob said he is committed to being present for Wednesday worship indefinitely.

Clerk thanked Bob for his efforts and reminded all of us that this is an example of how one individual with a leading can make a difference. He urged any of us who have an idea or a leading to season it with the appro-

ropriate committee. A Friend commented that sometimes it takes time for an idea to germinate and grow.

Other matters. A Friend commented that he attended the annual meeting of Friends Fiduciary Corporation, which has been averaging income of about 3.5% over the past 10 years while paying out 4.5-5% in dividends. He thinks Lancaster Meeting should be thinking about alternative investments.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1:05 pm. There were 36 present including one child.

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

Present: Peggy Bright & daughter Jody, Maria Cattell, Joseph DiGarbo, Faith d'Urbano, Christopher Fitz, Erika Fitz, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, Debra Hewes, Charles & Millicent Holzinger, Eugene & Judith Homan, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Robert Lowe, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Carl & Rachel Perry, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Donna & Stephen Scanlon, Barbara Spiegelberg, Scott Walck, Anne Wallace DiGarbo, James Wanner.

PONDERABLE

OTHER DAY – Many people express an interest in having a mid-week Meeting for Worship within the life of Meeting. Now it comes to you as a work in progress. We'll give it a try on Wednesday evenings, starting June 2nd at 7:00 PM, with plans to continue at least through the end of the year. As on Sunday (First-day) meetings, this will last for about an hour. Any announcements for the week will be made after rise of meeting. Consider this a formal invitation, for anyone who may be interested, to please join us.

GAPPING – If you or someone you know is graduating high school or is in college, and looking to take a break from the academics while exploring career options and developing skills for the rigors of academia and being away from home, consider a Gap Year at William Penn House in Washington, D.C.. For a cost of

\$5000, participants will receive mentoring and supervision that prepares them for the next step with greater clarity and skills. See the William Penn House website www.williampennhouse.org for more information and an application.

William Penn House is a Quaker Hospitality and Seminar Center on Capitol Hill. Set in a residential area of Washington DC, it is just 5 minutes from the Capitol and within walking distance of all the main museums and monuments. Among other things happening there, you'll find a friendly, inexpensive hostel with 28 beds in dormitory rooms with 5 shared bathrooms. A simple breakfast is included in the rates. They welcome visitors from all walks of life. Limited parking is available, subject to prior arrangement.

EQUAL MONTH – Albert Geier selected these queries on equality for June. They are from the PYM *Faith and Practice*.

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?

SNACKFAST – Starting June 27, the Social Committee is on break, and we need volunteers to take a Sunday and prepare the snacks and then clean up. A sign-up sheet will be on the round table in the Gathering Room. This is a simple, fun task, and is only a commitment for that one day. If there are Sundays with no volunteers, there will be no snack that day. You do not need to provide the snack personally (although you can) as there are supplies in the kitchen. This is a good task to do with a friend or a special someone. Directions are on the bulletin board in the kitchen and for more information call Jean Eaton (290-6643) or Marilyn Morrison (898-6211)

INQUIRY – IF: you are

- just becoming acquainted with Friends and Lancaster Meeting –OR–
- wanting to experience Pendle Hill, a Quaker center for study and reflection—OR—
- in need of a weekend away for spiritual growth

then come to Inquirers’ Weekend at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA from the evening of Friday, July 9th through early afternoon of Sunday, July 11th. Two experienced Friends will lead the group through an exploration of the foundations of Quaker faith and practice as it is lived today. Many members of our community have attended past Inquirers’ Weekends and can attest to the power of the experience. Costs for tuition, room, and board are covered through joint Pendle Hill-Lancaster Meeting funding. [Private rooms are available for a fee of \$75 payable by those who request them. Donations to Lancaster Meeting to support others’ attendance are welcome.] To learn more about this Inquirers’ Weekend please check out www.pendlehill.org/summer-2010/361-inquirers-weekend and be sure to talk to Lois Frey-Gray, Tom Latus or any member of the Worship & Ministry Committee.

YOU COUNT – PYM’s Center for Deepening & Strengthening Meetings asks all Monthly Meetings to conduct a census once every three years. This involves counting all in attendance at 8:00 and 10:00 meetings for worship and/or First-day School for the four First-days of Fourth Month. Here are the statistics for this past month. Note that “Children/Youth” = newborns to high school seniors. Thanks to Phil, Lois, Faith and Tom for this count.

| | 10:00 am Meeting | 10:00 am Meeting | 8:00 am Meeting | |
|----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Date | Adults | Children/ Youth | Adults | TOTAL |
| April 4 | 54 | 17 | 13 | 84 |
| April 11 | 71 | 18 | 12 | 101 |
| April 18 | 73 | 26 | 10 | 109 |
| April 25 | 80 | 29 | 10 | 119 |

BLOGOCUBE – Although they are coming home very soon, you probably still have time to

learn about Tom and Liz Gates’ trip to Africa through their blog: <http://gates-in-kenya.blogspot.com/> It’s wonderfully interesting reading, starting on February 13 when Tom was learning how to create a blog, and going through 23 postings (as of Thursday, May 13).

SCHOOL’S OUT – Ministry & Worship asks you to consider sharing your gifts with the Meeting’s children by leading one or two sessions of First-day School this summer. We need leaders each First-day from 10:20 until (about) 11:15 from June 6 - August 29. The children range in age from 4-12, but finding an activity that would also engage high-schoolers would be especially welcome. Activities could be led by a committee, a Friendly 8s group, or a family, as well as an individual. Please contact Erika Fitz ef173 at yahoo.com or 222-9646 (cell/day) 910-4201 (home/eve) if interested. Erika is coordinating leaders, but can also provide support with lesson planning and day-of help as needed.

GOTTA NAME? – Thanks to Grayfred Gray’s wonderfully organized work, our Meeting has a thorough list of members and attenders. And, although he tries diligently to keep up to date on new people arriving and others moving on, Grayfred needs help once a year when he puts together the annual printed version. Sometime in June is the usual time of delivery, so now is the time to check your entry in the list. Have you moved? Changed phone number or email address? Are you a recent attender not yet in print? A copy of last year’s list is on the round table in the Gathering Room for your examination. Please make changes if needed, or put a check next to your name if it’s the way you want it. And if you’re not going to be able to make it into the meetinghouse during the next few weeks, please contact Grayfred: g.b.gray1956 at gmail.com or 290-7723.

Please note: the member/attender list is to be used only for the personal information of members and attenders of Lancaster Monthly Meeting.

PLAY FAIR – Just a reminder that Scott Walck continues to purchase fair trade, organic coffee from the AFSC Coffee Project. Regular \$6.25 for a 1-lb bag and decaf \$7.55. Catch Scott at meeting, or 867-6153, or email

scott.n.walck at gmail.com.

TIMELY

GUATAVP – Today’s cooperative meal provides an opportunity to donate funds for the ongoing work of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Guatemala. Anne Wallace-DiGarbo and Joe DiGarbo plan to match whatever is contributed today.

Last year LMM raised \$735 that supported Val Liveoak’s co-facilitating 3 basic and 2 advanced levels of AVP in Guatemala and the apprenticeship of a Guatemalan facilitator at AVP trainings in El Salvador. In 2010, Peacebuilding in the Americas (PLA) plans to support at least 3 AVP workshops in Guatemala, and to continue offering Guatemalan facilitators the opportunity to co-facilitate in El Salvador and Honduras. Additionally, PLA plans to bring two Colombia facilitators of the Community Based Trauma Healing (an AVP Advanced workshop) to Guatemala to offer at least one workshop to participants who are AVP facilitators, and if they believe it is useful, train them in facilitating the workshop.

FINE SPEECH – This afternoon, Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness (LIPW), in collaboration with Lancaster Theological Seminary, is sponsoring a talk by Dr. Gary Dorrien, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, New York. Dr. Dorrien’s talk, “Perpetual War: Afghanistan, the Middle East, And the Dilemmas of American Empire” begins at 1:30 in St. James Episcopal Church. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be received.

Prof. Dorrien’s books include acclaimed works on economic democracy, social ethical theory, and neoconservative politics. His book, *Imperial Designs*, grew out of his extensive lecturing against the U.S.’s invasion and occupation of Iraq. His trilogy, *The Making of American Liberal Theology*, is seen as the definitive work in the field. Prof. Dorrien’s recent work, *Social Ethics in the Making* (2009), has received similar praise. A frequent lecturer at universities, conferences, civic groups, and religious communities, Prof. Dorrien is a recent past president of the American Theological Society and has a long record of involvement in social justice organizations. His

forthcoming book is *Economy, Difference, Empire: Social Ethics for Social Justice*.

GODLESS – The Lancaster Nontheist Quaker Discussion group invites you to join us next Friday, May 21 in the Community Room of the meetinghouse for a pot-luck shared dinner at 6:00 PM, and discussion starting about 7:00. While no attempt is made to agree to a formal definition of Nontheism, here is one that is used at times: “A philosophy of life carried out in part through the Quaker community and lens that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives that aspire to the greater good of humanity and seek personal fulfillment.” We had a series of lively and fruitful discussions over the year and want: (1) to share our experience with you, (2) offer a brief insight into what various people call “Nontheism,” and (3) provide an opportunity for you to explore your ideas about this subject. If you sense you are (or might be) a Nontheist, or you are a seeker not quite satisfied, or even if you know you are not a Nontheist but are curious about what others believe, please consider coming. All our welcome—not just Lancaster Meeting members and attendees. It would be helpful if you let us know you might be coming, but is not required. If you wish to review some of the handouts ahead of time, or for more information: Jim Kalish, 397-3569, jim_kalish at yahoo.com

LIKE A WEED – Come help maintain our gardens on the third Saturday of the month—June 19. If you can’t make it, but would like to help, please contact Debby Spence dlspace at verizon.net 299-3446.

PICNIC HERE – Traditionally, our cooperative meal in June is a Meeting picnic. Often it’s been held at someone’s home or in a park somewhere. This year we’re going simpler. On Sunday, June 20 following Meeting, the picnic will be held on the spacious grounds around the meetinghouse where we can run, play, socialize and eat (of course!). Please, all come to Meeting on June 20 and stay for food and fun. Anyone who would like to help us plan the games is welcome, just speak to someone on the Social Committee.

HUGE GROUP – One of the larger groups of Quakers is Friends General Conference (FGC).

Every year FGC sponsors a gathering of Friends from all over the country during the week of July 4. This week-long immersion in Quaker spirituality and community this year takes place at Bowling Green, OH from July 4 to July 10. And, although you can register to attend right up to the day you get there, there is a \$50 late fee after June 1. Call (215) 561-1700 or check out www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/register

LARGE GROUP – Save the dates! PYM Summer Sessions 2010, Wed., July 28 – Sun., Aug.1 at DeSales University, Center Valley, PA. The theme is “We make the road by walking—how are we called to be prophetic in our witness?” All Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, which includes you, are invited. Please do not stay away for lack of funds. Financial aid is available.