



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 573

October–November 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

- 8:50-9:50 AM – Adult First-day School on Early Friends (see below)

- 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.

Third First-day – Letter writing campaign from FCNL

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

October 17 – Cooperative Meal—all are welcome (see below)

October 24 – Social Time

October 31 – Solar energy and geo-thermal heating for homeowners (see below)

November 7 – Faith D'Urbano's spiritual journey

November 14 - Meeting For Worship For Business

November 21 – Cooperative Meal – frugal meal (see below)

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. Oct. 17 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative Meal. All are welcome.

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Mon. Oct. 18 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Oct. 19 – 7:30 PM – Science/Spirituality in meetinghouse (see below)
 Wed. Oct. 20 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sun. Oct. 23 – 9:00-4:00 – “How to speak to the other” in Philadelphia (see below)
 Sun. Oct. 24 – 9:00 AM – First-day School Committee in the basement
 Mon. Oct. 25 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Oct. 26 – 7:00 PM – Kathy Bergen talks on Palestine in 2010 (see below)
 Wed. Oct. 27 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sat. Oct. 30 – 9:00-3:00 – Meeting retreat (see below)
 Sun. Oct. 31 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
 Mon. Nov. 1 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. Nov 1 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse
 Tue. Nov 1 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse
 Wed. Nov. 3 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sat. Nov 6 – 8:30-Noon – Fall work day at the meetinghouse (see below)
 Sun. Nov 7 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group
 Sun. Nov 7 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Nov 7 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Nov 7 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse
 Mon. Nov 8 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Wed. Nov. 10 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sat. Nov 13 – 9:30-1:00 – Junior Interim Meeting in Philadelphia
 Sat. Nov 13 – 6:00 PM – Healing Racism Working Group potluck
 Sun. Nov 14 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. Nov. 15 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Nov. 16 – 7:30 PM – Science/Spirituality in meetinghouse (see below)
 Tue. Nov 16 – Deadline for November-December newsletter
 Wed. Nov. 17 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sat. Nov. 20 – 2:00-3:30 PM – Celebrate Nancy Bieber’s new book (see below)
 Sun. Nov. 21 – 11:30 AM or so – Frugal Meal. All are welcome. (see below)
 Sun. Nov. 21 – 12:15 PM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Mon. Nov. 22 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Wed. Nov. 24 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship

LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
ON TENTH MONTH 10, 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 Ninth Month were approved as read. Clerk spoke of his desire not to be authoritarian, since all have the light within, but there is a need for him to help meeting discern when to begin and end. So this morning after 10 to 12 minutes of responses to queries, he will stand up for a short time, then sit down, as a signal. Then the community can decide when to stop.

Worship sharing on queries on stewardship of the environment:

Queries

1. Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?
2. How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?

[Source: PYM’s *Faith & Practice*, 2002]

Responses

- Humans have long recognized that earth provides everything we need to live and for this reason, they revered Mother Earth. But about 10,000 years ago we learned how to control nature through agriculture, which changed our relationship to earth and led to the development of civilizations and patriarchal cultures where Mother Earth was to be dominated and controlled. Today we realize this as false. Mother Earth is still the only source of our bodily existence. If we're not aware of that and continue to dominate and exploit Mother Earth, then our human species probably won't survive.

- I like to think about light paths in biospheres. We are sunlight-faring creatures and have the ability to develop options, which is a wonderful aspect of being human.

- A frightening aspect we must consider is: How many of us can this planet support? In many parts of Africa you see hills totally denuded. In India there are floods because the land has been denuded to get firewood. There has been an inundation of the human species, and we humans have a nasty record in regard to the earth. We are the problem. How can we deal with it? I don't know.

- My wife and I contribute to two organizations which help us see how the world is going to survive. They are Heifer International and Right Sharing of World Resources. A recent RSWR newsletter shows how a little bit of money can help people in Africa and India live better, how we can help in a world of great need.

- Many things I do are not doing that, and I'm caught up in a society that supports me in that, especially regarding gasoline. How am I connected to the planet, to this earth? One thing is that every time I am immersed in water, I say a Cherokee chant to give thanks for the essential nature of water. Another thing is that my husband and I learned in a Methodist church that tithing is one of the most profound miracles. Over five years, we went from giving nothing or giving sporadically to tithing. And every year, as we increased the percentage we gave, we went from being really tight financially to having more! This is the miracle of giving, this being in touch with abundance, with the energy of the universe and our planet. Being in touch with abundance changes things.

- We humans are poisoning our own homes. I've gotten in trouble with people by suggesting

that helping societies lower their death rate without also reducing their birth rate sentences future generations to live in poverty.

- I keep thinking about the meetinghouse land as an opportunity to grow native plants and fruit-bearing plants whose fruits we could eat and share with neighbors. I'd love to see an orchard here.

Treasurer's report. For Treasurer Karen Zimmerman, Clerk reported that from January through September, 2010, expenses were \$51,836 and income was \$49,833, with a net of expenses over income of \$2,003. In September, Karen disbursed \$213 to Oxfam for Pakistan and \$305 to the Lancaster Food Bank.

First Day School report. For the First Day School Committee, Karen Alderfer reported that there are 26 registered students and about 36 who attend. There is a new online registration process. All teaching positions have been filled. The nursery program is going well, and also childcare during forum and business meeting. The Committee thanked two retired teachers, Kay Lahr for her work with the high schoolers and Deb Raudenbush for developing the Godly Play program.

The FDS Committee's concern about sometimes feeling disconnected from the whole has been addressed by the attendance at its meetings of one person each from Care & Counsel and Worship & Ministry. The Committee suggested that holding the meeting picnic in different locations provides a change in pace and dynamics, along with varying opportunities for interactions among community members, both children and adults. They have appreciated that committees and others using classrooms have vacated them by 9:50 am to allow teachers to prepare for their classes, though a few improvements are still needed. The Committee requested adult help with the children who gather in the basement after rise of meeting. The FDS program still needs an organizer for the intergenerational program on the first Sunday of the month. They also need help framing pictures purchased recently to brighten the basement. The FDS Committee is currently forming a short-term committee to investigate playground equipment for older children and would appreciate help from other committees and any interested persons in meeting.

A recent anonymous donation of a rug for the

basement is appreciated but raises the issue that such contributions circumvent consideration of differing views or solutions. The Committee felt it may serve our community to discern how to decide on the level of participation in decision making.

Friends expressed gratitude for the clarity and thoroughness of the FDS Committee's report and its excellent work, which has fostered a sense of hope, growth and development in regard to improving the spiritual life of our children. Friends also appreciated the integration of various meeting committees into the work of FDS.

Apology to Native Americans. Tom Gates, having come under the weight of a concern for past and continuing injustices to Native Americans, participated yesterday in a public apology to Native Americans by Quakers, Mennonites and Presbyterians held at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. Tom told us that the ceremony was a moving event, attended by Native leaders from around the country because Lancaster County is notorious for the Conestoga massacre of 1763. He gave us a historical overview of the many wrongs committed against Native Americans, including violation of every one of 371 treaties negotiated with the U.S. government, and kidnapping Native children to send them to schools to eradicate their culture, one such school being in Carlisle at the site of the war college. Tom and Jodi Good, with input from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee, created the Quaker apology, which he and Jodi read at the ceremony. Mennonite and Presbyterian apologies were also read, after which one Native leader said he was authorized to accept the apologies but not to offer forgiveness; for that, he will have to consult with his people. Another chief did offer forgiveness. The day concluded with the dedication of the site for building a longhouse replica at the Hans Herr House and the burying of a hatchet.

Friends thanked Tom and Jodi for their work in this process. Tom said Natives want their pain to be heard and recognized, and that a dialog has begun. A Friend thought way forward could include making Tom's narrative available to us and our children. The texts of the three apologies will be available in the Meeting Library.

PYM events. Maria Cattell urged us to consider participating in two Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) events: a workshop on "how to speak to the other" and a rally organized by Heeding God's

Call/Gun Violence Control. The "Windows and Mirrors" art exhibit on the human cost of the war in Afghanistan, cosponsored by AFSC and PYM's Peace & Concerns Standing Committee, will be at Arch Street Meetinghouse till November 7. Information is on the Gathering Room table and at www.pymquaker.org and www.afsc.org.

Coming attractions. Clerk said that next month the Social Committee will report to meeting and he will ask for volunteers to prepare our annual State of the Meeting Report, so committees can begin to think about their reports for the State of the Meeting process.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1.05 pm. There were 36 present.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Moore, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

Present: Karen Alderfer, Nancy Bieber, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Jean & William Eaton, Mary Anne & Philip Eisemann, Christopher Fitz, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, James Herr, James Kalish, Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Ilona Lind, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Haydn McLean, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, George Nofer, Ernest Nute, Oliver, Carl & Rachel Perry, Meyric Rogers, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Deborah Spence, Raymond Trayer, Anne Wallace DiGarbo.

HAPPENING WHEN?

SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT – The Science and Spirituality study group meets this Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 in the Community Room. The discussion of *Quantum Theology* will conclude by covering Part Seven -The Future: Chapter 14 (The Promise and the Peril), and Chapter 15 (No Greater Love....).

The group will meet next month on Tuesday, November 16, and will begin consideration of a new book: *The Biology of Transcendence* by Joseph Chilton Pearce. This book is a combination of scientific findings and spiritual questionings. All are welcome to join this group at any of their meetings. Any questions, please call Adele Berardi at 391-8915.

ALMOST HALLOWEEN – Next weekend, Oct. 22-25, there's a gathering for middle school friends that looks like lots of fun. Registration ends Wednesday. If you'd like to know more,

please visit the PYM website:

<http://archive.pym.org/youngfriends/MiddleSchool/index.htm>

SAY WHAT? – In Philadelphia next Saturday, Oct.23, at the Arch Street Meetinghouse, there will be a program from 9:00-4:00 with the title “How to speak to the other.” The aim is to consider a significant issue of the early 21st Century — how to have meaningful discussions with others with whom we don’t agree, in beneficial ways, in our increasingly confrontational society. There will be a morning lecture, time for questions, lunch and an afternoon time to participate in two of the 15+ break-out groups. The speaker will be Sallie B. King, Valley Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), Buddhist Quaker, Professor of Religion at James Madison University, author of five books on Buddhism.

THEY BELIEVE – The high school class has decided to experience other forms of worship. There are trips planned for October 24, December 5, and January 23. Additional trips may be added in 2011, depending upon the response of the youth. These trips will also be open to adults from Meeting who would like to come along. A question and answer time will be requested from our hosts. The first three locations will likely be an Islamic Center, a Buddhist center, and a synagogue (Friday evening worship, likely), depending upon availability. The youth from these organizations will be invited to join with us. For more information, please contact Myke Rogers 392-4636 mykerog at comcast.net

LIFE ON THE EDGE – Kathy Bergen, program Director of Friends International Center For Peace in Ramallah, Palestine will be in the meetinghouse to talk about “Life In Palestine 2010— Behind The Wall.” Free and open to the public, the talk will be held Tuesday, 26 October, 7:00 PM.

Given the tenuous state of the recent Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the address will describe how Palestinians in the West Bank have been deeply affected by the Israeli Military Occupation in terms of land confiscation and settlement construction in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, deportations from Jerusalem, as well as access and movement within the territory. It will also describe how the Occupation has been affecting the economic, social, educational and religious freedom of the Palestinian people.

Kathy Bergen was the National Coordinator of the Middle East Program for the Peace-building Unit for the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia for 12 years. She lived in Jerusalem from the time of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 until the Gulf War in 1991. She was the Peace Education and Advocacy staff person and Associate Director for the Mennonite Central Committee in East Jerusalem. She received her Master of Divinity degree from the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana in 1982. She is the author of numerous magazine articles, and the contributing author to books on Middle Eastern Issues and the co-author of *Justice in Palestine*.

Her address is free, although a free-will offering will be raised up for the Friends International Center for Peace. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to the Friends International Center in Ramallah, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102. For more information, contact Joe DiGarbo jdigarbo at gmail.

WHICH WAY? – Our Meeting’s annual fall retreat this year will be on October 30th from 9:00 to 3:30. Nancy Bieber will lead Friends in an exploration of Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way. Spiritual discernment is the practice of listening and responding to the Spirit as we find our way through life. Drawing on her brand-new book *Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way*, Nancy will lead us in a day of learning practices that help us make decisions and shape our lives with the aid of the divine Light. We will focus on openness to the Spirit, attention to the unique persons we are and the unique lives we have, and responses through stepping forward. The retreat day will include quiet time to focus on your individual situation as well as large group discussion. You do not need to be at a major decision-point of your life for this retreat: wise shaping of our daily lives constantly calls us to spiritual discernment.

Nancy Bieber is a psychologist and spiritual director with many years experience of retreat-leading at Pendle Hill and around the country. She served on the teaching staff of the Quaker School of the Spirit. She is presently a lead teacher of the ecumenical group Oasis Ministries and teaches courses on prayer at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She is delighted to share one of her favorite subjects with her own Meet-

ing!

Bring a dish to share for lunch. Childcare available—call Tabea Steinbeisser Fitz at 426-3301 or tabse at gmx.net by October 24.

ENERGETIC – The forum for October 31, to be presented by Scott Gibble, Larry Bieber, and Randy Kochel, will provide information on solar energy and geo-thermal heating. This will include some user testimonials.

FALLEN – You probably know that at this time of year there's a lot to clean up around a property. Why not take a few hours (8 AM – noon) on Nov. 6 to work around the meetinghouse? There will be a bunch of people here; it's always a fun way to get to know some people a little better. If you have relevant tools—rakes, etc.—bring them along, though there are implements aplenty here. Mostly we need your help.

LEARN SOMETHING – During the weekend of Nov. 5-7, Pendle Hill is holding another Inquirer's Weekend. Here is a chance to explore Quaker faith and practice, and discover how Quakerism connects with your own spiritual experience. In the relaxed atmosphere of the Pendle Hill Quaker retreat center near Philadelphia, you will find opportunities for worship, discussion, sharing, and questions. All who seek a solid introduction to Quakerism are welcome, whether you're new or been coming for years. Register online at <http://www.pendlehill.org/workshops/fall-2010/378-inquirers-weekend> Lancaster Meeting has a fund to help pay for much of the tuition. Please contact Karen Zimmerman for information.

NEWBOOK – Mark your calendar for Sat., Nov. 20, 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Worship & Ministry is hosting a celebration marking the publication of Nancy Bieber's book, *Decision Making & Spiritual Discernment*. Nancy will make brief remarks about the journey she took in creating this volume and will read an excerpt. There will be light refreshments and plenty of time to chat and enjoy this happy moment. Members of our spiritual community and Nancy's family and friends are eagerly invited to attend. [Note: this is an intimate celebration, not a book promotion event. People from outside Lancaster Meeting who are interested in this book are encouraged to attend the promotion events when they occur.]

THIS I BELIEVE

MEAL'S WORTH – After worship on the third

week of every month, except July and August, we have a cooperative meal (pot luck). And every month we put a basket out to gather donations for some worthy cause. Last month we collected \$213 for relief in flooded Pakistan, which was sent to Oxfam. At today's meal we'll be collecting for a need closer to home—Mom's House. This organization, with a location on South Queen St. in Lancaster, helps young single mothers develop parenting skills and skills to fit into the workplace. They are also a licensed childcare center for the children of these mothers.

Next month, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll have our annual "Frugal Meal." Stay tuned for more information.

AGELESS – We still need people to volunteer to guide the Intergenerational Worship/First-day School on the first Sundays of every month. Look for the sign-up on the round table.

LIKE US? – A discussion continues on Sunday mornings from 8:50-9:50 AM. Led by Tom Gates, the series considers how the experience of early Friends relates to us now. Tom is following a 7-part curriculum by Helene Pollock of PYM; this Sunday marks about number 4. But it doesn't matter if you've missed the earlier sessions—each stands on its own. Discussions are lively. You are welcome.

PSSSST – Please remember the Member/Attender list contains private information. Be careful to protect it from those who would use it for profit or other nefarious purpose.

CAREFULL – Although the Care and Counsel Committee is concerned with those in Meeting who are finding challenges in the current economic situation, their overall charge is pastoral care. If you, or someone you know, could use some listening, supporting, encouraging and/or befriending, please feel free to contact anyone on the Committee. Sometimes it's hard for them to know who's in need.

AROUND 8 – Once again our Worship and Ministry Committee has fostered the creation of small groups within the Meeting. And once again they're delightful. Most are starting soon, if they haven't already, but most are also open to more members and will continue for the next 8 months. The list includes: "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice" led by Joe Moore; a book group led

by the Homans and Lowings; "Spiritual Nurture" with Erika Fitz as the "point person;" If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person led by Brenda Burkholder & David Worth; Meditation led by Deb Raudenbush; Quaker Nontheism led by Jim Kalish; Spiritual Discernment led with Lois and Grayfred Gray as point people (to begin after the Oct. 30 retreat); Quakerism 101 led by Tom and Liz Gates; a Daytime Group: Light Reading and Discussion led by Jean Eaton; and Personal Growth Through Writing led by Marilyn Morrison. If you want more information about any of these and/or want to sign up, please contact Tom Latus 399-1987 thomas_latus at yahoo.com.

KITCHEN AID – Your friendly Social Committee offers these reminders to people who use the kitchen: (1.) PLEASE take home all unused food, drink and supplies that you brought. However, if you think that social committee could use it within a week, mark it "FOR SOCIAL HOUR." We do not encourage bagels and/or soft drinks. (2.) If you bring items for an event planned within the next few weeks, please mark them "To be used for (such activity)."

In our report at the Nov. business meeting the subject of offering cocoa at Sunday social time will come up. Social Committee has tried many ways of offering it that have not worked. Much is made and wasted. Our request for parental supervision doesn't appear to be happening. We ask the Meeting's help.

BIG PICTURE – Consider visiting "Windows and Mirrors," the latest traveling exhibit produced by the American Friends Service Committee, on view at the Arch Street Meetinghouse until Nov. 7. It consists of 45 murals lifting up the civilian impacts of the war in Afghanistan. But it's not just about the art. Windows and Mirrors is also about dialogue—the conversations we can have and need to have about war, peace, and peace-making. Co-sponsored by PYM's Peace and Concerns Standing Committee and Envision Peace Museum, the Windows and Mirrors exhibit will be in Philadelphia for one month and then will leave to tour the country.

HELP WANTED – PYM is seeking to fill 5 positions. For more information visit: <http://www.pym.org/pm/jobs.php>, or call Ginny Connolly at 215-241-7225

ON ACCOUNT – PYM is sponsoring a 3-month course called Practicing Spiritual Accountability.

This course, combining a weekend residency, on-line study and reflection, and small group field work, is designed for people committed to the ongoing practice of corporate spiritual accountability. Participants will gather together to share fellowship, to learn from each other, and to explore best practices, most significant challenges, and growing edges of our care for ministries. Focal areas include: sharing the depth of ministry, prayer, full-body listening, asking questions, increased risk taking, and weaving spiritual accountability. Schedule: Weekend retreat Nov. 5-7 – Burlington Meeting House Center, Burlington, NJ. Nov. 8-28 – Three-week on-line learning and dialogue (6 hrs/ wk). Nov. 29, 2010-Jan. 29, 2011 – Two-month small group practice & on-line exchange (2 hrs/ wk). Jan. 30 – Feb. 13, 2011 – Two-week on-line wrap-up to summarize and pass it on. ... On-line segments use Moodle software hosted by Quaker Studies, available worldwide via the internet at any time of day. Cost: \$250 includes weekend residency and on-line course. Available upon request, limited scholarships and childcare. Online registration at: www.bhfh.org/qsp/qspAccountability.html. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Viv at friendviv at yahoo.com or 215-247-1477.

JUST ASKING – Queries for November are on Stewardship of Resources:

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in it uses of property and money?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

On the other side of this page is the "**QUAKER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APOLOGY - OFFERED IN LOVE AND HUMILITY TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY**" that was read by Tom Gates and Jodi Good at the ceremony held in the First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster on October 9.

One function of the universal Inward Light of which Quakers speak is to show us Truth, primarily the truth about ourselves. That truth can be difficult and painful, but healing and forgiveness can come only if we start by acknowledging the truth. We acknowledge that the history we have told ourselves for the last three hundred years has been incomplete, because it has largely omitted an account of the overwhelming catastrophe that overtook Pennsylvania's Native People as the result of the European settlement. We have been quick to remember how Penn's "Holy Experiment" began with such promise, but we must also acknowledge that in the end the experiment failed, with disastrous consequences for Native Americans here.

We acknowledge that the Quaker community did not always live up to Penn's vision. As the years passed, our commitment to live in peace and harmony with the native community often took second place to the continued economic prosperity of our community. Treaty obligations were not always enforced, fraud was at times perpetrated, squatters were increasingly tolerated. New immigrants, who did not necessarily share our beliefs, were encouraged to settle on the frontier, creating a buffer between our communities. We further acknowledge that from colonial times to the present, all European Americans have benefited in material ways from the unjust expropriation of native lands, even as we

have also suffered immeasurable loss from our collective neglect of Native wisdom regarding respect for the land and the sanctity of all creation.

In 1756, most Quakers chose to leave the government of Pennsylvania to others, rather than compromise our commitment to non-violence. But we acknowledge that what from our perspective was a principled act of conscience, from your perspective was a breach of the long-held trust between us. Non-violence usually comes at a price; in effect, Quakers chose non-violence, and Native Americans paid the price. We also acknowledge that as Friends struggled with how to honor their Peace Testimony in a time of war, they often provoked the animosity of other colonists, animosity that eventually came to be directed at you.

For all this and more, we express our sorrow and regret, and ask for forgiveness. It is beyond our power to change what has happened; mere words cannot right historical wrongs. We can, however, pledge to *remember*: remember with you what really happened, everything that happened. We can *renew* our ancient vision of the Peaceable Kingdom, and *rededicate* ourselves to the task of creating a society that honors the Inward Light of God in all people, that we might live together in peace and harmony. We pray that the events of today may bring some measure of peace and healing to your community.