



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 575

December 2010–January 2011

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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—Candlelight Dinner in December (see below).

Third First-day – Letter writing campaign from FCNL

First First-day – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship, Cornwall Worship Group, in January, February, and March in Bradley Lounge.

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

December 19 – First-day School Christmas Program

December 26 – Social time

January 2 – Update on Friends Lugulu Hospital

January 9 – Meeting For Worship For Business

January 23 – “State of the Meeting” threshing session.

January 30 – Amanda Kemp, “Theater for Transformation”

February 6 – Haydn McLain, Spiritual Journey.

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. Dec. 19 – 5:00 PM – Candlelight Cooperative Dinner in meetinghouse

Mon. Dec. 20 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Tue. Dec. 21 – 7:30 PM – Science/Spirituality in meetinghouse (see last month)

Wed. Dec. 22 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Sun. Dec, 26 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
 Mon. Dec. 27 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Wed. Dec. 29 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sun. Jan. 2 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group (see below)
 Sun. Jan. 2 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Jan. 2 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Jan. 2 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse
 Mon. Jan. 3 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Mon. Jan. 3 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse
 Tue. Jan. 4 – 7:00 PM – Shane Claiborne at Lancaster Church of the Brethren (see below)
 Tue. Jan. 4 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse
 Wed. Jan. 5 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sun. Jan. 9 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Mon. Jan. 10 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Jan. 11 – Deadline for January-February newsletter
 Wed. Jan. 12 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship
 Sat. Jan. 15 – 6:00 PM – Healing Racism Working Group potluck. Call Brian Hernon for info.
 Sun. Jan 16 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative meal. All are welcome.
 Sun. Jan 16 – 12:15 PM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse
 Tue. Jan 18 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Fri. Jan. 21 – 7:00 PM – Meet in meetinghouse parking lot to visit synagogue (see below)
 Sun. Jan. 23 – 9:00 AM – First-day School Committee in the basement
 Sat. Jan. 29 – 6:30 PM – Gather for Young Friends Contra Dance (see below)
 Sun. Jan. 23 – 3:00-5:00 – LIPW annual meeting in meetinghouse (see below)
 Sun. Jan 30 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley
 Fri. & Sat. Feb. 18-19 – Arts conference of Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON TWELFTH MONTH 12, 2010**

At noon, after worship sharing on queries on integrity and simplicity followed by a brief period of silent worship, Clerk Joseph Moore took up the business of Meeting. He began with an appreciation for the emphasis on community in our worship sharing on the queries. The agenda was reviewed and approved, and minutes for Eleventh Month were approved as read. Clerk thanked Jim Herr for pinch-hitting as recording clerk last month and welcomed Maria Cattell back.

Outreach Committee report. Haydn McLean began the Outreach Committee's report with a list of accomplishments, including public showings of two films, work on the outdoor signboard (now being carried forward by the Long Range Planning Committee), updating meeting's ad in the Lancaster newspapers, updating our website, the launch of a Newcomer's Table at cooperative meals, and discussion of a statement to go on our website which would welcome GLBT persons to our Meet-

ing.

Haydn asked: What does it mean to do Quaker outreach? Since Quakers don't proselytize, how do we strike a balance between being warm and welcoming and proselytizing? For Haydn, the guiding principle is that we will not evangelize but if you find us, we'll be glad to have you with us.

Friends reminded us that Quakers spread initially because they did proselytize and that the big Quaker tent includes many evangelists and missionaries. A Friend said when she is questioned about Quaker practices, she likes to say that what holds us together is our way of worship and our testimonies. We speak of "the salt of the earth," said she, but Quakers are the SPICE, which is an acronym for the testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality.

Another Friend said that Haydn put his finger on our Meeting's ambivalence about outreach and whether we proselytize, which seems a negative word suggesting "my way is the only way." But to evangelize is to share our good news. Lancaster Meeting decided not to undertake Quaker Quest because of our ambivalence. We

are groping our way toward sharing who we are.

Yet another Friend remembered that when he first asked to join Meeting, he was told to think about it and attend for a year or two, advice which he appreciated. He went on to say that we are a very diverse community, ranging from atheism to almost fundamentalist Christology. How, he asked, do we invite people into a circus?

A Friend reminded us that Fox's evangelization involved taking people to the Light and leaving them there. Another mentioned that some things are associated with Quakers, which is a form of outreach by letting our lives speak. For example, at a recent AVP training focused on forgiveness, people of other faiths in the training said, "Of course you'd focus on forgiveness; you're Quakers." Others spoke to our involvement in Lancaster Inter-church Peace Witness (LIPW) as a way to speak to a wider audience and to our all having the responsibility to reach out to others because we are all ministers.

Friends were agreeable to having a forum on this topic, because of all the energy around it. Clerk thanked Haydn and the Outreach Committee for their work.

Treasurer's report. For Treasurer Karen Zimmerman, Clerk reported that from January through November, 2010, income was \$61,715 and expenses were \$65,768 with a net of expenses over income of \$4,053. Karen estimates needing another \$10,000 in contributions by year end. She expects that this amount will be given. November's frugal meal raised \$847 for the Lancaster Food Bank.

Clerk noted that at our February business meeting we will get a complete treasurer's report for 2010 and that in March, Finance Committee will provide a review of our overall financial situation.

Budget for 2011. Ernie Nute presented the proposed budget for 2011. Some questions were raised about increases or decreases over the 2010 budget amounts and a few other issues, in particular, showing actual spending for 2010 on the budget, finding out why our cleaning person is charging 20% less, and clarifying the status of our internet service in regard to its appropriate place in the budget. Clerk asked anyone with questions or comments to contact the Finance Committee. Grayfred Gray will send out the revised budget to his email list before the next business meeting.

Minute of appreciation for Charles and Molly Milner. Clerk read a minute of appreciation to Charles and Molly Milner for their gift of \$280,000. A Friend suggested adding to the minute an appreciation for the Milners' wise giving, in that Meeting received \$28,000 each year for ten years rather than a lump sum, and a comment that Meeting's wise spending has enriched our community through the Leadings Fund and the Future Needs Fund. Meeting approved the following minute, which includes the suggested additions:

Minute: Lancaster Monthly Meeting wishes to express its deep appreciation to our members Charles and Molly Milner for their generous financial gift to the Meeting. We are grateful for the gift itself and also for the wise way in which the annuity fund was structured so that we received regular payments over ten years. The ten years are now concluded but your gift continues to benefit us, both through the leadings and future needs funds which we created and in less measureable ways. The process of discerning how to be wise stewards of this money spiritually deepened our community. We have also been able to support the leadings of our members, and that has enriched all of our community, connecting us to each other and to areas of need both far and near at hand.

You have the spiritual gift of a generous heart. We have been blessed by your generous heart.

Other matters. Joe DiGarbo told us that the October 26 event in the meetinghouse was well attended. Kathy Bergen, Director of Friends International Center in Ramallah, spoke to a sizable audience and the event raised \$900 for the Center, the largest amount raised in PYM. Joe thanked Kathy and also Arlene Kelly and others who coordinated the event.

Ernie Nute said that the new door on the handicapped entrance was paid from the Future Needs Fund and that in order to lock it now, you must use a key on the outside. Also, one storm window has been purchased and will be put up in the meeting room for evaluation.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1.05 pm. There were 45 present.

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

Present: Peggy Bright, Brenda Burkholder, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Joseph DiGarbo, Judith Durand, Elsie Eberly, Mary Anne & Philip Eise-mann, Erika Fitz, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Eugene & Judith Homan, Mark Horst, Amanda Kemp, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Robert Lowe, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Diane Martin, Haydn McLean, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, George Nofer, Ernest Nute, Carl & Rachel Perry, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Deborah Spence, Raymond Trayer, Scott Walck, Anne Wallace DiGarbo, Ursula Wanner, Erma Weaver, David Worth, Karen Zimmerman.

IT'S A COMIN'

REALLY RADICAL – Shane Claiborne, an engaging voice for radical Christianity who has been speaking at youth conventions and on university campuses across America, will be featured at a public meeting at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Avenue, 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4.

“Another way of Doing Life” will be the subject of his presentation. “Christians are meant to be radical non-conformists, interrupting the patterns of our world with prophetic imagination,” says Claiborne. During a time when the public mood is soured by unemployment, endless war, environmental disaster and political corruption, we urgently need Claiborne’s message.

All are welcome, including parents and grandparents! A free will offering will be taken to pay for the expenses of the evening.

Claiborne’s appearance in Lancaster is sponsored by the Taxes for Peace Interest Group of the Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness and by 1040 for Peace.

For more information, contact John Stoner at (717) 859-3388.

CLAY PLAY – Marilyn Morrison and Pat Reed are offering four play-and-learn pottery sessions at the Lancaster County Art Association studios in Strasburg. Come once, twice, thrice, or four times to learn basics or improve your skills—hand building or throwing on the wheel. Thursdays and/or Saturdays Jan. 6, 8, 13, 15 9:00-12:30. And, if you join the art association in the process, you can use the studios on your own to play and practice. Contact Marilyn or Pat or see the LCAA website www.lcaaonline.org

SCIENCE TRANSCENDING – The Spirituality

and Science study group will meet on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 in the Community Room of the meeting house. After completing our discussion of Part One of the book *The Biology of Transcendence* by Joseph Chilton Pearce, the group will turn to Part Two (The Anatomy of Evil). To be covered in this session will be the Preface (Dorchester Hill), Chapter 5 (Why Nature's Plan Breaks Down) and Chapter 6 (Bioculture and the Model Imperative). All are welcome to join us. Any questions--please call Adele Berardi at 391-8915.

TEMPLE TIME – The Lancaster Monthly Meeting youth will be traveling to the Congregation Shaarai Shomayim synagogue, 75 E. James St., Lancaster, for evening services on Friday January 21 at 7:30 PM. This trip came at the request of the youth who want to experience temple worship and the youth are again inviting LMM adults to join them. The synagogue is located on the corner of Duke and James Sts, opposite the Lancaster General Hospital. ... We will depart the LMM parking lot at 7:00 pm and travel to the synagogue in caravan. This evening’s service, appropriately, will be lead by the synagogue’s teens, who will meet the LMM youth following the service for conversation and questions. The spiritual leader of the congregation, Rabbi Jack Paskoff, will also be present.

Please join our youth on this visit and meet at 7:00 that evening to travel together. For questions or additional information, contact Haydn McLean 799.4031 hjmclean@comcast.net or Anne Wallace DiGarbo 627-0837 anneofmary@gmail.com.

SKIP MEETING – First-day School Committee ordinarily meets on the fourth Sunday of the month. They decided not to meet next week, the day after Christmas. So they will next meet on January 23, 9:00 AM in the meetinghouse.

WITNESS PEACE – Lancaster Friends Meeting will host the 6th Annual Board Meeting of the Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness on 23 January from 3:00 to 5:00 PM in the Community Room. Dr. Donald B. Kraybill, will deliver the keynote address titled, “Victory in Jesus: How the Church has Lost its Soul.” The importance of the annual meeting is to provide an opportunity for the LIPW constituents and other peace-minded persons to discuss and recommend priorities for LIPW peace education activities in the next two years.

New officers and new Board members will be seated at this meeting. There will be opportunity to respond to the keynote address in small group and plenary discussions. of LIPW following the reports by the Working Study Groups. Participants will be asked to offer suggestions for the future work of LIPW.

The Board, which is comprised of clergy and church leaders of eight different faith traditions, has several branches: they sponsor a Speaker's Program, a Middle East Study Group, a Latin American Study Group, and a Taxes for Peace Interest Group. These groups have sponsored several programs for pastors, church educators, and children, including a local Children's Peace Mural Project, Biblical studies for congregational constituents and speakers on international peace, ranging from Churches For a Middle East Peace to the Central Intelligence Agency. Dr. Kraybill is one of the original Board members of the LIPW, which began in 2004 through the initiative of members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Meeting Clerk, Wilber Forwood.

DANCY – The fourth annual Young Friends Contra Dance will take place Saturday evening, January 29. Cookie Caldwell has already sent out a notice to all the YFs in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), urging them to participate. They'll all stay overnight in our meetinghouse. Chances are good the adults involved will be looking for some Friendly Adult Presences.

“The Power of the Arts” is the theme for the 2011 arts conference of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (FQA). We'll begin with dinner at 6:30 pm on Friday, Feb. 18, followed by a concert—sing-along with Annie Patterson and Peter Blood (creators of *Rise Up Singing*). Saturday includes workshops on printmaking, poetry, panorama/high resolution photography, journaling with art and artifacts, pudding painting playtime, and discussion of “the power of art” led by Blair Seitz. Other activities include an open mike, worship, business meeting, art reception for the art exhibit, and music by Marti Rogers and Tom Levy. The conference will be held at Burlington Meetinghouse and Conference Center in Burlington NJ, which has overnight accommodations. More information at www.fqa.quaker.org (click on “Download FQA conference schedule, workshops and registration forms”). Questions? Ask Maria Cattell, FQA Clerk.

LEAD? – This one is really out in the future, but worth considering. The annual sessions of PYM take place next July 27th to 31st at DeSales University near Allentown. Again this year there will be times set aside for workshops and interest groups framed around the theme, “Powerful Beyond Measure: Trusting the Call to Leadership.” Workshops provide carefully planned transformational activities while interest groups are more informal gatherings for F/friends to share their common concerns. If you are interested in leading either, please look for the materials needed to submit a proposal on-line at www.pym.org/annualsessions

WOULD YA BELIEVE?

WANT WRITERS – Please help the Peace Essay Contest Committee contact peace-minded teachers who would find the 2011 Peace Essay Contest a creative and educational activity for their students. Students in public or private schools from grades 9 to 12 are eligible. We will be sending contest packets to teachers after the first of the year. If you know of such teachers, send us their names, the name of their school, and their contact information to either of the Peace Essay Contest Committee contacts: Beth Reeves hernreeves@hotmail.com or Bob Lowing r.lowing2@verizon.net

The theme of this year's contest is: “World Peace: How Can This Dream Become a Reality for Me?”...This will be the 29th Annual Peace Essay Contest, which was begun at Lancaster Meeting in 1982. The contest runs from February to mid-May 2011. Winning essays will be awarded a total of \$900 in prizes—the best essays in two age groups, 9 to 10 and 11 to 12. Meeting will host an Awards Ceremony at the end of May 2011.

NOW HERE – On October 17, a welcoming committee enjoyed a breakfast with our newest member, Emily Higgs. The group included Elsi Eberly, Bob Neuhauser, Rachel Perry. Bob presented Emily with a giant Lancaster County stayman apple at the close, with hopes for a “fruitful” connection between her and Lancaster Friend Meeting in the years to come.

WARMLY WELCOME – First First-day – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship, During three seasons, Cornwall Worship Group meets in the Paymaster's Building at Cornwall Manor. Now to insure warm quarters and enable several regular attendees to reach the meeting without going outside, on

the first Sundays in January, February, and March they meet in Bradley Lounge.

HATS OFF – Many thanks from the Gobble Girls! Melissa and Michelle would like to thank everyone who recently contributed to Warm Hands, Warm Hearts for the Lancaster Project for the Needy. Meeting donated over 80 hats/gloves/scarves and mittens. With Christmas Eve predicted to be particularly cold this year, we know those waiting in line for their Christmas dinner will be very grateful for the beautiful handmade and carefully selected items. We received a wonderful variety of things, including many for men, which was a particular need. Thank you for your kindness at this busy time of year!

BOOK WEB – The Library Committee has put all of the adult and children's library books on line at www.librarything.com You can sign in using the name lancastermmlibrary and the password quaker11ady. You'll see we have 1,338 books in the catalog. Click on the "Your Books" tab at the top to find out what is in our collection. You can also visit collections of other Quaker Meetings and the PYM library. And once you've been to this site and looked around a bit, you'll realize how

much was involved with this project and why it's taken almost 2 years.

Now the Committee is ready to tackle the media in our collection. We have mostly video and audio tapes of Spiritual Journeys and Meeting activities. Is there any way that we can edit them and put the tapes on CDs or DVDs? If you have a good answer, please talk to Albert Geier or Cynthia Lowing.

WORSHIP? – Here are the queries for First Month concerning Meeting for Worship. Worship sharing on these will begin at about 11:30, January 9.

As we worship, is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

Do we each faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Source: PYM Faith & Practice