



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 563

December 2009–January 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

- 9:00-9:50 AM – The Bible & Friends' Testimonies study. All welcome (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 – 10:35 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

December 20 – Christmas program/cookie feast

January 10 – 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. Dec. 20 – 5:00 PM – Gather for carol singing, followed by candlelight cooperative meal

Mon. Dec. 21 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Sun. Dec. 27 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Sun. Dec. 27 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Committee in meetinghouse

Mon. Dec. 28 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Sun. Jan. 3 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group

Sun. Jan. 3 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse

Sun. Jan. 3 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse

- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -

Mon. Jan. 4 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Mon. Jan. 4 – 7:00-8:30 PM– Worship and Ministry Committee in meetinghouse

Tue. Jan. 5 – 7:10 PM – Working Group on Work in meetinghouse
 Tue. Jan. 5 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel Committee in meetinghouse
 Sun. Jan. 10 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business
 Sun. Jan. 10 – 1:00 PM – Visit to Secular Franciscans (see below)
 Mon. Jan. 11 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Jan. 12 – Deadline for January-February newsletter
 Wknd Jan. 15-17 – Amanda Kemp workshop in Pendle Hill (see below)
 Sat. Jan. 16 – 6:30 PM – Healing Racism Group in meetinghouse with pot luck meal
 Sun. Jan. 17 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative Meal, everyone's invited
 Mon. Jan. 18 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Tue. Jan. 19 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse (see below)
 Wed. Jan. 20 – 7:10 PM – Working Group on Work in meetinghouse
 Wknd Jan. 22-24 – Middle School Friends gathering (see below)
 Sun. Jan. 24 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Committee in meetinghouse
 Mon. Jan. 25 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse
 Sat. Jan. 30 – Young Friends Contra Dance

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 ON TWELFTH MONTH 13**

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 Eleventh Month were read, corrected and approved.

Worship sharing on queries on integrity and simplicity.

Queries

1. Am I careful to speak truth as I know it, and am I open to truth spoken to me?
2. How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives?
3. As a meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

Responses:

- What I took from a recent 78 disc is the sense that simplicity is not a set of actions or material evidence or a list of rules. It's a process of seeking right order, keeping oneself open to awareness. It's not what you wear, but the awareness of what you wear and the implications for others and yourself.
- Simplicity is a relative term. I grow my own vegetables but that gets very complicated, so it's not simple! I heat my house with wood but have to collect firewood, so that doesn't simplify my life. So simplicity is a relative

term, and things can be complicating between what we feel and what we need to do for others and the earth.

- Are *Moby Dick* and *A Tale of Two Cities* any less true because they are fiction? In *The Case for God* Karen Armstrong says that the idea generally accepted is that what is true is what's true within. There are problems because with explicit truths, what we say must be literally true. It's the mythos, what's beneath—that is truth.

- I was struck by the query about speaking truth. For me this particular idea has been alive in the past few days. Last night I promised my son I'd be back in an hour, even as I thought no, it'll be more like an hour and a quarter. So I was late, and my son was rightfully angry. Not keeping my word even on small things is part of a relationship of trust. What is most valuable, most important? Sometimes I say what is easier to say than the truthful response.

- Sometimes when a test of simplicity comes up I think of Rusty Carnarius and her message that "true simplicity resides in the mind," that is, knowing 3 or 4 things that are most important, and when we know that, the rest falls into shape.

- Integrity is at the core of our set of beliefs. There are many examples every day of words not coinciding with deeds. I'm sensitive to this.

- The words "right ordering" seem to me very much a part of integrity and simplicity. How do we teach this? This morning in First-

day School (FDS) I saw the youth when one teacher presented a project to do in the spring. It involved notes from past events, and forethought and thinking about what's happening with youth throughout the year. This query brings me to the thought that these principles are a daily event, like coming to meeting with thoughts of what is important and allowing time for that to develop.

Clerk commented that he finds this time in our worship together enriching and is always impressed with the quality of thinking and feeling expressed by Friends.

Milner Committee request. Nancy Bieber presented a request from the Milner Committee Leadings Fund to grant \$5,000 to Jim Kalish and his support committee to help get the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) project off the ground. The COSA project will help in the rehabilitation of sex offenders when they are released from Lancaster County Prison. The Milner Committee feels the project has been well seasoned.

The money will go to an agency (perhaps LAVORP) which will oversee the project, and accounting to the Milner Committee will be expected. There may also be other sources of funds, in addition to \$750 the project has already received from Meeting's Peace & Social Concerns Committee for Jim's trip to Canada (\$500) and for current expenses (\$200). A Friend asked us to celebrate that this difficult work is going forward and that Jim Kalish has listened to this call so sensitively.

Meeting approved granting \$5,000 in support of the COSA project.

Care & Counsel—membership. Meeting approved the membership of Haydn McLean. His welcoming committee will include the following Friends: Maria Cattell, Lois Frey Gray (convenor), Jim Herr, Tom Latus, Bob Lowing, Anna Moore, Myke Rogers.

Jean Eaton reported that the welcoming committee for Billie Anne and Martin Bradley had a wonderful part for these new members of meeting.

Treasurer's report. Treasurer Karen Zimmerman reported income to December 12, 2009, of \$56,019 and expenses of \$71,968, with a shortfall of \$15,950. Karen said we were in a similar situation last year, and the

money came in. She asked us to hold this process in the light—and also to be generous. A Friend asked what happens if the money does not come in. Karen said we have a reserve fund if that happens but that she has confidence the money will come.

Finance Committee—2010 budget. Ernie Nute presented the budget and responded to questions.

A Friend asked, in regard to the municipal services donation, if we should increase our support of the 3 nonprofits in our municipality which serve us: two fire companies and an ambulance company, all volunteer. The treasurer said we donated \$500 to the Rohrsertown Fire Company and \$600 in lieu of taxes to East Hempfield Township. Meeting approved increasing the municipal services line item by \$400, to \$1600.

A Friend proposed giving \$100 a month to the food bank of the Lancaster County Council of Churches. The treasurer said our present contribution to the food bank is between \$800 and \$1000 annually from donations and frugal meal; this is off-budget. Another Friend said there is something to be gained by having the need for food in front of us through weekly requests for donations and the food basket in the gathering room. The treasurer suggested that perhaps rather than limiting ourselves to fundraising through frugal meal in November, we could ask for contributions to the food bank and other organizations with each of our cooperative meals. Anna Moore volunteered to work with Karen on this. Clerk felt there was not a sense of the meeting in support of this proposal, though clearly there was recognition of problems such as hunger and homelessness and a desire to do something to help, whether as individuals or as a community.

Some discussion followed about the budget as a statement about Meeting as a spiritual community and whether we are willing to say in our budget that we want to feed the hungry. A Friend pointed out that the budget is not the only statement of our priorities and that there are other ways we define ourselves as a community.

Meeting then approved the budget as amended. (It appears in this newsletter.)

Finance Committee—policy on bequests.

Ernie Nute said meeting currently has two large bequests, one for \$50,000, one for \$18,000. Finance Committee recommends that the use of these funds not be designated at this time because the committee wants to have listening sessions within the next 6 months. Meeting approved.

Request from a Friend. Amanda Kemp asked for Meeting to cosponsor a performance by her Theater for Transformation to be held at Arch Street Meetinghouse on March 24, 2010, for seventh graders from a school in the Bronx. Sponsorship entails no financial obligation for Meeting but will allow Amanda to get a 50% discount on Arch Street rental. Meeting approved. Clerk will write a letter for Amanda.

Amanda also invited anyone who wishes to join the support committee for this performance to contact her.

Minute of Appreciation for former clerk.

Clerk presented a framed minute of appreciation (previously approved by meeting) to Elizabeth Gates for her five years of service as Meeting clerk.

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: Steven Alderfer, Ronald Ashby, Nancy Bieber, Maria Cattell, Faith d'Urbano, Jean & William Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Philip & Mary Anne Eisemann, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Gray-fred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Debra Hewes, Millicent Holzinger, Gene & Judy Ho-man, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Robert Lowe, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Haydn McLean, Anna & Joseph Moore, Marilyn Morrison, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Rachel Perry, Meyric Rogers, Deborah Spence, Raymond Trayer, Erma Weaver, Karen Zimmerman.

SOMETIMES

CHURCH PEACE – The Middle East Interest Group of Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness (LIPW) will host Ambassador Warren Clark, ex-

ecutive director of Churches for Middle East Peace Sat., Jan. 9, 9-11 AM at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave.. He will report on the work of his organization, advocating for peace and justice. All are welcome.

Also plan to attend the LIPW annual meeting, Sun. Jan. 31, 3-5 PM, at Highland Presbyterian Church, 1801 Oregon Pike. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Michele Armster. All are welcome to this event, as well.

WORK TOGETHER – The Working Group on Work plans two meetings in the meetinghouse for the month of January, even though they haven't cleared it with Calendar Girl, Jean Eaton: the first Tuesday (Jan. 5) and the third Wednesday (Jan. 20) approximately 7-9 pm. For more information, contact Tom Tucker, 394-4464, tom at tbasso.us

FRANCLY – As promised back in October, here is a reminder of something to consider next month. With warm echoes of their July visit to Lancaster Monthly Meeting, the members of the Secular Franciscan Order invite us to visit them on January 10 in the St. John Neumann parish educational area. Their afternoon begins about 1:00 PM with prayer (about 1/2 hr.); then fellowship (about 1/2 hr.); ongoing spiritual formation (1 hr.); business meeting (1/2 hr.); and closing with prayer (20 minutes), ending before 4:00 PM. We are welcome to participate in all or in those parts of our choosing. Our hosts understand (well!) that we will have meeting for business prior to leaving to travel to them. A carpool sign-up sheet will be on the round table. St. John Neumann Parish is at 601 E. Delp Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

PHYSICS GOD – The Science and Spirituality group will hold its next meeting on Jan. 19, at 7:30 in the Community Room of the meetinghouse. We will be starting a new book entitled *Quantum Theology* by Diarmuid O' Murchu. Any questions, please call Adele Berardi at 391-8915.

MIDDLE WINTER – The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) Middle School Friends Winter Gathering will happen Jan. 22-24, 2010 at the Burlington Conference Center, Burlington, NJ. Its theme will be "Community, Communication, and Communion." Contact: Stephen Dotson at

215-241-7171; stephend at pym.org. Visit the Middle School website at:
www.pym.org/youngfriends/MiddleSchool/index.htm.

DANCE AGAIN – The third annual contra dance of Jan. 30 wants to invite any who would like to be Friendly Adult Presences at the dance. Please contact Anne Wallace DiGarbo or Shane Knudsen. Please consider overnighting with the Caln Quarter youth the same night in the meetinghouse.

NOW THIS IS REALLY NEWS

HELP CARE – The college students who do childcare for us are home for Christmas and semester break. They won't be back until Jan. 24. If you can help, either in the nursery during worship or with the larger group during Forums, please put your name on the sign-up sheet or speak to Liz Gates.

NO MALL – Your Alternative Christmas shopping center is still open in the community room.

This year it features the old favorite, The Heifer Project, the program to give an animal such as a heifer to an impoverished third world family, and have them pass on the first offspring to a neighbor. (Remember when the Meeting youth raised enough money to buy 2 water buffalo?) You can buy animals ranging from water buffalo to ducks and honey bees, and give them in the name of a loved one. Fill out the gift form and Heifer project will send your loved one an illustrated gift card showing what gift has been given in their name!

Right Sharing of the World's resources is a Quaker program to provide money to the poorest of the poor in India and Africa to start a small enterprise to benefit the family. They will get this as a loan and repay it gradually out of profits of their program, and the money will be re-loaned to others in their community. A gift that keeps on giving!

Another alternative gift might be a contribution to the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), which was started by a Quaker who had taught in Burundi. He brought a Quaker approach involving alternatives to violence combined with reconciliation to the countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya. Here ethnic violence had set neighbors against

neighbors, slaying indiscriminately in a frenzy of ethnic hatred. By calling in volunteer Quaker Peace Teams, AGLI introduced patient, on-site, hands-on mediators to the toxic neighborhoods. They, in turn, introduce a process of reconciliation, forgiveness, and teaching the principles of alternatives to violence that is spreading throughout the region with notable success. More needs to be done, but individuals in the neighborhoods in which AGLI operates are taking upon themselves the task to restore the civility and livability of their communities and train other facilitators.

And this just in: More than 40 years ago, Quakers and community partners began a journey that organized Friends School in Detroit in response to a denial of access to a suburban private school because of race. Today, with enormous economic stress and 30% unemployment, children in Detroit are arguably being denied access to a quality education because of where they live and the level of disposable income available for education. Income and circumstance should never be a barrier to opportunity. You can help the school with a donation to their annual fund: Friends School in Detroit, 1100 St. Aubin, Detroit, Michigan 48207-2896. There's a letter on the bulletin board telling more about the school, and they also have a website www.friendsschool.org

You really **can** give a Life to people who will be touched and transformed by any of these programs. Check out our Alternate Christmas Giving display.

FOOD FUNDING – There was a question in meeting for business concerning Meeting's contribution to the food bank. So far in 2009, we have given \$1,492.00.

LATE AGAIN? – Worship and Ministry Committee would like to remind Friends of one practice we have used to help gather meeting for worship. We have found it best for those who arrive after 10:00 to worship in the library until the children leave for their FDS classes. This helps minimize the distractions that can otherwise occur while the community is seeking to settle into a gathered meeting.

HOMELY – There are about 750 homeless adults in Lancaster County, and about 1000

children involved. The problem is not insurmountable. In fact, The United Way has developed a ten-year plan to permanently eliminate homelessness in Lancaster County by shifting emphasis away from shelters to permanent housing. This is not a “go-it-alone” type of project but will involve a multitude of local institutions working together. There are opportunities for individuals to use any of a broad range of their individual skills, giving anything from an hour a month to 40 hours a week. If you’re interested in finding out more, please contact Myke Rogers: 413-5690 or mykerog at verizon.net. He plans to have UW put on a forum to explain their plan. Several other churches are considering this so it would be an opportunity to work in an ecumenical environment.

YOO-HOO – Amanda Kemp will lead a workshop at Pendle Hill on Jan. 15-17, called “The Ancestors Are Calling on You: Spiritual Resources for Living Life Powerfully.” Ancestors are an important and sometimes forgotten resource for breaking through limitations in parenting, career, spiritual awareness, and creativity. Drawing on multicultural approaches to ancestors, the group will create a sacred circle in which each person works with the ancestors they choose. Yoga, free-writing, meditation, and informal performance will awaken and/or reinforce contact with our ancestors: beloved and hated, known and unknown...Find out more and register at www.pendlehill.org

This poem, which came to Amanda in response to heartfelt prayer, inspired her workshop:

You know the ancestors are calling on you
 You know the ancestors are calling on
 You
 They say
 Remember me
 They say
 Forgive me
 They say
 I forgive you

CLOSE CARE – It has come to our attention that doors and windows have been left open, or at least unlocked, in the meetinghouse. The oven in the basement was left on. Please, if you are the person in charge of an activity, assume it’s your responsibility to ensure things are

turned off and locked up when you leave.

PSYCHO GOD – For nearly sixty years, *Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology* has gathered on Memorial Day Weekend to provide a respite for individuals of all spiritual and religious backgrounds who wish to delve more deeply into their inner world. FCRP is one of the oldest conferences in the U.S. dedicated to individual spiritual exploration with a focus on in-depth psychology, specifically Jungian psychology. Although it initially took place at Haverford College, it now takes place in Annville on the campus of Lebanon Valley College. Consider saving the weekend. More information will come in the future.

JAN ?? – The Queries for First Month, collected from *Faith and Practice* of North Carolina YM (C) (1983); New England YM (1985); and Philadelphia YM (1972), are on Meeting for Worship:

In our meetings for worship, is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives?

Do we come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God?

Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Spirit?

Are we faithful and punctual in our attendance at meetings for worship, and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival?

BOOK TOGETHER – “One Book One Yearly Meeting” is a program to bring everyone in PYM together over a good book! And this year, from March 2009 to March 2010, the book is *Right Relationship: Building A Whole Earth Economy* by Peter Brown and Geoffrey Garver. Faith d’Urbano and Charles Lane are considering using this book in Quaker Talk, the 9:00 AM discussion First-day. To learn more about the “One Book” program, including a possible curriculum for its study, check out www.pym.org/education/onebook/index.htm If you’d like to purchase the book, perhaps join in the discussion, please talk to either Faith or Charles.

FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS – The First Day

School Children, K through 8, invited the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to their class, and the children learned about “Alternative Gift Giving” on Dec. 6. Under the leadership of Beth Hernon-Reeves, several members from the Committee presented gift giving ideas for families, and gift giving ideas for children to give to someone they love for free.

Bob Neuhauser gave an illustrated talk on how American families could give gifts to their neighbors abroad through the Heifer International program and fair market value gifts from Ten Thousand Villages. Some of the children said their families had previously given gifts from Heifer International and had planned to do so again this year. Bob had pamphlets and brochures for the children to give to their caregivers.

Beth led a discussion with the children and Committee members to think of gifts that would cost nothing to give to someone they love. This was a little more puzzling, but children gave it a lot of thought. They realized that helping around the house, saying nice things about each other for a whole week, or doing some chores was a gift that would be appreciated and valuable. Afterwards, the children made original gift cards, put them in envelopes and addressed them. Finally, the children planted flower pots to give as gifts. Debby Spence, Milly and Charles Holzinger provided potting soil, water, pots, and tiny Impatiens seeds for this activity. The children had a pretty good idea what to do and every child carried out their assignment faithfully.

First Day School Committee invites all Meeting Committees to plan an intergenerational learning activity and participate with the children. Try it; it’s fun!

WHAT STATE? – This is the time of year that we take stock of where we are as a community. JoAnne Sadler, convener, and two others, have been asked to develop a State of the Meeting Report to cover our year just ending.

This committee respectfully requests each Meeting Committee convener to send Myke Rogers written views on their experiences during 2009. But please understand: anyone with ideas regarding our community who wants to be heard is welcome to send in written thoughts as well.

It is important to understand we want praise of the community, but we are going to be open to a constructive critique as well. Criticism, if open and direct, can be an extremely useful tool to prod us to improve the relationships within our community as well as to grow our contribution to the community at large. In short, your participation is necessary to make this report relevant and useful.

Before the end of the year, please email: mykerog at verizon.net, phone: 413-5690, or write: Myke Rogers, 1037 Woods Avenue, Lanc. PA 17603

Lancaster Monthly Meeting Approved 2010 Operating Budget	
<i>Meetinghouse Operations</i>	
Electric	3,450
Gas	1,500
Insurance	4,000
Janitor	5,000
Municipal Services Donation	1,600
Property Maintenance	5,000
Property Manager	5,500
Telephone	750
Water	170
subtotal- Meetinghouse Operations	26,970
<i>Committee & Meeting Activities</i>	
Care & Counsel Committee	500
Care and Counsel Fund	1,200
Child Care	2,400
Comfort & Assistance	500
Conference Fund	1,600
Camp Swatara	800
First Day School	800
Camp FoxTales	850
Forum	200
Healing Racism	400

Library Committee	400
Miscellaneous	100
Newsletter	1,100
Outreach	1,600
Peace & Social Concerns	1,500
Personnel Committee	1,200

Social Committee	600
Treasurer	350
Worship & Ministry	2,600
Environmental Concerns	200
subtotal Committee& Meeting Activities	18,900
<i>Quaker and Other Affiliations</i>	
Caln Quarter Coordinator	6,500
Caln Quarter	1,600

PYM Covenant	27,000
FGC	750
FWCC	750
Lanc County Council of Churches	1,600
subtotal Quaker and Other Affiliations	38,200
<i>Meeting Concerns & Beneficences</i>	
AFSC National	1,000
FCNL	750
Community Support Fund	1,500
subtotal Concerns & Beneficences	3,250
Total	87,320