



## Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 554*

*February–March 2009*

Clerk: Liz Gates

Assistant Clerk: Joe Moore

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

- 9:00-9:45 AM – Reading Roundtable. All are welcome.

- 9:00-9:50 AM – Quaker Bible Study. Classroom 2. February and March: The Sermon on the Mount. All are welcome.

- 9:45 AM – Pray for peace in either the meeting room or community room.

- 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship. Children worship with us for the first 20 minutes, then go to First-Day School classes.

First and Third First-days – 9:15-9:45 AM – Open hymn-sing in the meeting room

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**

Feb. 15 – Social time/Cooperative meal

Feb. 22 – David Smith on equitable funding for Pennsylvania Schools (see below)

Mar. 1 – Musical ministry music and worship with Jon Watts (see below)

Mar. 8 – Meeting for worship for business

Mar. 15 – Social time/cooperative meal

Mar. 22 – Report on the Peace Gathering 2009: Joe DiGarbo & Bob Lowing

Mar. 29 – My spiritual journey: Grayfred Gray

### **ACTIVITIES**

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

**- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Tues. Feb. 17 – 7:30 PM – Peace talk at Elizabethtown College (see below)  
 Fri. Feb. 20 – 7:30 PM – Movie “Kilowatt Our’s” in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Sun. Feb. 22 – 8:00 AM – Pancake Breakfast for Guatemala AVP in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Sat. Feb. 28 & Sun. Mar. 1 – Friendly Dinners (see below)  
 Sun. Mar. 1 – 9:00 AM – Peace and Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Mar. 1 – 9:15-9:45 AM – Open hymn-sing in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Mar. 1 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Cornwall Worship Group  
 Sun. Mar. 1 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Committee in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Sun. Mar. 1 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape Note Singing in meetinghouse  
 Mon. Mar. 2 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Mar. 3 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Mar. 8 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business  
 Sun. Mar. 8 – 3:00-5:00 PM – PYM “Listening Session” in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Mon. Mar. 9 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Mar. 10 – Deadline for February-March newsletter  
 Sun. Mar. 15 – 9:15-9:45 AM – Open hymn-sing in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Mar. 15 – 12:00 PM (after Cooperative Meal) – Worship and Ministry  
 Mon. Mar. 16 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Mar. 17 – 7:00 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Fri. Mar. 20 – 7:00-9:00 PM – Talent Show in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Wknd Mar. 27-29 – Winter sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (see below)  
 Sun. Mar. 29 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley  
 Sat. April 11 – 9:00 AM-noon – Sacred Dance Workshop in meetinghouse (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING  
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 ON SECOND MONTH 8**

At about 11:35 am, after a brief period of silent worship, Clerk Elizabeth Gates took up the business of Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved, and minutes for First Month were read, corrected and approved.

**Worship sharing on queries on meeting for worship for business.**

Queries

1. Is our Meeting for Business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?
2. Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

Responses:

- We as individuals deal with things that arise from within us and things that are thrust upon us. Our priority for meeting for business should be for things from within us. Then we tidy up later things thrust upon us.
- When God had a job to do, namely, move

the Jews out of Egypt, he appointed a chairman who made sure the job got done. That’s when leadership is important, when a plan is important, especially when time also matters.

- On the one hand we’re called to speak truth as we see it or as it is given to us, and on the other hand we’re called to accept humility, so that we may have the courage to speak out and the humility to accept. We need god-given wisdom to accept the difference. A meeting that is actively engaged with spirit is often uncomfortable. But clear-cut decisions are not the way God does business.

- It is a challenge of time because there is so much to do in business meeting. We might want to think about the role of committees and how they could make very simple and clear recommendations.

- The issue is seeking divine guidance. We believe but we don’t want to make it dogma. We don’t excommunicate Quakers. So here we are, trying to make divinely led decisions, and that is not necessarily easy or comfortable.

- I’m feeling overwhelmed with gratitude to belong to a community that so deeply listens to each other as we make decisions and listen

to reports. Loving listening is so important. Decision making is not more important than the care we take with each other. About 10 or 11 years ago, as we faced a very difficult issue, a Friend asked, "Do we have to look at this? It will tear us apart." I sat with that a long time. At the next business meeting I said that we had enough loving of each other to go through difficult places together. I still believe that.

- I like things to go smoothly with no problems. Lately I've come to see problems as spiritual disciplines. So much is gained by going through difficulties. In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* there's a line about Aslan the lion king, who is god: "He's not a true lion." Aslan was not tame, and the spirit within us is not tame—it has its own way and sometimes it stirs up conflict. And so much is learned out of conflicts.

- Business meeting was one of the first things I came to 11 years ago, and I saw the struggle and also the care folks took with each other. That's why I've continued to come.

- I'm feeling deep appreciation and empathy for our clerk for helping us through these processes.

Clerk described these responses as food for thought.

**State of the Meeting 2008 report.** Phil Eise-mann read the State of the Meeting 2008 report. Meeting approved the report as it will be amended to incorporate several suggested additions. Clerk thanked the committee, Phil Eise-mann, Milly Holzinger and Cynthia Lowing, for its work. (The amended report is included in this newsletter.)

**Care & Counsel report on membership.** Nancy Bieber told us of a response to Care & Counsel's continuing efforts to contact non-attending members. Michael Lebo, who lives in Richmond, Indiana, said that he receives and reads the newsletter and has been to Meeting's website. He still feels connected and wants to continue his membership.

**Care & Counsel report on youth mentoring program.** Nancy Bieber described a proposed youth mentoring program which would involve friendships between high schoolers and adults with a two-year commitment to do something together once a month. The impetus for the program is the fact that our youth tend to find other worlds of greater importance and drop

out of the Meeting community. Care & Counsel will make the matches, Meeting will pay for background checks, and there will be an orientation. Several Friends spoke in favor of the program, one Friend suggested that consideration be given to appropriate rituals, and several Friends spoke to the need of Meeting's youth and adults to look beyond our own community to the larger community of Lancaster, where there are many problems and needs. **Minute:** Meeting gives its blessing to this undertaking.

**Treasurer's report on 2008 fiscal year.**

Treasurer Karen Zimmerman thanked us because in 2008, for the first time, income exceeded budget. She suggested that given that our contribution to Yearly Meeting is one-third of our expenses, it is a good idea to consider our relationship to Yearly Meeting. Meeting approved the report.

**Milner Committee request.** Nancy Bieber presented a request from the Milner Committee to grant \$2,300 to the Healing Racism Working Group so they can host Amanda Kemp's play, "Show Me the Franklins," at Camp Swatara. Meeting approved.

**Finance Committee's proposed bequests policy.** Ernie Nute read the proposed policy (in newsletter below) on how to deal with various types of bequests. Friends raised various issues: have Dave Morrison read it from a lawyer's perspective, be prepared to spend funds from bequests rather than establish long-term endowments, and consider using bequests to help in Lancaster. Clerk asked Finance Committee to run the document by Dave Morrison and consider today's comments, then come back to meeting.

**Deepening & Strengthening report.** Tom Lat-us pointed out that the youth mentoring program is one of the suggestions growing from the D&S process. Nancy Bieber, who served on the D&S Committee, said that the report is an offering to the Lancaster Meeting community and that anyone can take up things suggested in it. A Friend commented that the report should be extremely helpful as a planning tool. **Minute:** Meeting feels deep gratitude to the members of the Deepening & Strengthening Committee for the way they have worked with us and challenged us to go deep. Meeting approved the minute and also releasing, with our

love, the D&S Committee from its service.

**Quarterly Meeting representatives.** Meeting approved Jim Herr and Charles Lane as Meeting's representatives to March Quarterly Meeting.

**Announcements.**

- Clerk announced a listening session on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting priorities in Lancaster meetinghouse on Sunday, March 8, from 3 to 5 pm.

- Jim Herr has been named to the board of Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness.

- A Friend spoke of arriving in the meetinghouse at 9:15 this morning to find that every room had people in it.

**Clerk's correspondence.**

- Clerk showed us a card from Ray Trayer announcing a donation to the Heifer Project in the name of Lancaster Monthly Meeting.

**Minute:** Meeting thanks Ray Trayer for his thoughtfulness.

- Clerk read a letter from Alex Emerson's brother, Parker Emerson, thanking Meeting for our help in saying goodbye to Alex and giving him a final resting place.

**Mary Garrett's memorial minute.** Please contact Clerk Liz Gates if you would like to help write Mary Garrett's memorial minute.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1:05 pm. There were 47 present including one child.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Gates, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

**Present:** Ronald Ashby, Adele Berardi, Nancy Bieber, Peggy Bright & son Daniel, Andrea Carthy, Maria Cattell, Joyce Collins, Joseph DiGarbo, Jean & William Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Philip & Mary Anne Eisemann, Anna Marie Fischer, Chris Fitz, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, Brian Heron, James Herr, Debra Hewes, Charles & Millicent Holzinger, Mark Horst, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Elise Leytham, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Meyric Rogers, Stephen Scanlon, Deborah Spence, Scott Walck, Anne Wallace-DiGarbo, Erma Weaver, Karen Zimmerman.

**IT WILL COME TO PASS**

**OTHER VIEW** – Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness (LIPW) would like to call your attention to the visit of Joshua Casteel to Elizabethtown College this Tues., Feb. 17. At 7:30 pm he will speak in the Bucher Meetinghouse on the theme, "No Graven Image: The Problem With Ideas for a World in Pain." Casteel served as a U.S. Army interrogator and Arabic linguist from June 2004 to January 2005. Shortly thereafter he was honorably discharged from Active Duty as a conscientious objector. In March, 2007, he was invited to Rome to discuss Just War theory with Vatican officials, including Pope Benedict XVI. Joshua's visit is sponsored by the Elizabethtown College Alumni Peace Fellowship.

**TOO COALED** – The Environmental Concerns Committee wants you to know our electricity in this area comes largely from coal. To show the impact of this fact and of coal strip mining, the group plans to present the independent film Kilowatt Our's in the meetinghouse this Friday, Feb. 20, at 7:00 PM. The film, which runs about an hour, proposes strategies to conserve energy in the home. We'll follow with discussion, popcorn, cider and time to socialize with others who want to learn more about the impact of electricity from coal.

**BREAKFAST FOR PEACE** – You may have noticed posters around the meetinghouse that advertise a fund-raising Pancake Breakfast for Guatemala AVP. Next Sunday, Feb. 22, from 8:00 to 9:45 please join us for ultra-healthy, splendidly delicious, whole wheat pancakes made from scratch with organic ingredients and free range eggs. Real maple syrup and John Shenk's local (fresh frozen) blueberries will top the cakes. Bring a hearty appetite.

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Guatemala is spearheaded by Val Liveoak, who also heads the Friends Peace Teams work there. Of the \$2,766 she needed for AVP last year, \$575 came from Lancaster Monthly Meeting. AVP has been very active, with many volunteers putting on workshops of all levels .

**REFINANCE** – The Feb. 22 forum will allow David Smith of Good Schools PA, a faith-based lobbying initiative, to tell us about the organization's efforts to push Pennsylvania to adopt a new funding formula for more equitable fund-

ing of public schools. David will also suggest things we can do to help.

**DINNER PARTY** – Friendly Dinners are small social cooperative meals held in individual homes. The host provides the main dish, the guests each bring something to go along with it. You can choose to be a host or a guest, and the Social Committee puts together the groups from those people who have signed up. This year, the Dinners will be held Sat. Feb. 28 or Sun. March 1. Pick your day. But hurry to sign up—today will probably be the last day. Questions? Call Marilyn Morrison 898-6211

**TAIZE ME** – The Taizé community in France is an ecumenical monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The 100-strong community of Roman Catholic and Protestant monks is drawn from 30 countries across the world. On Sunday, March 8 at 5:00 PM, we will again have an opportunity to worship in the meetinghouse in the style begun in Taizé. This worship features beautiful meditative songs, spoken readings in several languages, and much silence. Please join us for this special evening gathering.

**THINK ABOUT IT** – The Spirituality and Science group will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 in the Community Room. Discussion will focus on Chapter Six of Part Two of *Science and the Akashic Field* by Ervin Laszlo (Revised Second Edition). Entitled “Consciousness—Human and Cosmic,” this chapter probes the nature of consciousness: did it originate with homo-sapiens or is it part of the fundamental fabric of the cosmos? Even if you do not have the book, feel free to join the group. Any questions--Call Adele Berardi at 391-8915.

**QUAKER RAPPER** – Our forum time on March 1 is one of the concert dates for Quaker Hip Hop / Indie / Alternative musician Jon Watts. We're bound to hear about his spiritual journey through a wide range of Quaker bodies and institutions during his hour-long program of acoustic guitar, songs, poems, and silence. A Guilford College graduate, Jon grew up in Richmond, VA Friends Meeting and has performed in a variety of settings. You can learn more about him and hear some of his music at [www.myspace.com/jonwatts24](http://www.myspace.com/jonwatts24) (Jon welcomes donations.)

**PRIORITIZE** – At last summer's annual sessions, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) initiated the Priorities Process Standing Committee and charged it with consulting Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, Standing Committees, Working Groups, Interim Meeting, and individual members in an intense feedback process over the period of one year. The goal of this process is to identify program/budget priorities for Yearly Meeting. Now, six months later, the Committee has circulated a first draft of priorities for the Yearly Meeting's work, available on the PYM website at [www.pym.org/pm/priorities.php](http://www.pym.org/pm/priorities.php).

A key step in this discernment process is to meet with Friends across the Yearly Meeting and listen to priorities at local Meetings. To this end, the Committee announced eight “Listening Sessions” across the PYM geography to facilitate direct response to the committee. One of these sessions will be held here in our meetinghouse, Sunday, March 8, 3:00-5:00. Friends from all over the area are invited; so, of course, are you.

**PASTORS NEEDED** – Earlham School of Religion presents a conference on “Pastoral Care in the Monthly Meeting” at the Fourth and Arch Street meetinghouse in Philadelphia on Sat., March 14, 8 AM to 4 PM. This is the fourth year of ESR's “Vitality Among Friends” series in the Philadelphia area. Presenters will include Jim Higginbotham on “Pastoral Care in the Context of Monthly Meetings,” Stephanie Ford on “Spiritual Friendship as Pastoral Care,” and Jennie Isbell on “Nominating Committee as Pastoral Care.” For registration and information, visit <http://esr.earlham.edu/philly> or contact Donna Trankley at 1-800-432-1377 or [trankdo@earlham.edu](mailto:trankdo@earlham.edu)

**NONBULLY PULPIT** – The Non-Violence and Children Working Group of PYM will be offering an anti-bullying workshop at Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia, also on Sat., March 14, 9 AM to 1 PM. The workshop is for elementary school teachers, after-school program teachers, and First Day School teachers who work with elementary age children. It will draw on current research about bullying (including cyber-bullying), helping kids report bullying, appropriate adult responses, and strategies to reduce bullying and help potential targets. PA

Act 48 credits are available upon request. For more details and to register, please call or email Elke Muller at 215-241-7223 or elkem at pym.org.

**SHOWTIME** – Everyone is invited to a Talent Show on Friday, March 20 in the Community Room from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. WE WANT TO SEE YOUR TALENT!! Singing, dancing, music, poetry, comedy, artwork for the walls... please let any of the high schoolers, Shane Knudsen, or Kay Lahr know if you plan to take part in the talent show. If your talent is cooking, contributions to the refreshments will be welcome, too. Come one, come all, we're planning a fun evening! Free will donations of nonperishable food or cash will go to the food bank in Lancaster.

**BIG MEET** – You are cordially invited to the winter sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, held in the Fourth and Arch Street meetinghouse in Philadelphia, Friday to Sunday, March 27-29. The theme this time is “Living up to the Light.” Sessions are for all members and attenders of all Monthly Meetings within the Yearly Meeting; and they are family- and child-friendly.

There is a full and balanced agenda with a good deal of worship, important business items (like the Governance Report and follow-up on the Gathering on Peace), presentations by Amanda Kemp and Mary Ellen McNish, and music by Madi Diaz (former attender of LMM). Details are available online [www.pym.org/annualsessions](http://www.pym.org/annualsessions) and you can register online up to March 13. After March 13, please register in person at March Sessions. Reservations at the Holiday Inn across the street from the meetinghouse (if desired) must be made by March 10 using group code PY8.

If you'd like to lend a hand (ushering, greeting, meal help, help with youth programs, etc.) please contact Sessions Coordinator Michael Gagné at 215-241-7238 or michaelg at pym.org. Sessions rely on the work of many Friends (members and staff) working behind the scenes to make them the best they can be.

**SANCTIFIED BOOGIE** – On April 11 from 9:00 AM to noon, Joan Rawles-Davis will be leading a Sacred Dance Workshop in the meetinghouse. Joan is a member of Santa Cruz Meeting in California. She'll be a Friend in

Residence at Pendle Hill this spring, making it possible for her to come to our Meeting for a workshop. Joan has taught sacred dance for ten years. Three members of our Meeting attended her week-long workshop at Friends General Conference in 2006 and highly recommend Joan as a teacher. More details to follow.

## SOME THINGS

**BUG OFF** – The Environmental Concerns Committee requests that anyone using the kitchen PLEASE empty the compost container on the counter when you're done. Compost goes out back in the compost bin. To avoid inevitable insect infestation and other problems, please do this every time before leaving the kitchen. THANK YOU.

The Committee offers these suggestions to reduce waste: If in the market for one, consider an energy- and water-efficient dishwasher. ... Avoid using paper and plastic products like paper plates and Styrofoam cups ... Use cloth napkins at home instead of paper napkins ... Compost kitchen scraps and yard/garden plant waste ... Use 100% recycled toilet and facial tissue.

**KEYLESS** – It is important to note that the key to the meetinghouse, previously hidden near the front door, has been removed. If you have been relying on that key for access and would now like one of your own, please speak to the clerk.

**COLLEGE QUEST** – PYM and Friends Association for Higher Education have co-hosted a periodic Quaker College Fair for high school students. We're evaluating the timing and frequency of the event. Tell us what you think! Answer 5 questions online. Click the Survey Monkey link at [www.pym.org/youngfriends](http://www.pym.org/youngfriends) Students, parents, and others with helpful input are encouraged to respond.

**WELL KNIT** – Each year at PYM sessions (now twice a year) those of us who like to knit or crochet have created squares to be combined into an afghan. Last summer we refocused the project just a bit. We now are making strips to create a wool afghan which will be donated to the Afghans for Afghans project [www.afghansforafghans.org](http://www.afghansforafghans.org). Knitting needles, crochet hooks and wool yarn will be available

at PYM sessions (March and summer) for anyone who would like to participate. If you would like to get a head start or simply participate from home, the requirements are as follows: Crochet or knit strip(s) with wool yarn 6 to 8 inches wide, 44 inches long. The wool may be any color except white (or any other very light color) and bright colors are appreciated. Donations of wool yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks may be brought to sessions. There will be an afghan table with supplies. If anyone would like to mail a contribution to this project, please send it to Friendly Crafters, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102. Happy knitting/crocheting!

**GOOD TIME** – The contra dance/sleepover for high school Friends and their friends was an enormous success. There were 84 young folks there, and 13 older people. Somehow, in the past year, many of those kids had learned how to dance. Quite a lively time was had by all.

**PEACE SPEECHES** – At the forum on March 22, Bob Lowing and Joe DiGarbo will be telling us about their experiences at the Peace Gathering in Philadelphia last month. In the mean time, you can listen to much of the week's proceedings by downloading audio files at [www.peacegathering2009.org](http://www.peacegathering2009.org)

**EARTH HELPER** – Noted Eastern Shoshone peacekeeper Bennie “Blue Thunder” LeBeau is coming to Lancaster. For more information contact Shondra Bert 572-5142.

**CAMP WORK** – Friends Neighborhood Guild recently hired Laura Owens Smoot to coordinate the Weekend Workcamps Program, and 2009 is getting off to a strong start. The Middle School Friends kicked off the year with a workcamp on the first weekend of 2009. Six other weekend events with Young Friends, Young Adult Friends, Monthly Meetings, and Friends Schools are currently in the works.

The Workcamp Program has a decades-long history of inviting Quakers and non-Quakers to spiritually-based service in low-income communities of Philadelphia. If you would like to learn more about or participate in a workcamp, or if your Monthly Meeting, school or other group is interested in planning a workcamp, please contact Laura Owens Smoot at

guild.workcamps at gmail.com

**SPIRIT SCHOOL** – Seeking to deepen and enrich your spiritual life so as to be more present to others? Then consider the School of the Spirit Ministry's two-year program “On Being a Spiritual Nurturer.” Now gathering its eighth class; application deadline is May 25, 2009. To help with your discernment, attend a one-day Testing the Waters retreat Saturday, March 28, at Alexandria Meeting (VA). For much more information, visit [www.schoolofthespirit.org](http://www.schoolofthespirit.org). Questions? Email info at schoolofthespirit.org or call (919) 929-2339. The School of the Spirit is under the care of PYM's Worship and Care Standing Committee.

**CARBON SLIMMER** – Here's a book recommendation from the Greater PA region of PYM's Climate Action Network: *Low Carbon Diet: A 30-Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds* by David Gershon. Any household can be part of the solution to global warming. Begin by calculating your household carbon footprint to learn exactly how many pounds of carbon dioxide you are responsible for emitting. ...David Gershon identifies many practical steps and the reduction in CO2 each offers. By using these easy tools, a concern for the environment can make a real difference.

**COMFORTABLE** – As you'll read in the State of the Meeting Report below, Meeting is blessed with very active and effective committees. One that frequently operates behind the scenes is Comfort and Assistance. This committee's mission is to help individuals or families through times of crisis. However, sometimes its members are not aware of those in need. If you are aware of anyone who might be helped by Comfort and Assistance, please contact any of its members. They promise privacy and discretion.

**BUCKO** – Friends, we welcome your financial support of our meeting. Without your support, we would not be able to do the work we do. Contributions can be placed in the wooden box on the table in the library to the left of the guest book. They can also be mailed to our treasurer, Karen Zimmerman, PO Box 124, Lampeter, PA 17537. Many thanks.

## PROPOSED BEQUESTS POLICY

When writing their wills and deciding how they wish their funds to be distributed following their death, some Friends may wish to make a bequest to the meeting. We welcome such gifts. We want Friends to be assured that we will handle bequests with care and will seek to discern their best use. Below is the procedure that will be followed when bequests are received.

1. When the Treasurer receives funds, they will be placed in a discrete account separate from other LMM accounts and will be held there until a decision has been made as to how the funds will be used.

2. **Unrestricted gifts:** When unrestricted bequests are received, the Finance Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, will carefully discern the best use of those funds. As a part of their discernment, they will take into account the interests of the grantor, but their primary concern will be the needs of the meeting at that time. They will make a recommendation to the Business Meeting on the use of the funds; the final decision lies with the Business Meeting.

3. **Restricted gifts:** Some Friends may have specific desires regarding the use(s) of their gift. When a bequest specifies how the funds are to be used, the Finance Committee needs to discern whether or not to accept the bequest. It is important to be honest about whether or not the Meeting will be able to honor the desire of the grantor. Based on their discernment, the Finance Committee will recommend to the Business Meeting whether or not to accept the bequest and how to implement use of the funds should they recommend acceptance. Here again, the final decision rests with the Business Meeting.

4. **Recommended use gifts:** In some cases, the grantor may suggest, but not require, that the funds be used in a specific way. In this case, the Finance Committee will review the suggestion in light of the needs of the meeting. The committee will recommend to Business Meeting how the funds should be used; they will be guided but not be bound by the suggestion of the grantor.

5. In all cases, the Finance Committee will make its recommendation to the Business Meeting within a year of receipt of the bequest.

When considering making a bequest to the Meeting, we gently suggest that you consult with your family about your intentions. It may also be helpful to consult with a small group of Friends or with the appropriate Meeting committee. The more clearly you describe and define your desires, the easier it will be for the Meeting and members of your family to honor your wishes. It may be helpful for you to write a letter clearly defining your intentions and giving a copy to the Meeting and to your family for them to consult at the appropriate time.

*Approved by the Finance Committee—2/2009*

## LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING 2008 STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

Like the family stock pot, Lancaster Monthly Meeting sits quietly while within a nutritious and sustaining stew simmers, sending its aroma across the larger community. We sampled the contents and have found them hearty, nourishing, and savory although in need of seasoning.

There is a rich substance in the silence of Meeting for Worship. Members and attenders, inspired by Meeting, are active in the wider community. 75-80 people gather at the 8:00 and 10:00 Meetings for Worship, as do about 45 children. From 9:00 to 10:00 our rooms are filled with discussion groups and committee meetings. (Are we scheduling too many committee meetings for First Day mornings?)

Although Meeting for Worship is our purpose, it is the many committees which give us our flavor.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee provided funding for several community projects initiated by Meeting members: latrines in Senegal and an AVP trip to Palestine and Israel. It carried the message of informed recruitment to young people at Camp Swatara and the summer session of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The committee supported a member working for the re-entry of sex offenders into their communities. Members are active in local peace organizations. The Saturday morning Peace Vigil continues.

Encouraged by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Care and Counsel brought forward our minute on covenants of commitment for same-gender couples approved ten years ago. We then ap-

proved guidelines for marriage under the care of Lancaster Monthly Meeting, which include same-gender marriage. Care and Counsel also held a day-long retreat to look at “the big picture” of pastoral care.

Worship and Ministry sponsored an Inquirer’s Brunch, with 6 people attending. It sent 10 persons to Inquirers Weekend at Pendle Hill. It set up small groups of “Friendly 8s” to respond to the list of queries suggested by the Deepening and Strengthening Committee.

The Deepening and Strengthening Committee spent the year working with Meeting committees, small groups and retreats on concerns that rose from the project: Resolving Conflict, Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Our Children, Nurturing the Next Generation of Meeting Leaders, Welcoming In Newcomers, and Providing Pastoral Care for All. The committee produced a six-page paper in December of their outcomes and recommendations for building our community, some of which have already been put into action or are in the planning stages.

Lancaster Monthly Meeting is wired. The Outreach Committee has created an excellent website for use by Meeting and for telling the outside world about us. It has published part of the website as a pamphlet, “A Handbook for Newcomers and Inquirers.” The high school FDS is enthusiastically making good use of the computer. And the Library Committee is cataloging our collection so members and attenders can look up books in our library from home.

The First Day Committee is thrilled with the Friendly Stories created by PYM. The children enjoy them and they are wonderful in teaching Quaker values. The committee’s goal is for more integration of the children with the Meeting, and it was successful this summer with the adult members sharing Quaker stories. Camp FoxTales was also a great success. The talent, enthusiasm, loving commitment and experience of the committee members create a resourceful and lively group. [Sometimes the care of the children is forgotten and the FDS materials and space are not respected by others.]

Peaceful Families has been in touch with virtually everyone in the Meeting to invite them to one-hour meetings. Meetings were held both in the evenings and on Sundays,

and devoted to worship and worship-sharing to engage us all to live the peace testimony in all our family relationships.

Spiritual Oasis met every Monday during the year. Those in attendance continue to be about half from Meeting and half from outside.

The Cool Committee and the Meeting are still struggling with everyone’s need to have the meetinghouse be a healthy environment, but although there continues to be conflict, we continue to listen to each other.

The overworked Social Committee provides weekly coffee and snacks, monthly cooperative meals, and festive gatherings on appropriate holidays. It is thankful for snack donations.

The Spirituality and Science group, founded by our late member Jack Mongar, continues to meet once a month to discuss the implications of the current advances in science on our spiritual understanding and growth. The group usually consists of ten members of Meeting and five from the wider community.

Our lovely grounds are the handiwork of the Garden Committee, while the upkeep of our building is shared by the Environmental Concerns Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee, and many other committees which also labor on our behalf.

The Treasurer reported that our income (barely) exceeded our expenses in 2008. The Recorder informs us that there were 2 deaths among our membership, 1 transfer out, 11 resignations, 1 person entering adult membership, and 4 applications accepted for new members. Our membership total at the end of 2008 was 171.

We are grateful for our hard-working officers and all of the committees of the Meeting, as well as for the Newsletter editor and the Meeting’s email scribe.

As can be seen from all of the committee activity, we are not sitting on our hands. With all of this activity, or maybe partly because of it, we are left with concerns.

--How to best demonstrate our peace stance in this time of war?

--How to extend our fellowship beyond the meetinghouse?

--How to develop an environmentally responsible facility which is accommodating to its users?

It looks like 2009 is going to be a wild ride.

February 15, 2009 -

- Page 10 of 10 -

Never before has change been so universally embraced. As Quakers we have been on the cusp of change since our inception. This might be just the time to reach out to our larger community with the experienced confidence

which relishes innovation and the inner strength which does not fear change.

Phil Eisemann

Milly Holzinger

Cynthia Lowing