



# Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 557*

*June-July 2009*

Clerk: Liz Gates

Assistant Clerk: Joe Moore (Clerk after July 1)

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 AM – Meeting For Worship, until September** Children worship with us for the first 20 minutes, then go to multi-age First-Day School classes.

Every First-day through August – after refreshments (or after meeting for business) – Open hymn-sing. All are welcome.

Second First-day – 10:35 or so – Meeting For Worship For Business

Third First-day – ~~Cooperative Meal~~ on break until September

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**

On break until September.

July 12 – 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. June 28 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Mon. June 29 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Sun. July 5 – 10:15 AM or so Peace and Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse

Sun. July 5 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group

Sun. July 5 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape Note Singing in meetinghouse

Mon. July 6 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Tue. July 7 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel Committee in meetinghouse

### **- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Sat. July 11 – Young Friends canoe trip and sleep-over (see below)

Sun. July 12 – 10:35 AM – Meeting For Business

June 28, 2009

- Page 2 of 8 -

Sun. July 12 – 9:00 AM-1:00 PM - Worship and Ministry hosts Franciscan group (see below)

Wk. July 13-17 – Camp FoxTales

Mon. July 13 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Tue. July 14 – Deadline for July-August newsletter

Sat. July 18 – 9:00-Noon – Gardening Day at the meetinghouse

Sun. July 19 – 10:35 AM – Worship and Ministry

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

Wknd. July 25-26 – AVP Basic Workshop in meetinghouse (see below)

Sun. July 26 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Mon. July 27 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Wed.-Sun. July 29-Aug.2 – Summer Sessions of Yearly Meeting (see below)

---

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING  
THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
ON SIXTH MONTH 14**

At about 10:40 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 Fourth Month were approved as read. There was no April newsletter, so the minutes for April will not be published in the upcoming newsletter.

Worship sharing on query on equality:

Query:

Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority and superiority?

Responses:

- Prejudice and prejudicial statements have an influence on the persons addressed or spoken of. Attitudes, as well as words, can have a permanent effect on persons' perceptions of themselves.

- We may all struggle with the issues of being fully accepting. What brings us up short is when we feel someone isn't carrying their share of the load. We also struggle with issues involving helping other people.

- My concern is about the man who occupies a very unsightly bed on our porch. He was for a long time, at least forty years, an attendee at this Meeting, and he would speak in meeting. But no one could understand what he said, and he was asked not to speak. So his attendance now takes the form of sleeping on the porch. It is now under consideration to

ask him not to sleep on the porch and to remove his beddings. In the past, when a group of Quakers undertook to help individuals with mental issues, they were gentle with them. I would hope our consideration of this man's situation will include treating him with the same kindness and in the spirit of Quakerism.

- I appreciate the selection of this query. For me it brings into focus how deep is the problem of inequality, the problem of bias. These problems are rooted in how our brains work to categorize and create generalizations, some of which are true, some not. I do this too. I've never met anyone who didn't. We need to stay focused on an individuals' characteristics and the belief that there is that of God in every person. I'm surprised by how recurrently difficult it is to go back to that generalization.

Clerk commented that we are always asked to examine ourselves.

**Membership.** Anna Moore brought two requests for resignations, from Troy Trayer and Amy Trayer. Both grew up in this Meeting but now live far away. Both are involved in religious communities where they now live. Meeting approved the resignations with sadness.

**Nominating Committee report.** Cynthia Lowing presented Nominating Committee's final report. After several corrections and additions were made, Meeting approved the report. It was noted that three committees have no convener: Child Care, Outreach, and the Ad Hoc Committee for support in the economic recession. A Friend urged everyone who is not already a convener to consider taking on one of these responsibilities, because child care is key to drawing in new, younger attenders and be-

June 28, 2009

- Page 3 of 8 -

cause we are still relatively unknown in the larger community. Joe Moore thanked everyone who served on the Nominating Committee and announced that in the fall there will be a forum of the functions of the Nominating Committee.

**Treasurer's report.** Clerk presented the treasurer's report for the period January through May, 2009. Income was \$17,717 and expenses were \$21,521, with a shortfall of \$3,804. Income is down 33% from a year ago. So please, those who are able, continue your financial support of Meeting. Forms for automatic deductions are on the Library table.

**Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee will consider if the budget needs adjustment and also whether our contribution to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) could be reduced. They will report back to Meeting in July.

**Auditors.** Clerk then asked for auditors for the annual audit of the treasurer's books. Charles Lane (C), Bob Neuhauser and Scott Walck volunteered.

**Care & Counsel's work.** As an example of Care & Counsel's work to contact members who have not been attending for a long time, Clerk read a letter from Lenore Vargo. Lenore said they still feel a part of the Meeting community. Lenore continues to teach at the prison, Vic Varchola is caregiver to Lenore's mother (who is 93), and their son Josh is 23. Josh attends Millersville and plans to teach.

**A concern.** A Friend raised a concern about the homeless man who has been sleeping on our porch for years. Care & Counsel has no plans to "evict" this man, but they don't want to do anything (such as provide a box for his bedding) which might encourage other homeless to take up "residence" here. Care & Counsel will continue to discuss the matter.

**Interim Meeting.** Bob Lowing reported that at Interim Meeting yesterday, it was announced that the Internal Revenue Service sent a levy to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for payment of taxes and penalties for Priscilla Adams, a war tax protester. After two hours of consideration, Interim agreed to continue its support of Priscilla Adams' war tax resistance.

**PYM Summer Sessions.** Clerk said that next month we will choose representatives to PYM Summer Sessions. She urged Friends to consider attending sessions and register. Clerk will ask for representatives in July.

**Mary Garrett's bequest.** Mary Garrett left \$18,461.56 to Meeting as an unrestricted gift. Meeting approved accepting the bequest. Finance Committee will consider it and make a recommendation within one year.

**Minute of record.** Clerk Liz Gates thanked Meeting for teaching her so much about clerking over the past five years. Last week she convened a meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation in England, and in 2012 she will convene an FWCC gathering of 1,000 Friends in Nairobi. Lancaster Meeting, she said, has been a true "school of the spirit" for her. She also said she has great confidence in Joe Moore, who will do a terrific job as our next clerk.

Friends then expressed their gratitude for Liz's many gifts, such as bringing clarity when we have had difficulties, her loving discipline of our community, her kindness and gentleness toward everyone, her spiritual groundedness.

After a brief period of silent worship, meeting for business ended at about 12:05 pm. There were 40 present.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Gates, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

**Present:** Karen Alderfer, Ron Ashby, Peggy Bright, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Joyce Collins, Joseph DiGarbo, Jean & William Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Mary Anne Eisemann, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, Debra Hewes, Charles & Millicent Holzinger, Mark Horst, Amanda Kemp, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Elise Leytham, Robert Lowe, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Joanna Sadler, Donna Scanlon, Deborah Spence, Scott Walck, Anne Wallace-DiGarbo, Karen Zimmerman.

**GET OUT THE CALENDAR**

**PADDLERS** – Shane Knudsen in days past

June 28, 2009

- Page 4 of 8 -

has led many canoe trips for groups of young people, and he now offers this skill and experience to Meeting. At 8:30 AM on July 11, everyone over age 12, including the Camp Fox-Tales junior counselors, all other students in middle school or high school, and families are invited to gather at Elsie Eberly's house, 1861 Eden Road. It will be a full day of great games and fun on or beside the Conestoga River. Come prepared to get wet. But don't worry. Shane will start with a canoe lesson, and everyone will wear a life jacket. ...Bring dry clothes to spend the evening at Elsie's beside the river, and the night in a tent. Our event will end after meeting for worship on Sunday, July 12 at the meetinghouse. If you want to participate, or want more information, please email Shane shaneknu at gmail.com by next Friday, July 3.

We really need some more canoes and/or life jackets. We could also use a fit and energetic adult or two to be Friendly Adult Presences during the day and/or at night. We also need tents. Please email Shane or call Elsie 396-9445 if you have any of these.

**VISITATION** – On July 12 a local secular Franciscan group will join us for meeting for worship, meeting for worship with attention to business, and lunch afterward. The Worship and Ministry Committee is hosting this group and welcomes others from Meeting to join us.

We're anticipating interesting dialogue as we learn about each other. In order to plan, we'd like to know who will attend and what food item you will bring to share. Please respond by July 5. Lois Frey Gray 290-7723 or loissf at junoc.com or sign up on the roundtable.

**IN SESSION** – Again this year, summer sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will be held at DeSales University near Allentown. A multi-media, multi-generational Earthcare Celebration opens the proceedings at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 29. All sorts of interesting things happen from then until closing worship followed by lunch on Sunday, August 2. You can stay in the air conditioned college dormitories and eat the meals prepared there with Quakers from all over eastern PA, MD, and NJ. There are always a great collection of wonderful people at sessions. And there are programs for children of all ages. Please go to the PYM website, [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org) for more information and to

register. Or call 1-800-2200-PYM. Don't stay away for financial reasons; Lancaster Monthly Meeting has a fund to help members and attendees pay for just this sort of thing. Contact Karen Zimmerman for information.

**BEGIN PEACE** – The Basic Workshop of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) will be offered at the meetinghouse on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26 from 9-5pm each day. Alternative dates are Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2, from 9-5 each day. Lunch and snacks will be provided. A free-will offering is requested for those who can afford to contribute. Please contact Joe DiGarbo at 627-0837 or email him at jdigarbo at gmail.com if you would like to attend, have any questions about the workshop and/or have a preference for a particular weekend. There's also a sign-up sheet on the roundtable.

### **CONSIDERED NEWSWORTHY**

**YOU LEADER?** – The Nominating Committee is seeking convenors/co-convenors for the Outreach Committee and the Child Care Committee from either within or outside the existing committees. If you are interested in serving as a convenor, please see a member of the Nominating Committee.

**LATER DUDE** – The Meeting-wide service project, planned for yesterday, has been postponed until Fall.

**LITTLE PALS** – The nursery is available during summer meeting for worship from 8:50 - 10:30. Children who are too young for the summer program (those 3 & 4) are welcome to join the younger ones during this time as well. There is no child care for older children over the summer except for business meeting. Children who attend the summer program will return to the meeting room at 10:00 for announcements. On business meeting Sundays, parents should sign their children in for child care in the basement following announcements. Care will be available until 12:00. If the weather is nice, the caregivers will take the children outside. Questions or concerns? Contact Laura Gible 625-1395 or lagible at de-jazzd.com

Make sure you check out the children's summer program. All the children are grouped

June 28, 2009

- Page 5 of 8 -

together to enjoy a wide variety of activities—sacred circle dance, earth-care stories and fables from around the world, art expression, play time outside, and lots more. This is a wonderful time for our First-day School participants to get to know each other better and to build strong friendships across age lines.

**ADULT EYES** – Friendly Adult Presences (chaperones) are needed for the Young Friends Summer Gathering at Camp Onas in Bucks County, August 23-29, 2009. Their theme this year is “Friends Testimonies, What Canst Thou Say?” If you’d like more information, contact Cookie Caldwell, Young Friends Program Coordinator for PYM, [cookiec@pym.org](mailto:cookiec@pym.org) or visit [www.pym.org/youngfriends/index.htm](http://www.pym.org/youngfriends/index.htm)

**RESOURCE PAGES** – If you’re looking for some good Quaker books, check out [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org), a program of Friends General Conference (FGC). You can even sign up for the monthly email Quaker Book News.

**WAR TAX** – You realize there’s a big hand reaching in your pocket, taking out taxes every day, but did you realize where the money goes? Most goes for war-making! The US Office of Budget Management estimates the cost of war-making will be \$1,065,576,000,000—that’s more than one trillion dollars! This includes the direct military costs, the cost of military assistance worldwide, the Veterans Administration, and the military portion of NASA and the Energy Department. It also includes interest on the portion of the national debt we incurred in past wars that we’re still paying for.

Let’s bring that war-making tax grab closer to home. Lancaster County has a population of about 500,000, which is roughly 1/600 of the US population. The County’s share of the enormous cost of war is, therefore, \$1,776,000,000 or \$3552 for each man, woman, and child in Lancaster County each year.

You may say you are not paying that amount of tax each year, but the businesses and corporations that supply your needs pay taxes, which are added into the cost of products and services you buy.

Want a nice visual for the amount of money involved here? One million dollars worth of hundred dollar bills—the largest denomination in circulation—is 50 inches tall. Lancaster’s

share of the war-making would make a stack of bills 88,800 inches tall—almost 1½ miles!

**- OBSERVATIONS -**  
**OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM,**  
**BETHLEHEM, AND NAZARETH**  
**By Joe Moore, June 23, 2009**

I recently returned from the Middle East where I served as co-facilitator for Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops primarily for the staff of Spafford Children’s Center in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Center provides a holistic continuum of medical, psychological, social and cultural services to under-served children and families in Jerusalem and the West Bank. We also conducted an introductory session with the Nursing Staff of Nazareth Hospital in Israel. The AVP program offers experiential workshops dedicated to helping people lead non-violent lives and resolve conflict in peaceful ways.

This was my second time there in the past eighteen months. During the most recent visit I had the opportunity to talk with many people, most of whom were Palestinians (both Christian and Muslim). So, what I have to report is primarily from their perspective. I hope to return to Israel and offer AVP training to members of the Jewish population as well. While each Palestinian had a unique story I began to hear a common request being expressed by many. To paraphrase, what they had to say was, “When you return home, please tell other Americans what you are seeing and hearing while you are here.” Many of the Palestinians I spoke with believe that if American citizens hear firsthand what is happening to the people there we will be inspired to learn more and get involved. I hope they are right. I feel a responsibility to honor their request to pass along my observations. As a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), I am especially committed to speaking out about the violence there. I hope and pray that global leaders will continue to work toward a non-violent resolution to the conflict. My intention is not to suggest specific actions or policy decisions on the part of any government. I understand the Middle East crisis to be complicated and responsibility for the root causes to be shared by many. However, I

June 28, 2009

- Page 6 of 8 -

do want to relay the human conditions I saw and heard and invite others to draw their own conclusions.

Following are some of my observations:

- There were Special Israeli Border Police, carrying machine guns, located on every corner of the Muslim Quarter of the Old City – detaining, checking identification papers and interrogating Palestinian men of all ages. I could not tell why some men were stopped while others were not. It was seemingly at random.

- One disturbing example I saw was an elderly man attempting to push his food cart through the street. He was stopped and blocked by Israeli Police from continuing on. The Police appeared to be taunting him, pretending or actually taking his picture with a cell phone camera. He kept reaching for the phone. Other Policemen looked on laughing. (Some devout Muslims do not believe in having their picture taken as part of their religious practice).

- I personally experienced the delay and fear associated with being detained by machine-gun-armed Israeli Police at a check point while riding a bus during the 2007 trip. All passengers were required to exit with our luggage while identifications were checked and luggage was inspected. While this was a minor inconvenience for me I was told later that Palestinians often must wait hours at check points in order to get to and from work. - - - Participants in our workshops did not know day to day how long check point clearance would require – sometimes hours with no explanation or response to questions.

- I saw detention walls over twenty feet tall extending for miles with armed guards stationed in observation booths– dividing neighborhoods, families, and keeping Palestinians away from services they require.

- A Muslim mother reported being thrown in jail along with many others for participating in a non-violent protest. She was separated from her daughter who was accompanying her. The mother was detained for over a week with no way to communicate with her children.

- Two Palestinian men lifted up their shirts to show me the wounds they suffered from beatings and being shot by rubber bullets

while participating in non-violent protests.

- I met Muslim families who are unable to enter Jerusalem – to visit other family members who are allowed to live there. This prevents them from being able to walk the grounds of the Temple Mount where the famous Dome of the Rock is located or to be allowed to worship at El-Aqsa Mosque.

- Several times I saw Palestinian children hitting each other and behaving violently. It appeared to be well beyond “boys will be boys” playful fighting. Palestinian mothers spoke of their concern that tense and stressful conditions were contributing to an increasingly violent culture.

- A Jewish man told us of the tension and difficulty of living in Jerusalem. I imagine that his views are represented by many of his fellow Jews.

- In fact, a College Professor of Middle East Studies later told me that domestic violence among Israeli families is also increasing at an alarming rate.

- There are hundreds of new, nicely appointed apartment complexes being built and occupied by Israeli Settlers. We were told that Jews are being encouraged to move to Israel and reap benefits being denied Palestinians and Arabs. These apartments sit high above the cities overlooking the poor and inadequate housing of Palestinian villages.

- I saw construction sites outside Bethlehem and was told they are intended for Israeli settler apartments where Palestinian homes have been demolished to make way.

- I witnessed hundreds of Jewish families walking and hurrying through the Muslim Quarter apparently on their way to pray at the Western Wall. I did not see one instance of Jew and Palestinian making eye contact, saying hello or even acknowledging each other's existence. All this avoidance while they literally brushed against each other in the crowded, narrow streets of the Old City. I can only imagine the fear and contempt felt on all sides.

- On several occasions I would see a young Jewish man dressed in casual, civilian western style clothing, sometimes alone or holding hands with a young woman, strolling through the streets of the Old City –with a machine gun casually slung over his shoulder. I learned later that this was legal for Jewish

June 28, 2009

- Page 7 of 8 -

Settlers but not for Palestinians.

In conclusion, my experiences have left me with a feeling of empathy for all those living under the current conditions-Palestinian Christians, Muslims, and Jews

