



# Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 555*

*March-April 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**

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

April 5 – Listening in tongues: Receiving messages in worship (Worship & Ministry)

April 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. 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

**- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Fri. Mar. 20 – 7:00-9:00 PM – Coffeehouse 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  
 Sun. April 5 – 9:00 AM – Peace and Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. April 5 – 9:15-9:45 AM – Open hymn-sing in meetinghouse  
 Sun. April 5 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Cornwall Worship Group  
 Sun. April 5 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Committee in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Sun. April 5 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape Note Singing in meetinghouse  
 Mon. April 6 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. April 7 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sat. April 11 – 9:00 AM-noon – Sacred Dance Workshop in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Sun. April 12 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business  
 Mon. April 13 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. April 14 – Deadline for April-May newsletter  
 Sun. April 19 – 9:15-9:45 AM – Open hymn-sing in meetinghouse  
 Sun. April 19 – 12:00 PM (after Cooperative Meal) – Worship and Ministry  
 Mon. April 20 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. April 21 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality-Science group in meetinghouse (see below)

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

At about 11:40 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 Second Month were read, corrected and approved.

**Worship sharing on query on nurture.**

Query: In what way do we support each other in order to see God’s will and act upon our understanding of Truth?

Responses:

- During meeting I was thinking what a miracle we’re all here in this room together. Numerous journeys and influences brought us together in this room today. Just being together indicates God’s will being observed. Why we’re all together is a mystery to ponder, how we got here, what we create together. When I was a kid I wouldn’t have understood if someone had said, “On March 8, 2009 you’ll be in a certain place.” But here we are.

- We support each other here by example and by encouraging individuals to seek God’s will and discern over time. It’s continuing revelation, and it comes in difficult ways at times and requires that we support each other

as a community. We’re all seeking God’s will to inform, inspire and comfort us when we just don’t know what the worth of it is—so we can go on and on.

- It’s easy to listen to a query and ask big questions like who is God and how can I do what God expects of me. But this query has practical implications: how can we help and encourage one another? It’s a difficult task. This community has a rich network of working committees, clearness committees and various small groups, all trying to discern where their lives are going. We all have to make choices, some of which are more in line with the creative force of the universe. But our network of helping is often hidden. Maybe we can do a better job of making that network known to the whole community.

- The only thing I’m sure of is that love is our answer to what God wants us to do. If we do that, love one another, then we support each other.

- The practical ways of supporting each other are important. One way is through committees. Acting on our own understanding of the truth is one way. We don’t require anyone to think of God as having a will. That openness is one practical way we support people in their search for a relationship with what most of us call God. What are we doing to support people in their search is a very

practical question.

- I feel supported when people come to me and say, “It was precious what your daughter said in meeting.” That is welcomed, after I’ve taken her out of the room because I couldn’t stand her talking any more. Then I know that people aren’t looking at me and thinking what a terrible father, what a brat. I feel this as support. It’s also very heartening the way meeting is open to support leadings. I was invited to be on committees before I was a member. That is much appreciated, as are invitations to committees and groups like the Friendly Eights. It’s heartening to see the willingness of this community to think of ministry in many different ways.

Clerk suggested that this is a good query to consider as the year unfolds before us.

**Milner Fund report & request.** Mal Fuller presented the annual report of the Milner Fund for 2008 and also a request from Joe DiGarbo and Joe Moore for support for their second trip to Israel and Palestine to continue their Alternatives to Violence Project in those countries. Joe DiGarbo told us that he regards the project not as his, but as the Meeting’s, because individuals in Meeting have inspired him to the work and also he works with a care committee. Joe explained that this is a multi-year project with the aim of developing a corps of Palestinian facilitators in Palestine and, in Israel, both Arab and Jewish facilitators. The model is Joe’s work in Bosnia and Croatia, where the program became locally sustainable. Joe Moore told us that they will conduct three levels of AVP training at the Spafford Centre for Children. The two Joes asked for \$6,000 to cover airfare and any workshop expenses (which are modest). Peace & Social Concerns Committee will also be giving them funds. Several Friends spoke in support of their request. Meeting approved funding their venture up to \$6,000 and wished them God speed and much love.

**Long Range Planning Committee report.**

Carl Perry said the Long Range Planning Committee has begun looking into ground source heat pumps for heating and cooling the meetinghouse, which has four different heating zones. This would require 8 wells, each several hundred feet deep, and replacement windows,

with an estimated energy savings of about 55% over the current cost of \$2,500 per year—an estimate which does not include cooling costs or consider the electric rate increases coming in 2010. Estimated total cost is \$80,000, with more competitive cost options probably within the next 5 years. Friends had various comments: new equipment has already made today’s equipment obsolete, we should think about solar panels on our roof as any system will require electricity and we could also sell electricity back to the grid, cost savings may not be as important as being able to say we are trying to live in harmony with our environment, we should also consider our spiritual roots. A Friend asked about the criteria for planning. Clerk suggested that the Long Range Planning Committee continue its research and come back to Meeting in September with more information, at which time we can also discuss the criteria for planning. Meeting agreed.

**Concern for suffering.** Grayfred Gray expressed a concern for those in Meeting who have been affected by the current economic situation. How, he asked, do we address suffering in our Meeting? How can we be supportive of those who are having difficulties? How can we make our community a safe place for all? How will Meeting’s income and budget be affected?

Friends responded with both a desire to know more about the problems in our community (while respecting individuals’ privacy) and practical suggestions, including forums, instruction in money management, and use of Meeting funds to help those in need (applications for these funds go through Care & Counsel). An ad hoc committee will season this concern and report back to Meeting when ready. Those who volunteered to serve on this discernment committee are Grayfred Gray (convenor), Jim Kalish, Tom Latus, Bob Neuhauer, Bud Rosch and Loren Sadler.

**Yearly Meeting priorities.** Because of time constraints we did not consider these. Instead, Clerk suggested we attend the listening session to be held later today in the meetinghouse.

**Caln Quarterly Meeting report.** We received a written report from Charles Lane. Please read it.

**Treasurer's report.** Treasurer Karen Zimmerman told us that year-to-date income, as of February 28, was \$5,183, which is \$3,035 less than year-to-date income at the same time last year. While income was \$418 more than expenses for the period, it would be helpful for people to make regular contributions such as a monthly automatic donation from a checking account.

**Representatives to annual sessions of Yearly Meeting.** Meeting approved Maria Cattell and Bob Lowing as Meeting's representatives to March annual sessions.

**Kim Kalish's welcoming.** Maria Cattell reported that she, Peggy Bright and Debby Spence, and Peggy's sons Carl and Daniel, welcomed Kim Kalish to membership with breakfast at a local diner. They had a delightful time and also gave Kim some ideas for the Meeting cookbook she wants to do.

**Mary Garrett's memorial minute.** Cynthia Lowing and Rachel Perry have volunteered to help write Mary Garrett's memorial minute. Clerk will also invite Ruby Trimble to join the group.

**Camp Swatara retreat.** The announcement for the Camp Swatara annual retreat of Caln Quarter is now available online and includes details and the registration form. Hard copies will be in the meetinghouse next First Day.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1.05 pm. There were 47 present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Gates, Clerk  
Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

**Present:** Ronald Ashby, Adele Berardi, Nancy Bieber, Billie Anne & Martin Bradley, Peggy Bright, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Esther Cope, Joseph DiGarbo, Jean Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Philip Eisemann, Christopher & Tabea Fitz, Christine & Mahlon Fuller, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Debra Hewes, Eugene & Judith Homan, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Joseph Moore, David & Marilyn Morrison, Robert Neuhauser, Carl & Rachel Perry, Thomas

Pontz, Francis Rosch, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Deborah Spence, Karen Zimmerman.

### **THIS MAY HAPPEN**

**GLORIOUS** – This afternoon, March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 3-4:30 PM at McCaskey East High School in Lancaster, the YWCA presents Mr. Harry Flournoy. He was a member of the Texas Western basketball team, which in 1966, beat the University of Kentucky in the NCAA Championship Game. It was the first time a Division I coach played an all-African American starting five, and it broke the color barrier on college teams. Their inspirational story, depicted in the movie "Glory Road," tells the tenacity of a coach and team, and exemplifies their courage during the height of the Civil Rights movement. After his presentation, Mr. Flournoy, a Naismith National Hall of Fame member, will join a panel of speakers who will discuss how we can work to eradicate racism as it exists today. This program is free, though contributions are accepted to support the YWCA of Lancaster. Arrive early to secure your seat, and stay through the Q and A and autograph signing with Harry.

**CUPPA FUN** – Next Friday, March 20, come to the Coffeehouse, hosted by Lancaster Young Friends. It will last at least from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in the Community Room. There will be music, storytelling, poetry, open mic time, etc. All ages invited. Please bring Food Bank donation (cash/cans).

**BIRTHDAY RALLY** – Next Saturday, March 21, there will be a rally for peace in downtown Lancaster to mark the 6th anniversary of the war in Iraq. Called Peace for a Change, the rally will begin at noon in Binns Park on Queen Street. Organized and hosted by the Lancaster Coalition for Peace and Justice, this gathering will stress the cost of war and the need to stay on the path to peace. The program will begin at approximately 12:30 with speakers who will address the crowd on topics covering the human, political, and economic costs of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the conclusion of the speeches, at approximately 1:30, ushers will lead a march south on Queen Street to Orange Street and then Lime Street to the steps of the old courthouse. The group will assemble for a silent vigil of approximately a

half hour in support of peace.

**LONG WALK** – On Tuesday, March 24, Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness (LIPW) and East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church will host Japanese Buddhist and Interfaith peace walkers making a fifty-five day walk from Massachusetts to Washington, D.C. to promote nuclear disarmament and a peacetime economy. At 7:00 PM, come to the church, 432 E. Chestnut St., to converse with these wonderful, dedicated peace walkers. Plenty of off-street parking.

**ONE WORD** – The LIPW Spring Peace Forum, March 29, 3:00-5:00 in F & M College's Roschel Performing Arts Center, will feature Dr. Charles Kimball, Presidential Professor and Director of Religious Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Kimball will be speaking on the topic "Finding a Common Word: Negotiating the Volatile Mix of Religion, Oil and Politics in US-Iranian Relation." "A Common Word" refers to a letter written to Christians by 138 Muslim scholars October, 2007, saying that love for God and love for neighbor is common ground between Christianity and Islam. A number of religious groups have responded in writing to the Muslim initiative.

Kimball is author of *When Religion Becomes Evil* and is an expert on Islam, the Middle East, and Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations. He was formerly professor of comparative religion in the Department of Religion and The Divinity School at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. From 1983-1990 he was the Director of the Middle East Office at the National Council of Churches in New York City. He has made more than 35 visits to the Middle East and worked closely with US Congress, the White House and the State Department during the past 20 years.

**GARDEN PARTY** – Sat., April 4, we'll have our Spring Work Day. Come help get the meetinghouse and grounds ready for spring. It's lots of fun, actually. Starting at 9:00 AM.

**COHERE** – The Spirituality and Science study group will meet on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 in the Community Room. The concepts and theories presented by Ervin Laszlo in the updated second edition of his book, *Science and the Akashic Field*, continue to intrigue and chal-

lenge us. In this session we will cover Chapter 7, "The Poetry of Akashic Vision," and also the following section, "The Phenomenon of Coherence"—in the quantum world, in the universe, in the living world and in consciousness. All are welcome. Any questions, call Adele Berardi 391-8915.

**DANCING WORLD** – On Saturday, April 11, Joan Rawles-Davis will lead us in a Sacred Circle Dance workshop. Come dance to music from all over the world—Celtic, Greek, Indian, Slavic and more. Dances may be meditative and/or lively, but whichever, all are done with spiritual intention. Sacred Circle Dance is a way of celebrating our connection to the rhythms of the earth, one another, and our spiritual selves. Come join in the deepening spirit that can build by giving yourself over to dancing with others to beautiful music. Most dances are simple and repetitive and each is taught before we do it. Please register beforehand with Lois Frey Gray 290-7723 or loissf at juno.com.

Joan Rawles-Davis has been dancing for 15 years and teaching for 10. Among many other places, she has led workshops at Friends General Conference, where four members of our community danced with her. They eagerly await joining her again.

**ARTIE** – Plan now for the Meeting Art Show, May 31 and June 7, a time to share your artistic creations with the Meeting community. All are welcome to contribute: members and attendees, and all ages. In past years we've had, among other expressions, painting, photography, poetry, carvings, ceramics, knitting. Performances would be welcome too. Whatever your artistic passion, get ready to share it with our community.

### **THIS MAY BE IMPORTANT**

**N-Q** – The pancake breakfast of Feb. 22 raised \$722 for the Alternatives to Violence Project in Guatemala. This generous gift will fund the Project participants' and the leaders' expenses for the workshops planned for 2009. ... An estimated 60 people had breakfast. Many hands made delightful work: Pancake Maestra Cindy Herr, Jim Herr, Anna & Joe Moore, Thea & Rose Bert, Joanna Sadler, Anne Wallace DiGarbo and Joe DiGarbo, Marilyn Morrison,

Cynthia Lowing, and Carl Perry. Thank you for all the contributions.

**GOING GOING** – Social Committee has noticed that our glass coffee mugs are disappearing. Do you know why? Please let them know. ... Folks are doing well with snacks. Thanks. And if you want to provide some, please ask Jean Eaton, Marilyn Morrison, or any member of the committee.

**ENCAMPMENT** – The annual weekend gathering of some 200 Quakers from central Pennsylvania is coming soon—May 1, 2, and 3. It's a wonderful time for members and attendees of all ages. Kids meet other Quaker kids. Adults get to participate in workshops. There's a contra dance. And it all takes place in a beautiful summer camp, Camp Swatara, one hour due north of here. Registration is to be done before April 7; forms are available on the round table in the Gathering Room, or by email from Jim Herr herrs at bellatlantic.net or Grayfred Gray gbgray at attglobal.net. Please don't stay away for financial reasons. Meeting has designated funds to help anyone and everyone.

**Q NEWS** – One of the wider Quaker organizations, beyond our Monthly Meeting, beyond the Quarterly Meeting, even beyond Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) is Friends General Conference (FGC). They have an interesting web site with a posting of their newsletter, published a couple times a year. Check it out: [www.fgcquaker.org/fgconnections](http://www.fgcquaker.org/fgconnections)

**LEADER?** – In addition to the “winter sessions” happening in a couple weeks—March 27-29, PYM will be having “residential sessions” again this year at DeSales University near Allentown from July 29 through August 2. The Planning Group invites you to offer a workshop and/or interest group. They ask you to prayerfully consider how your interest group or workshop relates to our theme: “Living up to the Light.”

Workshops are carefully seasoned and planned experiential sessions where the activity is directed by a leader. The goal is to provide a transformational experience for the participants, who will leave with a new or refined set of skills and/or deepened understanding of the subject. Workshops meet for 90 minutes.

...The primary purpose of an interest group centers on sharing information about a group, organization or issue. Facilitators provide a brief overview and then allow for general free-flowing discussion and/or questions and answers. Interest Groups meet for 45 minutes.

If you are interested in facilitating one or both of these, proposals are due to the PYM office by April 15. You can get more information from [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org) or from the Sessions Coordinator, Michael Gagné 800-220-0796, Ext. 7238, [michaelg@pym.org](mailto:michaelg@pym.org)

**THEATRICALY** – The school and community theater winter-spring season is about to hit us full swing. For several years, Stephen Scanlon has put together a wonderful roster of these shows. This year he's included amateur community theater, as in no paid staff. To get the list, visit [www.theaterhub.org](http://www.theaterhub.org) or go directly to the calendar with its 182 shows coming out of 115 programs: [www.theaterhub.org/docs/2009\\_Winter-Spring\\_School.pdf](http://www.theaterhub.org/docs/2009_Winter-Spring_School.pdf). You may also speak to Stephen.

**PRAM** – Pat Lea has need of a used stroller. 653-6499

**EXPLANATION** – The next page, from our nominating committee, is an attempt to involve everyone in Meeting, members and attendees, in the activities and life of our community. Please return it by March 29: place it in the basket on the Round Table, or just re-fold it and mail to Joe DiGarbo, 303 Spruce Street, Lititz 17543 or Cynthia Lowing. 341 N. West End Avenue, 17603 Thank you!

Individual Discernment Regarding the Work of the Meeting  
Nominating Committee

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Our community thrives because of the collective efforts of our members and attenders. This year, the Nominating Committee is asking **all members and attenders** to fill out the following questionnaire to guide us in our work. As you discern in what way you might contribute to the Meeting, please consult our website [www.lancasterpaquakers.org](http://www.lancasterpaquakers.org) or the separate document "Committees and Other Responsibilities at Lancaster Friends Meeting." In accepting any committee assignment, you are making a two year commitment.

On what committees do you currently serve? Beside each committee you list, please designate active or inactive (depending on how you see your current level of participation); and then yes or no (depending on whether you are willing to continue on that committee or not). E.g., "Garden committee – active -- yes". Also, please include ways in which you serve the community that are not part of the committee structure.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>active / inactive</u>	<u>Continue: yes / no?</u>
a) _____		
b) _____		
c) _____		
d) _____		

Considering what you have listed above, as well as other commitments in your life, Put a check mark next to the statement that best describes your current level of commitment to the work of the meeting:

- I am way overcommitted and probably need to cut back.
- Although there may be times when I feel too busy with Meeting work, nevertheless the work is important to me and I am willing and able to maintain my present level of commitment.
- I could be doing more for the Meeting, and am willing to explore ways in which my particular gifts can be put to use in service of the community.
- I am not very involved, but because of the present circumstances of my life, I cannot at this time commit to doing anything more. Comments (continue on back if necessary):

3. Now: consider the needs of the Meeting, the resources of the community, and your own gifts, as well as your answers to the above. Especially consider your own sense of leading: in what ways are you drawn to further your involvement in our community? There are many ways you can answer this question. Ideally, you will consult the description of committees, find something that attracts you, and tell the nominating committee what committee(s) you might be willing to serve on. But if that doesn't work for you, tell us what your particular aspirations are: Do you want to work with children? Are you good with finances? Do you want an opportunity to get to know others? Do you like doing things by phone or e-mail? What are your particular gifts? Whatever you can tell us will help (continue on back if necessary): Would you like to meet with a member of the nominating committee, to help in your discernment? \_\_\_\_\_