



# Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 562*

*November-December 2009*

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.

- 9:10-9:45 Hymn sing in the meeting room. All are welcome to sing or listen.

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

Second First-day - 11:35 or so - Meeting For Worship For Business

Third First-day - Cooperative Meal

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**

November 22 - One of authors of *Fit for Freedom, Not For Friendship*

November 29 - Social time

December 6 - Milner Fund request from Jim Kalish explained (see below)

December 13 - Meeting for worship for business

December 20 - Christmas program/cookie feast (see below)

## **ACTIVITIES**

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

Mon. Nov. 23 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Sun. Nov. 29 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Sun. Nov. 29 - 9:00 AM - Environmental Committee in meetinghouse

Mon. Nov. 30 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Tue. Dec. 1 - 7:15 PM - Care & Counsel Committee in meetinghouse

### **- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Sun. Dec. 6 - 8:30 AM - Peace and Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse

Sun. Dec. 6 - 10:00 AM - Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group

Sun. Dec. 6 - 12:50-1:50 PM - Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse

Sun. Dec. 6 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse  
 Mon. Dec. 7 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Mon. Dec. 7 – 7:00-8:30 PM– Worship and Ministry Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Dec. 13 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business  
 Mon. Dec. 14 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Dec. 15 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Tue. Dec. 15 – Deadline for December-January newsletter  
 Sat. Dec. 19 – 6:30 PM – Healing Racism Group in meetinghouse with pot luck meal  
 Mon. Dec. 21 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Dec. 27 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Committee in meetinghouse  
 Mon. Dec. 28 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

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

At about 11:45 am, after a brief period of silent worship, Clerk Joseph Moore took up the business of the Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved and minutes for Ten Month were read, corrected and approved.

Before entering into the Queries segment, Clerk Joseph Moore was sensitive to ending the worship sharing around the Queries too soon last month. He mentioned that he tries to balance the time and richness of the worship with the need for getting the business done in a timely manner. He was open to get direction from the Meeting.

**Worship sharing on Queries on Stewardship and Right Use of Resources (PYM):**

- 1.) Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and service to the needy community?
- 2.) Do I regard my material resources and those of the Meeting as God's gifts and entrusted to me to further God's calling?
- 3.) Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

**Responses:**

◆ Throughout my 20-plus years of attending meetings, we have had them run as long as 3pm, everyone spoke as they felt, there was little order, and it was a sprawling affair. Much better to have most of the work done in committees, and better that we end at 1pm.

◆ World studies have discerned where the wealth of the world resides. There are four

tiers of wealth: one tier is the lowest poverty, those that will not survive; the second one is also of the poor who will survive if they get some help; the third tier is the marginally poor who will barely survive unless struck by some sort of personal tragedy; the last tier are the rich five percent and are defined as those that can save a little money and occasionally go on a short vacation. This has made me redefine my situation and sensitivity.

◆ Killing time has spiritual significance. Being mindful of how we spend this commodity has the opportunity to bring spiritual awareness.

◆ I have been blessed in many ways. I am retired with sufficient resources, in the past was given many advantages and opportunities (college scholarships). What to do with time? Jesus teaches us to give up judgment of others, focus on the inner light. When I take the time to look and relate to others via the inner light, which is very difficult at times, it is unusually satisfying.

◆ When we look at our Meeting's budget, does it really reflect a concern for proper uses of resources? Do we look beyond ourselves to the communities outside our meetinghouse walls?

◆ My concern about taxes is the major portion that goes to support the military. I am thinking, as we all might, about lowering my tax bracket and rebuilding my convictions against violence and killing.

**Worship and Ministry Report:** Tom Latus spoke about a retreat on Quaker Quest in October. A report will be given in December. If any persons who attended that retreat wants to make any additions or thoughts to be incorporated into the final report, please see a member

of the Worship and Ministry Committee.

**Treasurers Report:** Karen Zimmerman reported January through October income \$43,373.00, Expenses: \$54,931.00. Negative cash flow of \$11,559.00. Not too unusual for this time of year because many wait until year's end to contribute. Please consider making donations earlier rather than later. Consider also signing up for automatic deductions to ease the pressure on the Meeting finances.

**Social Committee:** Jean Eaton reported the committee wanted reaffirmation of purchase of Fair-Trade coffee for the Meeting's social occasions. This is extra work for the social committee and for the Treasurer. The Meeting seemed to approve the continued use of fair trade coffee. Those who would like to purchase fair trade coffee for their own use, see Scott Walck or Laura Gible. ...November frugal meal on Potluck Sunday: will the Meeting support reviving the traditional frugal menu of bread and stone soup or do we want to have a broader variety of soups and breads? Meeting discussed options but settled on reviving the tradition of a simple meal. Members contribute the vegetable contents, and the social committee make the soup Saturday morning prior to the meal. It is important that the Meeting be aware of the need for soup contents early enough to organize its creation. ... Do not leave food in the refrigerators after an event. Take leftovers home or mark them for use within a week or they will be discarded. Food donations for Sunday social time are welcome; need to inform members of social committee ahead of time so they can plan ahead. We are aiming for simplicity. No Halloween Party this year, last year's was poorly attended. Does the Meeting want a New Year's party? Bob Neuhauser opened his house last year for a New Year's party but no one came. Need to decide whether or not this is important. ... Disciples United Community Church (DUCC), who rent the meetinghouse on Saturday afternoon-evenings, want to shift their rental time to Sunday afternoon-evening. The Clerk and Jean will discuss and advise the Meeting.

**First Day School:** Andrea Carty reported that attendance to First Day School was about 25 children. Class content and procedures mirrored those of last year. Special events pend-

ing are a special program with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee the first week in December and a talent-sharing program scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. There will also be cookie baking that will be shared on that talent program. There will also be a holiday program about the holy family that will provide an opportunity for all the see the talents and activities of the First Day students. Volunteers are needed for assisting in the talent program. Volunteers are also needed for assisting in a broad range of opportunities with First Day School. Please see Andrea if you are interested.

**State of the Meeting Report:** Laura Faist, Myke Rogers, and Johanna Saddler (convener) have volunteered to develop this year's report. Conveners of all the committees and other interested members are requested to submit their reports and thoughts during the first week in December. The final state of the Meeting report will then be presented to the Meeting in February.

**Care and Council:** Jim Herr reported that a review committee had met with Haydn McLean to learn more about him and his desire to become a member. Care and Council recommends that we all get to meet and enjoy Haydn over the next month and at next business meeting we will consider him for membership.

**Nominating Committee:** Tom Gates informed the Meeting that his wife, Liz Gates, has been appointed to head up child care. Meeting approved. ... Joe Moore indicted he is attempting to end business meetings promptly at 1:00 pm but if we drift past that time a couple of minutes, the cost of the additional time for child-care should not impact the budget.

**Finance Committee:** Clerk Joe Moore indicated that the new budget for 2010 is on the back table for those that want to review it before the December business meeting. He also suggested that those who want to act on information learned at business meeting or through the minutes of the business meeting posted in the newsletter do so by contacting the relevant committee prior to the next business meeting. This will make for more efficient use of business meeting time.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting

for Business ended at about 1:05pm. 34 were present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Moore, Clerk  
Myke Rogers, Interim Recording Clerk

**Present:** Peggy Bright, Andrea Carty, Joe DiGarbo, Faith d'Urbano, Jean Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Laura Faist, Liz & Tom Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, Jim Herr, Deb Hewes, Milly Holzinger, Jim Kalish, Madison Kille, John & Kay Lahr, Tom Latus, Pat Lea, Robert Lowe, Cynthia Lowing, Haydn McLean, Joe Moore, Robert Neuhauser, Carl & Rachel Perry, Myke Rogers, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Debby Spence, Scott Walck, Anne Wallace-DiGarbo, Karen Zimmerman.

### PLANNING CENTRAL

**BOOK BUY** – The Annual Library Book Sale will be held next Sunday morning, November 29 in the Gathering Room. In addition to books, numerous Pendle Hill Pamphlets will be offered for sale.

**KIDS CHRISTMAS** – The First-day School holiday session begins next Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> with gift wrapping presents for the Mental Health Association. The presents will be distributed to individuals who may otherwise not receive any gifts this Christmas. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Peace committee is leading intergenerational worship on giving. Then, on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> the children will be baking cookies. During FDS time on Dec. 20 the children will have a talent sharing; we still need volunteers to coordinate this day. Then, following announcements, everyone is invited to immediately come to the community room to continue worship with the Faith and Play story “The Holy Family.” Refreshments, including cookies baked by the children, will be served following the program. If you have any questions about these plans, or want to help facilitate, please contact Andrea Carty or Laura Gible.

**SPISCI** – The Spirituality and Science study group meets on the third Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 in the Community Room. Current discussion centers on essays in *Measuring the Immeasurable*. To give you an idea of what you may find, the following were discussed in November: Bruce Lipton: “The ‘New’ Biology and

Epigenetics,” L. Fehmi and J. Robbins “Sweet Surrender,” and Rick Hanson “Facts That Incline the Mind to Joy.” All are welcome to join the group. Any questions—call Adele Berardi 391-8915.

**BIG FOOD** – Instead of the usual cooperative meal on Dec. 20, we'll have our traditional Christmas feast in the evening. Gather at 5:00 for some hearty carol singing, and we'll eat a delightful cooperative buffet around 5:30 in the decorated Community Room.

### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

**SIGNAGE** – Social Committee would like to encourage all who use the kitchen to read the signs on the refrigerator, walls, and cupboards, and follow them.

**HEART FELT** – We will continue the felt Christmas card tree tradition this year, beginning in late November. Instead of sending individual cards to your Meeting friends, you are invited to pin a card to the tree on the bulletin board and contribute your card/postage savings in the envelope nearby. This fund goes to emergency fuel programs to help people stay warm this winter.

**BUILDING FIXES** – If you happen to notice something in the meetinghouse that isn't quite right, please contact Kirk or Cindy Hummel 687-6794.

**LISTING** – Various members of the staff of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) would like to make sure you receive stuff they mail out such as the PYM News. They have asked for a list of our regular attenders, which we have not sent them at this time. However, if you would like to be on the PYM list, please contact someone on the Care and Counsel Committee. (If you're a member of Lancaster Monthly Meeting, you're already on the PYM list.)

**JOURNEY SHARE?** – The Forum Committee is interested in hearing from individuals who want to share their spiritual journeys at Forum. Contact Donna Scanlon at scanlon.donna@gmail.com

**LITTLE FOOD** – The Lancaster food bank is running dangerously low. Please put donations in the box near the coat rack in the Gathering

Room. And/or make a monetary contribution.

**LITERATE** – Under the guidance of Pat Lea, we will again participate in the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) letter writing campaign. On the third Sunday of the month, in addition to enjoying cooperative meal, you will have the opportunity to write to your representative and senators concerning an important issue, which will change monthly. According to people in the know, handwritten letters or notes carry significant weight with legislators. Pat will provide a model letter, talking points, paper, and postage.

**IMMATERIAL** – First Day School and Peace and Social Concerns Committees challenge us this holiday season to examine how we celebrate the birth of Jesus, whom we acclaim as the Prince of Peace! Going into commercial establishments at this time of year with the lights, tinsel, Santa Clauses and the Buy-Buy-Buy themes, you'd have no idea why we celebrate Christmas. Looking for alternative ways to honor the birth of Jesus will be the theme of the intergenerational worship on Dec.6. We and our children will be encouraged to see how to end our involvement in the commercialization of Christmas and to put our money, effort, and love into constructive ways that follow the examples of Jesus. The children will be helped to find ways in which they can give of themselves and their efforts as Christmas gifts. They will also be shown the importance of helping the less fortunate in the world in a sustainable way, to improve the lives of those trying to live on less than a couple of dollars a day.

When you plan your Christmas giving, consider sending an animal in the name of your loved ones to some hungry third world family through the Heifer Project, where the gift will keep on giving to the recipient family and neighbors. Or consider helping to fund the Quaker "Right Sharing of the World's Resources" that supplies money to the poorest of the poor to help them develop a family-supporting enterprise in their community. These people will then pass the "loans" along to their neighbors so they, too, can feed their families and get their children into school. Information on these and other non-consumer gifts will be available in the Community Room right up to the Holiday Season.

**GRAND SON** – Myke Rogers' daughter Libby Rogers Belaud just had her second child, Oscar Leon Meyric Belaud. They live in Rezé, France.

**NQ** – Andrea Miotto would like to thank the following Friends for their abiding and unforgettable gifts of pastoral and practical care, gentleness, acceptance, patience, prayer, listening, thoughtfulness, and attentiveness during a difficult period: Michael Bomberger, Erika Fitz, Grayfred Gray, Anna Moore, and Joe Moore. She feels humbled and honored to receive your gifts. She says to be worthy of them, all she can hope to do is pass them on.

**BADGER** – Kelsey Kelso has for years made beautifully lettered name badges for us, but she has now passed the baton to Erika Fitz—you may notice a different lettering style appearing. Hopefully you will find it just as nice. Erika is also trying out a new system for requesting badges. If your badge is temporary or yellowed, or you simply want a new one, please make a request! A card file box labeled "name badges" sits on the welcome table to the right as you enter the meetinghouse. Please choose a colored card from the box, print your name in pencil on the lined side and put it back in the box behind the "new requests" tab. Erika will then letter it in calligraphy and file it in the box under your last name. Please look for it there 1-2 weeks later and place it in a holder (a small piece of tape helps it to stay put). Voila! New identity! You can also contact Erika directly in person or at ef173 at yahoo.com.

**PONDERABLE** – The Queries for December, on Integrity and Simplicity, are from *Faith and Practice* of PYM revised 2007:

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

### CoSA

The Leadings Committee (Milner Fund, Mal Fuller, convener ) will host a forum December 6, to discuss their proposed financial support for Jim Kalish's leading to develop a Circles of

Support and Accountability (CoSA) program.

Lancaster CoSA is a volunteer, community-based, professionally supported, restorative justice program to reduce risk of future themselves or others. "No

A "Prospectus" describing this program is available from Jim; members and attenders are urged to read it prior to the forum.

Jim will also be glad to meet with people before the forum who have questions or concerns. He will be available on Sunday November 22 and 29 at 9:00 a.m. or at other times that are mutually convenient. (717) 397-3569 or jim\_kalish at yahoo.com)

**CoSA History:** The Peace and Social Concerns committee (Bob Lowing convener) first heard from Jim about CoSA more than a year ago. It

awarded him a \$500 mini-travel grant to visit the MCC sponsored CoSA program in Canada.

On May 5 of this year the Meeting came to unity and the following: It does this by assisting and support

More "Victims of Domestic Violence" in his work to develop a CoSA program....with the idea that some members and attenders may choose to participate in a Circle when the program becomes operational."

**CoSA Support** A support/clearance committee was appointed to work with Jim on this effort (Tom Latus, convener, and Barbara Spiegelberg, Chris Fitz, Chris Weinstock-Collins). It has met several times and has prepared a list of the kinds of activities it is prepared to carry out.