

HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, No. 3 ~ November, 2008

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday



From Worship and Ministry

Two of Four Doors

Our meeting has made a commitment to Yearly Meeting's Deepening and Strengthening Program. As a meeting, we have expressed a willingness to explore ways in which we as individuals can grow spiritually and in turn strengthen our Sunday Meeting for Worship.

In William Taber's helpful pamphlet, "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship," he speaks of the idea of worship as a stream: "Entering into worship often feels somewhat like entering into a stream, which though invisible to our outward eye, feels just as real as does a stream of water when we step into it." William Taber reminds Friends that the heart of worship is communion with the invisible but eternal stream of reality in which is the living and eternal Christ. How do we enter this stream? He suggests by going through four doors. In this newsletter, we will touch on the first two doors.

The first door is called the Door Before. To enter, one needs to practice a daily discipline – time alone in the presence of God... "active prayer, contemplation of a Bible passage, a few paragraphs of inspirational reading, a time of quietly being present before God." Beginning and persisting each day in one or a combination of these disciplines is an important step in our own individual spiritual growth, and prepares us for Sunday morning when we gather. "A person who has already experienced times of

spiritual nourishment during the week will require less time to let go of the rhythms and preoccupations of normal life and can therefore enter more quickly and easily into full attention to the Living Presence."

Taber calls the second door the Door Inward. When we pass through this door, we are at Meeting for Worship – and "can know and visualize that here in the Meetinghouse, the stream will be there waiting for us to enter with our dear friends." The Door Inward requires our *desire* to be in the Presence, our trying to *focus* in attending to the presence of God and lastly, *trust* to let go and rest in the deep and living water of the stream. In his essay, William Taber suggests eight or nine specific approaches that Friends can use at meeting to help them enter the Door Inward.

We will go on to doors three and four in the December newsletter.



Words of Wisdom from Friend Harold Heritage:

"Individual effort has limited potential. Fuller potential is harvested from group effort. Constant effort requires study and must be slowly developed in order to bring about an unbreakable group love, and to cultivate a group sensitivity that works as a unit.

Leadership will grow out of discipline of the individual and leadership will be found among those who sense the inner issue. It comes to those who lose themselves in the good of the whole."

Upcoming Events

Nov. 8 – Discussion of Religious Violence in Early America

The Friends Historical Association invites the public to its annual meeting and program in the East Room at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. Jon Pahl, Professor of History of Christianity in America, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, will speak on "Why Religious Freedom Was (Is) Necessary: Religious Violence in Early America -- the Case of Mary Dyer." A reception begins at 11:30 a.m. with a new publications display. Luncheon is available for \$15. Register by October 31. Print the luncheon reservation form at <http://www.haverford.edu/library/fha/> After a brief business meeting, the free lecture will begin at approximately 1:00 pm. Questions? Call (610) 896-1161 or write to fha@haverford.edu.

Nov. 8 – "Telling Your Spiritual Story" – A workshop at the Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia to help Friends intentionally practice both our capacity to recognize the movement of the Divine among and within us and the language that we use to share that experience. The featured presenter is Bill Harley, a Quaker storyteller who is humorous, meaningful, serious and silly! There will be workshops for all ages, worship, stories and learning together. The workshop is 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Bill Harley will give a concert (open to the public) at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.pym.org/education/> or contact: Christie Duncan-Tessmer at christiedt@pym.org

Nov. 8 – Annual AFSC Public Gathering – The American Friends Service Committee's annual event will be held at the Arch Street Meeting House, starting at 1:30 pm. The gathering will feature a keynote address by Gwen Ifill, managing editor of the PBS program, "Washington Week," and senior correspondent for "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer."

Nov. 8 – Habitat for Humanity Workday in Trenton – Trenton Meeting invites Friends for a

day of work on housing repairs. A light breakfast will be provided at the meetinghouse at 8:15 a.m. The work day runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch. Pizza will be provided after 4 p.m. and we will discuss the day. Participants must be 16 or older. We may be working inside or outside, so dress accordingly. Wear work clothes and sturdy work boots or shoes. Bring work gloves if you have them. If you can attend, please contact Sandra Johnson at Srjohn3@verizon.net. Trenton Meeting is at 142 East Hanover Street, Trenton NJ.

Nov. 8 – Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse – Singer-Songwriter Bernice Lewis will perform at Gwynedd Meeting, located at Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) and Sumneytown Pike. Doors open at 7:30, performance at 8:00 pm. The suggested donation is \$5 to support the musicians. Light refreshment available. Donations and proceeds from refreshments are given to worthy charities. Please check our website at www.gwyneddfriends.org, click on "Coffeehouse." For more information call 215-393-9576.

Nov. 10 – Discussion on Quaker Meeting-School Relationships – Paul Lacey, the Chair of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak at Princeton Meeting about the School/Meeting Community. Anyone interested in learning more about how this expert may inform our own Community is urged to attend. Paul is a Professor Emeritus at Earlham and has written *Growing Into Goodness: Essays on Quaker Education* and *Education and the Inner Teacher*. At 3:45 pm, Paul will speak on "The Ethos of Friends Schools," and at 7:00 he will speak on "Under the Care of Meeting: Historical and Practical Perspectives." Call Ruth Podolin or Judy Owens about carpooling or see www.PrincetonFriendsSchool.org for directions.

Nov. 12 – Peace and Social Concerns Film Series – Buckingham Meeting is showing "We Feed the World," as part of a free film series. With unforgettable images, this 96-minute film about scarcity amid plenty provides insight into

the production of our food and answers the question "what does world hunger have to do with us?" Why doesn't a tomato taste like a tomato today? Why do 200 million people in India, supplier of 80% of Switzerland's wheat, suffer from malnutrition? Why are thousands of acres of the Amazon being cleared to grow soybeans? The films begin at 7:30 p.m. on selected Wednesday evenings at the Meetinghouse at 5864 York Road, Lahaska PA (just south of Peddler's Village). Refreshments and discussion after each film. For more information, go to www.buckinghamfriendsmeeting.org or call 215-794-7299.

Nov. 22 - Kennett's Quaker Fair - Kennett Meeting's Quaker Fair 2008 will run from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm at the Kennett Friends Meeting House on North Union St. and West Sickle St., Kennett Square, PA. As always, there will be handmade crafts for sale in the Gift Shop, as well as hand knits, plants, hundreds of used books, "Grandma's Attic," the "Country Kitchen," pony rides and other children's activities. Full-service luncheon is served from 11:30 to 1:30. All proceeds go to the American Friends Service Committee. Kennett Meeting's Quaker Fair has become a local institution. Started in 1951, the Quaker Fair is now in its 57th year. Proceeds have grown so that over \$10,000 has been raised and sent to AFSC for the past several years.

Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Worship - Gather at 10 am for this special Meeting for Worship at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting. Put in your pies early and then come and be grateful!

Dec. 4-7 - Ten Thousand Villages - For the last thirteen holiday seasons, Woodstown Friends have hosted Ten Thousand Villages, an international gift festival that provides vital, fair income to artisans and their families in more than 32 developing nations by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories. Examples of products include a large assortment of holiday

ornaments, jewelry, musical instruments, toys, carved animals, handmade paper and cards, scarves, tablecloths, wood boxes, kitchen utensils and bookends. Please consider Ten Thousand Villages for your holiday shopping. The sale will be held at the Woodstown Friends Meeting Annex, 104 N.Main Street, Woodstown NJ. Sale hours are:
3-8pm Thursday
3-10pm Friday
10am-5pm Saturday
noon-2pm Sunday
For more information, visit www.tenthousandvillages.com
Sign up to volunteer at www.woodstownfriends.org



Meeting for Worship for Business- Oct. 12

The meeting began with a period of worship.

The Clerk read extract #133 p. 123-124 of Faith & Practice.

The Clerk read a note from Connie Brookes thanking Friends for their notes, calls and flowers while she was in the hospital recovering from surgery.

Diane Werner reported for the ongoing Deepening & Strengthening project. There are several members of the committee whose schedules have changed and will be unable to attend the upcoming Green Street retreat. Additionally one member of the ongoing committee has asked to be released from his commitment. Diane asked for assistance in replacing the needed presence at the retreat and on the committee. The Meeting representatives will give a report about the retreat to the Meeting at a First Day School Session. The date has not yet been scheduled.

Friends should check the bulletin board in the back foyer - opposite the kitchen door - for information related to the Deepening and Strengthening Process. The committee will be posting items of interest.

Pam Perry, for Finance Committee, and Ceil

McFadden, for Worship and Ministry, reported on the Called Meeting for Healing that was a result of our recent called Meeting for Worship for Business to continue working on the separate incorporation of the School. The Meeting was held last Thursday night.

The two Committees also proposed that we schedule a *Meeting for Problem Solving* - a Meeting for Worship for Business at which issues of the separate incorporation would be discussed.

Friends recognized that there are, indeed, many problems to be addressed, but were not clear on what the focus of a Meeting for Problem-Solving would/should be. Would we be looking at the specifics or the general situation? Would we be trying to resolve the points of disagreement or just be looking at the process? During a long and thoughtful sharing of ideas, Friends agreed that we should not attempt to assess the “sticking points” - that we should focus on the problem-solving process and, in any case, acknowledge what went right as well as point out what went wrong.

Another question concerns the boundaries of the discussion. Is this to be an inward look at the way Haddonfield Meeting routinely goes about solving its problems? Or are we, for now, to focus on Meeting/School problems? There seemed to be a strong interest among several Friends in exploring, in a general way, the problem-solving process divorced from a specific topic. Friends agreed that whichever direction this discussion takes, it is to be for the Meeting Community, only, and not include the School Community.

In order to help them plan the meeting (and define the “problem” to be solved), Worship and Ministry and Care Committee need feedback from Meeting members. To this end, they will formulate questions to be sent to the members of the Meeting.

Pam Perry reported for Finance and Care Committees on a proposal for ongoing tuition aid for Meeting parents of HFS students. The proposal includes rules for qualifying for tuition aid and a plan for funding the program.

Discussion and decision were held over until November.

Pam Perry gave a brief report on the Council of Churches... Haddonfield Meeting is not represented on the Council. Pam recommended that we appoint a representative to attend the meetings. All of the Members are Clergy, which means that any of our members would qualify. Scott Buchheit was suggested and approved.

The First Baptist Church is sponsoring a tour of the Holy Land, open to all.

Anna Mae Sutterly offered the annual report for Friendship Committee. The Meeting minuted its appreciation to the Friendship Committee.

Meeting for worship for Business closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

Friends and regular Attenders may request copies of the complete minutes from the Recording Clerk at Joanne@synchcorp.com.

Children’s Inclusion and Babysitting

We are excited to report that Haddonfield Friends has a large and growing group of very young Friends. Haddonfield Friends provides babysitting services from 10 to 11 on Sundays during Meeting for Worship for all children who are in second grade and younger. To help parents attend Business Meeting, we also provide babysitting services during Meeting for Business. Typically, the babysitters are two high school aged teenagers. Please inform the sitters of your intentions to stay for Business Meeting before you go into Meeting at 10am.

We welcome young children into Meeting for Worship, and hope parents will bring their children into Meeting. But we understand that it may be difficult for children to sit for an entire hour. After 15 minutes of worship, a member of the Children’s Inclusion Committee will rise at 10:15 and lead all children who are in second grade or younger out to the babysitting room and will remain with the babysitters until the rise of Meeting.

For the safety of all the children, we ask parents ensure that an adult is escorting their children to and from the babysitting room. The Children's Inclusion Committee would like to thank all parents who have volunteered to assist the babysitters as necessary. Because we have such a large group of children, many parents have willingly stepped in and provided our children with the safe haven they need. Thank you!! It does not go unappreciated.



Religious Education

First Day School classes began on September 21 with an intergenerational gathering, followed by separate classes for everyone from children up through adults. The following week a group of 13 people, including the Youth Group, went together to the Woolman Memorial in Mount Holly for lunch, a tour and explanations about the life of John Woolman, given by the resident directors there, Jack and Carol Walz.

The main focus of the Adult classes so far has been on preparation for the Deepening and Strengthening program, led by the committee for this program, with the Worship and Ministry committee. The first Deepening and Strengthening retreat will be on the weekend of October 24 at Green Street Meeting in Germantown, Philadelphia, on the theme of community. In preparation for this we had a First Day School session on this theme on September 21, and a session on October 19 of sharing about how to prepare for Meeting for Worship. Friends are asked to read the pamphlets *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*, by William Taber (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 306), and *Worship: "The Gathered Meeting" Revisited*, by Tom Gates, a lecture given at PYM Annual Sessions in July, 2006. These are available at \$5.00 apiece from Judy Owens. The next session of Adult First Day School on this theme will be on January 18. Other Adult and intergenerational FDS programs are scheduled as follows:

November 2: The Quaker spirit in Walt

Whitman's poetry, led by Kathy Fastiggi and Deedy Roberts

November 9: Meeting for Worship for Business

November 16: Fall Cleanup Day, followed by Covered Dish.

November 23: Women Helping Women International, led by attendee Stephanie Gindele

November 30: Extended fellowship (Thanksgiving weekend)

December 7: Simple Gifts

December 14: Meeting for Worship for Business

December 21: Christmas Breakfast or Covered Dish

December 28: Extended Hospitality

December 31: First Night activities



Recommended Books for Children

Parents can find a list of recommended children's books that promote peace, justice and other Quaker values at a new web page created by the American Friends Service Committee.

The list describes dozens of books suitable for children of different age groups from babes to young adults.

Entitled *Books That Delight and Entertain*, the list features a variety of picture books, story books, biographies and more.

The list is located at www.afsc.org/kidsbooks.

Many of the books listed are available for purchase through AFSC's La Bookstore at www.afscbooks.org

Racial Justice Website

PYM's Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality has launched a new website that helps you keep abreast of its activities. The site has information about meeting dates and times, minutes of past meetings and a reading list.

Organizers intend to use the site in the future as

a clearinghouse of information on different meetings' activities related to racial justice and equality as well as book reviews and upcoming events.

To view the site, visit http://www.pym.org/pym_wgs/racialjustice_wg.php. For additional information, contact Ginny Cameron at gands630@verizon.net



Library News

The Library Committee will hold its annual Book Sale in February. You can begin contributing now by dropping your donations off in the marked boxes which will be available in the Library. Please submit used books in good condition. No magazines or textbooks, please.

Among Friends

Josephine Marshall, mother of Friend David Marshall, died on October 6, at age 92. Donations in Josephine's memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Catherine and Rebecca Senopoulos helped lift Haddonfield Memorial High School to victory in the Group 2 Girls' Team Tennis State Championship on Oct. 22. The twin daughters of Louise Senopoulos and granddaughters of Bob and Roz Williams also contributed to the team's victory in the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament of Champions Quarterfinals on Oct. 26.



A Poem for November

Passionately reach deep,
deeper and even deeper into the depth,
God is there.
Pass through the gates of forgetting yesterday,
and non anticipation of tomorrow,
Eternity beyond.
Follow intuition of inner eye and ear;
Beyond internal senses;
Peace and tranquility will prevail.
Meet yourself: God is there.

~ Harold Heritage