



HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, No. 5 ~ January, 2009

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday

From Worship and Ministry

Finding Inspiration for the Future in Wisdom from the Past

“When you come to your meetings... what do you do? Do you then gather together bodily only, and kindle a fire, compassing yourselves about with the sparks of your own kindling, and so please yourselves, and walk in the light of your own fire, and in the sparks which you have kindled?”

“Or rather, do you sit down in the True Silence, resting from your own Will and Workings, and waiting upon the Lord, with your minds fixed in that Light where with Christ has enlightened you, until the Lord breathes Life in you, refresheth you, and prepares you, and your spirits and souls, to make you fit for his service, that you may offer unto him a pure and spiritual sacrifice?”

Let us begin this new year heeding these words of William Penn, and try to practice what he found to be a powerful force in his amazing life.

Another Serenity Prayer

Grant me patience with the things that take time,
tolerance of the struggles of others that may be

different from my own, appreciation for all I have, and the willingness to get up and try again. One day at a time ...”

Ceil McFadden found this in a book of prayers and wanted to share this with the Meeting.

A View From Ramallah

The peace and joy of the holiday season were shattered in the Middle East, as massive airstrikes were launched in Gaza to retaliate for rocket attacks in Southern Israel.

Kathy Bergen, the program coordinator for Friends International Center in Ramallah provided her own perspective on the situation in a note to Friends.

“As I write this newsletter, we are witnessing the fourth day of Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. This war on Gaza has taken more than 360 Palestinian lives in Gaza and has seen more than 1,600 Palestinians wounded. The hospitals in Gaza are unable to accommodate the large number of wounded. Hospital beds are full and medical supplies are running out. At the same time Israel has experienced the loss of four people as a result of rockets continuing to hit communities north of Gaza. We express our heartfelt sympathy to all the families who have lost loved ones as a result of this most recent onslaught.

“It has been said that Saturday, December 27, the first day of the Israeli attack on Gaza, was the

bloodiest day in Gaza since, the Israeli military occupation of Gaza in 1967. It is a solemn reminder to the world at large that not only is the Israeli military occupation of Gaza continuing, but the Nakba that began in 1948, is continuing.

“The Israeli army withdrew from Gaza during the summer of 2005. This included the evacuation of all Israeli settlers from Gaza, yet the people of Gaza have continued to be occupied by Israel. They have never been given the freedom to develop their own society and live freely. Israeli has continued its occupation of Gaza by controlling the borders, including access from the sea. Gaza has become the largest open air prison on earth, hardly an atmosphere conducive to fostering independence. In fact, not only have people in Gaza not been able to develop their society, the blockade took away all hopes and possibilities for development.”

For more on the situation in Gaza, visit <http://www.ramallahquakers.org/newsletter/newsletter.php>



Upcoming Events

Jan. 17 - Heeding God's Call - A peace gathering in Philadelphia to address gun violence aims to include meetings from the city and suburbs. Our expectation is that approximately 2,000 people will participate. Morning programs will take place at multiple faith communities. After a simple lunch, all will gather at the church called Holy Ghost Headquarters ("the Met") at 858 N. Broad Street for a concluding plenary session, cumulating with a public witness. In preparation for this program of shared worship and public witness, 30 faith communities in the Delaware Valley area are engaged in praying, learning, teaching and planning together. Specifically, they will be working to educate and equip members of local faith communities to reduce gun violence in

Philadelphia and surrounding areas, through direct action to encourage responsible gun laws and sales. The focus of the public witness will be the "call" of the local faith communities for gun shop owners to partner with the community to make illegal and bulk purchases of handguns far less likely. Gun shop owners will be called to agree to a 10-point "Code of Conduct" fashioned after the Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership that was recently negotiated between the Coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and a major nationwide retailer of firearms (Wal-Mart). This event is a joint effort of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Church USA. Information on the peace gathering is available online at www.peacegathering2009.org.

Jan. 23 - "Amazing Grace" Movie Night at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting - Watch this wonderful movie about the life of William Wilberforce and the efforts to abolish slavery at 6:30 pm. Join us for pizza and discussion.

Jan. 24 - South Jersey Earthcare Gathering - The Earthcare Working Group and the Mount Holly Meeting are sponsoring an event that will combine worship focused on Quaker environmental concerns with updates on national and state legislative initiatives involving energy and the environment. The event begins with light refreshments at 3:30 pm, followed by the program at 4 pm, a potluck supper (bring sandwiches, fruit or desserts) at 6 pm and a 7 pm performance of the skit, "John Woolman's Message for the 18th and 21st Centuries," which was created by Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox, members of Burlington MM (VT) and staff of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Last year, the pair undertook a 1,400 mile Peace for Earth Walk, from Vancouver, BC to San Diego CA. This skit was presented at more than 50 meetings and churches along their route to illustrate the nature of John Woolman's witness against slavery in the 18th century, and to imagine how he might witness for earthcare in our day. The event will be held at the Mount Holly Meetinghouse at

High and Garden streets. For more information or to RSVP, contact Ed Dreby, drebymans@verizon.net or (609)261-8190.

Feb. 7 -- Winter Gathering for Extended

Worship -- Friends will gather at Media Meeting (PA) for a whole morning of worship beginning at 9:30, followed by fellowship over bag lunches and worship sharing until 4 pm. The extended period of worship is a refreshing opportunity to settle deeply and open up to the work of the Spirit within and among us. It's also a blessed time to connect with other Friends seeking to be faithful. All are welcome. Bring a bag lunch. Donations are welcome. Child care will be provided. Contact: Marcelle Martin, 610-627-0390, (FriendMarcelle@aol.com)

Feb. 28 - Gathering for Quaker Educators in

Public Schools --Are you a Friend who works in a Public School? You are cordially invited to a free seminar called "Teaching Across Difference." PA Act 48 credits are available. Other seminars for Quaker public educators can be scheduled with your interests in mind. Please contact PYM's Education staff if you (or someone you know) should be on our invitation list. Our intention is to build community, support one another, and learn together. Call or email Elke Muller at 215-241-7223 or ElkeM@pym.org for more information.

June 28 -- Cropwell Meeting House to

Celebrate 200 Years - The Cropwell Meeting House in Marlton, New Jersey, will observe its 200th anniversary with an afternoon celebration. Speakers include Burlington County Historian Joseph Laufer and PYM General Secretary Arthur Larrabee. There will be an exhibit by photographer Doreen Webber of Burlington County Meeting Houses. Please plan to join us for this historic event. For more information contact Deborah A. Saunders at 856-435-1645 or dsaunder@haverford.edu

Meeting for Worship for Business- Dec. 12

The meeting began with a period of worship.

The Clerk read Extract #179 from Extracts on Writings on Experience p. 139 of Faith & Practice.

Deedy Roberts announced that the Sierra Club will meet in the Meeting Room on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, starting in January.

The Clerk reported that the scheduled dates for Meeting for Worship for Business in April and May of 2009 fall on Easter Sunday and Mother's Day, respectively. The Meeting approved moving the business meeting back one week to April 5 and May 3 of 2009.

Connie Brookes reported that The Ad Hoc group has met and will meet again on Dec 22. Friends approved a Minute of Gratitude to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their 3 years of service and to all those who helped them move the process along.

The Clerk expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended the last meeting.

Priscilla Adams reported on the many activities of the Friends Transition Support Services - "The gift that the Meeting gives to others." A few of the activities that Priscilla shared with us are:

- a vegetable garden grown by the women at the halfway house at Newton Meeting
- an anger and stress management class
- an exhibit at Rutgers of art by women of Camden

The women deeply appreciate that they are treated with caring and dignity

In addition to the ink cartridges Priscilla has been collecting, she welcomes donations of household goods, blankets and coats. Friends are invited to join the group (almost) any Saturday. Please call first. Priscilla thanked the Meeting for its financial and spiritual support.



Deedy Roberts reported for the Memorial & Graveyard Committee, as attached. The Meeting accepted the report with gratitude for the work the Committee performed over the past year.

Ceil McFadden asked about the possibility of offering "natural burial" as one of the options. Deedy thought it was not possible, but will look into it. She will bring it up at the Committee meeting.

Deedy also reported on her attendance at PYM Interim Meeting.

David Gallivan, speaking on behalf of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, asked the Meeting to approve \$250 for support of Michele Tartar's writing program for her class in the Women's Prison. Friends approved the request.

Connie Brookes has stepped down as Clerk of the Audit Committee. Mary Anne Gaffney will replace her.

George Fisher expressed his concern about the number of Friends entering and leaving the Meeting Room during Meeting for Worship. Worship and Ministry was asked to address George's concern and the Clerk will speak to Friends at end of Worship on Sunday.

Library Committee report was postponed until next month.

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.

Friends' Gospel Study

Worship & Ministry will host a six-part Gospel Study at Haddonfield Monthly Meetinghouse on Sunday evenings, beginning in January. The subject of the study will be the Gospel of John, often described as the "Quaker Gospel."

The study will use William Barclay's Daily *Study*

Guide Bible, Vol. One (Westminster John Knox Press www.wjkbooks.com). A few guides may be available at the Meeting House, but may also be ordered through Amazon.com or at the Good News Bible Book Store 1426 Brace Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ (856) 429-4674.

The study will focus on the text and commentary that will attempt to uncover the tremendous wealth of this Gospel, described by Professor Barclay as "the one book through which many people find themselves closer to God than any other book in the world."

This six-week study will be followed another six-week study on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's *Faith & Practice*. For more information, please contact Francie Pagell, Judy Barnes or Gary Smith.

New Working Group for Young Adult Friends

A new Young Adult Friends Working Group is being formed under the care of the Education Standing Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This group will strive to help provide vision for the PYM community of Friends between the ages of 18 and 40, season ideas and leadings, create events and opportunities for worship and fellowship, be a resource for Monthly Meetings in relation to YAFs, and work collaboratively with the PYM Young Adult Friends Coordinator. The working group hopes to hold its meetings at Monthly Meetings on First Days, worshiping first with local Friends. Meetings will be held every other month beginning in January, with additional meetings scheduled when necessary for event planning. In addition, the Friends Institute Granting Group of PYM strives to support and encourage young adult Friends in ministry, service, witness and Quaker study. Grant requests are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The next application deadline is March 1, 2009. The granting group has just revised their application guidelines. They are now accepting applications up to \$1,000. Complete application information and a list of recent grant awards is available online at: <http://www.pym.org/friendsinstitute/figg/index.htm>

If you have questions about the new YAF Working Group, or would like to be involved, please contact PYM YAF Coordinator Sadie Forsythe at 215-241-7075 or sadief@pym.org



Free Literature from PYM

Thanks to special PYM Publications Service Group funds, your Meeting can receive 200 free pamphlets of your choosing if your order is received by Feb. 27, 2009. A special order form was sent to clerks of Monthly Meetings in December. Just fill in the quantities you want of each PYM pamphlet and return the form to QuakerBooks of Friends General Conference. Questions should be directed to Mary Anne Crowley at PYM, 215-241-7017 or maryc@pym.org

Cultivating New Nurturers

It is not too early to begin considering whether it is your time to apply for the next class of the School of the Spirit Ministry's two-year program "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer." To help with your discernment, two one-day "Testing the Waters" retreats are being offered: Feb. 7 at First Friends Meeting in Greensboro, NC, and March 28 at Alexandria Meeting in VA. The deadline for applications to the program is May 25, 2009. More information about the program can be found at www.schoolofthespirit.org There you can subscribe to the ministry's newsletter. To register for a "Testing the Waters" retreat, email info@schoolofthespirit.org. The School of the Spirit Ministry is under the care of the Worship and Care Standing Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Religious Education

The Religious Education Committee is grateful to the many members and attenders of the Meeting who are assisting us in planning and providing Religious Education classes for everyone. At this time we are full of a sense of the eternal joy of the Christmas, and of renewal as the New Year comes, with a new administration that will be sworn in on Jan. 20 to take over leadership in our country. We are planning several things in response to this.

Our Jan. 4 Adult First Day School class we hope to share our personal hopes and resolutions for the New Year in a Worship Sharing format. On Jan. 18, we will continue with our discussion on Deepening and Strengthening. In a broader social context, we are cooperating with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee in their plan to have a movie night, probably on Friday, Jan. 24 or Saturday Jan. 25 with a screening of the film "Amazing Grace", about the work of William Wilberforce in eliminating the slave trade in the 19th century. In conjunction with this we will be taking another look at the anti-war speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King in April 1967 at Riverside Church, exactly one year before his assassination. Copies of this speech will be provided for people to read in advance.



Among Friends

We offer our condolences to Linda Lotz on the recent death of her father.

Margery Josephine Mears Larrabee died Dec. 1. She died peacefully with two of her children keeping vigil.

Volunteers are needed to join Harold Heritage for worship at his home at 10 am on Sunday

mornings. If you are available to worship with Harold, please contact Judy Barnes at barnes.judy1@verizon.net

The Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Directory published in November contained an incorrect telephone number for George and Sheryl Harrison. The correct number is (856) 753-7404.



A Poem for January

Quietly, Silently / Listening, Hearing, Feeling / Vibrant

Communication of the Light Dimension.

Joy, Cosmic Music; peacefully in the arms of the Mother.

Body Still; Nature Awake, Dancing, always changing, pulsating;

Wind, Rain, Sun, Clouds, Moon, ONE.

Easily gliding, rhythmic, being led and acting in Love

Greater than Body, Time and Space; integration of male, female, vegetable, mineral, all encompassing.

Moses, Christ, Buddha, Krishna.

The Earth; The total live Organism / The Universe / Solar System /

Microcosm / ONE – all encompassing LOVE

~ Harold Heritage

