

HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, No. 10 ~ June 2009

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday



From Worship and Ministry

A Selection from *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*

One of my Methodist friends here in Haddonfield recently lent me a book, *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, by Robert L. Smith, former headmaster of Sidwell Friends School. What follows is a bit of what this wonderful book contains.

“The most valuable aspect of religion,” writes Robert Lawrence Smith, “is that it provides us with a framework for living. I have always felt that the beauty and power of Quakerism is that it exhorts us to live more simply, more truthfully, more charitably.”

Taking his inspiration from the teaching of the first Quaker, George Fox, and from his own nine generations of Quaker forebears, Smith speaks to all of us who are seeking a way to make our lives simpler, more meaningful and more useful. Beginning with the Quaker belief that “there is that of God in every person,” Smith explores the ways in which we can harness the inner light of God that dwells in each of us to guide the personal choices and challenges we face every day. How to live and speak truthfully. How to listen for, trust, and act on our conscience. How to make our work an expression of the best that is in us.

He points out that Quakerism is a pragmatic faith that depends on inner experience, on habits of mind and feeling that come from living rather

than from reading.

Let’s try harder to follow the good Quakerly advice to “let your life speak.” Robert Smith in his book shares this precept with us along with lessons he has learned about Friends’ simplicity, service and common sense.

~ Kathy Donch



Upcoming Events

May 30 – Vocal Ministry Workshop – Our Worship & Ministry Committee will conduct a retreat-workshop at HMM from 10 am to 2 pm in furtherance of the Meeting’s Deepening and Strengthening initiative. The goal is make Friends more aware of Quaker best practices regarding vocal ministry, and to become more able to put them into practice. The program leader will be Helene Pollock, member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, and is the past clerk of PYM’s Worship and Ministry Committee. This workshop is relevant for everyone who seeks a deeper worship experience, whether in vocal ministry or in silent worship, which together make worship complete and allow us to work together in moving toward the “gathered meeting.” Lunch and child care will be provided.

May 31 - Haddonfield Monthly Meeting

Graveyard Project – Please join us between 8:30 am and 10 am to conduct a review of information on gravestones as part of a comprehensive effort to update our records and maps. We will survey the condition of the gravestones as well as the information they contain with the hope that we can begin to reset the sunken markers, and repair the damaged ones. Volunteers will receive a copy of the list of grave markers and an assigned row to survey as well as coffee and a donut. Please bring a pencil!

June 5 – Peace, Justice and the U.S.

Government: What should a Christian do?

Former CIA analyst Ray McGovern will give a talk sponsored by the Sacred Heart Peace Community at Sacred Heart Church at Broadway and Ferry Avenues in Camden. The 7 pm event will feature remarks by McGovern, an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. McGovern, who worked under six U.S. presidents, is now employed by Tell the Word, the publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C. and is part of the Steering Group of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS). For details, email peacecatcamden@yahoo.com or call (856) 397-9105.

June 13 – Habitat Work Day – Join with Trenton Friends Meeting for a day of work with Habitat for Humanity. We welcome all PYM Friends, starting with breakfast at 8:15 am provided by Trenton Friends at the Meetinghouse, 142 East Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08608. Orientation begins at 9 am at the Habitat for Humanity office. Brown bag lunches. Work will end at 4 pm. There will be a brown bag lunch at noon. For dinner, Trenton Friends will provide pizza while we discuss the day. Wear work clothes. (We may be working inside or out, so dress accordingly.) Wear sturdy work boots or shoes. Please bring work gloves if you have them. Registration is necessary. Contact: Sandra Johnson 609-443-3782 or srjohn3@verizon.net Participants must be 16 years old or older. All participants will be asked to sign a liability

waiver.

June 21 – Peace Prayer’s Gathering – Friends are invited to the Haddonfield Monthly Meetinghouse to join in meditation for world peace, sponsored by Faith and Ministry. The event will run from 7 to 8:30 pm. For more information e-mail PeacePartners@verizon.net or call Judy Barnes at (856) 287-9472.

June 28 – 200th Anniversary of Cropwell Friends Meeting in Marlton – The 2 pm celebration will follow Quarterly Meeting for Worship at 1 pm. The event will feature keynote speeches by Burlington County historian Joseph Laufer and PYM General Secretary Arthur Larrabee. A photo exhibit will display pictures of Burlington County meetings taken by Doran Webber.

Meeting for Worship for Business- May 3

30 Friends were in attendance.

The Meeting began with a period of worship.

The Meeting joyfully welcomed into membership Lois Hinski, who was recommended for membership by Care Committee at last month’s Meeting for Business. Lois brought her daughters and grandchildren with her to share the experience.

Additionally, the Clerk read a letter from Deedy Roberts’ daughter, Alice Roberts Domball, requesting that she be removed from membership. Alice has lived in France for many years. She is married and has made her home there. Friends approved Alice’s request.

Care Committee also reported that the Whittington-Bashoff Family, who have moved to Illinois, have been released from membership. This was also approved.

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from PYM. One of the coming events is a Young Adult Friends retreat June 19-21. Location to be announced. Please see the bulletin board for other items of interest.

At the April Meeting for Business, Karen Dillon and Bob Brookes reported that three Deepening

& Strengthening retreats have been held over the last year. The project will conclude in September. Several of the project participants met recently and discussed how to move forward in a way that will allow Haddonfield Monthly Meeting to benefit from the insights and ideas that the project has generated. They raised for consideration by the Monthly Meeting, a proposal that a "Committee on Structures" be formed to take the place of the Deepening & Strengthening Committee, which would be laid down after the last retreat. The new committee would be a long-term *ad hoc* committee with a mission expected to last for about two years. The committee would begin with a planning phase and then undertake a thorough examination of our Meeting structures and culture. The committee will explore what works well and what could be improved, and finally make recommendations for meaningful and sustainable changes that might enhance the spiritual, community and business life of the Meeting. Additional discussion ensued and all present approved the formation of the "Committee on Structures." Nominating Committee was asked to identify members for this committee and to work closely with Karen Dillon and Bob Brookes to ensure that the vision of the committee be realized. Committee members are Bob, Karen, Lisa Boyell, Ceil McFadden, Bill Patterson and Sarah Greenblatt, but it is hoped that the whole Meeting will, at some time, become involved in the process.

Lisa Boyell presented the final Nominating Committee Report, as attached. The Meeting approved the report with gratitude for the work the committee has done over the past months.

Friends are advised not to rely on the asterisks on the new Committee Members list which are supposed to designate committee Clerks. Some of the Friends now serving as committee Clerk are leaving their committees for one reason or another or are resigning as Clerk.

Pam Perry presented the Finance Committee report and the preliminary Meeting budget, as attached. The final budget will be presented next month (June). The Meeting expressed gratitude to the Finance Committee for its hard

work and for continuing to focus attention on the Meeting's on-going need for financial support.

There was a lengthy discussion focused on finding ways of somehow increasing the Meeting's income.

The Clerk circulated the Quarterly Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer, John Donch, was not able to be at Meeting for Business. Questions regarding the report will be held until 6th month.

Peace and Social Concerns Annual Report will be held until next month.

Property Committee Annual Report will be held until next month.

Business meeting concluded with a brief period of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne R. Hoxie Heizer, Recording Clerk

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

Religious Education

The Religious Education Committee invites anyone who is interested in planning the Religious Education program for our younger members on May 31 at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium. We plan to consider two major topics: implementation of a new curriculum that Inspira Williams and Tanya Hogan have been working on for some time, and a proposal for a change in approach to handling the programs for children and young people.

The schedule for the final weeks of First Day School is as follows:

May 31: Final classes for everyone. Adult FDS will focus on an evaluation that has been prepared about the FDS program this past year. We plan to hear suggestions for the coming year.

June 7: Closing exercises, followed by a pot luck picnic for everyone at Taylor Farm in

Cinnaminson where Kitty and Takashi Mizuno live. Please contact us if you could bring an outdoor grill, large coolers for drinks, or large tables (a large board to put on sawhorses would be fine.)

Friends Summer Gospel Study

The Friends Gospel Study group will begin meeting again this summer, starting Sunday, June 21st following coffee hour after the rise of meeting. We will continue to meet at this time through the summer months until First Day School resumes in the fall.

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 books will be available at the Meeting House, but they may also be ordered through ChristianBook.com.

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."

For more information, please contact Francie Pagell at francieonavon@comcast.net or Gary Smith at smith.g.j@comcast.net.

Correction

The April newsletter included a thank you from the Library Committee that should have acknowledged Henry Watson as well as David Gallivan for the generous donation to the library, including children's books from his parents' estate.

Donations Appreciated

The Wise Women at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility sent a beautiful, handmade card to HMM that offered thanks and superlative praise for donations of books and supplies.

Volunteers Needed for Children's Summer Sessions

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to create an incredible Sessions experience for children. No experience is needed. The Children's Sessions Planning Group and PYM staff will support volunteers with an orientation/retreat in July, curricula plans and activities, and fellowship with other Children's Sessions staff. The Children's Sessions focus this year is earth care. Children's Sessions volunteers receive a fee waiver covering up to the full cost of attending Sessions. There are different levels of time commitment. Find one that works for you and join us as we worship, play, and learn about earth care in the Spirit! Contact Children's Sessions Coordinator Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt: childrensessions@pym.org (215) 241-7236.

Among Friends

Our dear Friend David Gallivan has arrived in Africa and he invites us to read his blog at www.blogspot.com. Look for davininsudan@blogspot.com.

Evaluation – Religious Education Classes for Haddonfield Monthly Meeting (2009)

The questionnaire on the final two pages of this newsletter will be collected and discussed at the final First Day School session of the year on May 31. This year's questionnaire asks for a broader range of input, exploring ideas that may suggest changes for next year. We would appreciate everyone's input so that the Religious Education programming will benefit everyone.

Religious Education Questionnaire

First Day School last year

What were your favorite adult First Day programs during the past year? What made them stand out?

What adult First Day School programs last year were not appealing or had specific problems? Please explain why, and offer suggestions on how to avoid these problems in the future.

Which program(s) most helped to deepen your faith/spiritual understanding? Why?

Which program(s) most strengthened the Meeting community? Why?

Topics and activities for next year

Please offer your suggestions for next year – this might include offering intergenerational activities; building new skills; or having presentations/discussions about Quaker organizations, current issues, or spiritual themes.

Factors influencing attendance at First Day School

How many adult First Day school programs did you attend?

For those times when you do not attend First Day school, what are the primary reasons? What might be done to address these reasons, so you could attend more often?

Would you support the idea of having First Day school two times each month and setting aside one First Day for committee meetings and book groups? Would this increase your attendance/participation at First Day programs? Why/why not?

Would you be more likely to stay for First Day school if it started immediately after the rise of meeting?

Would you come early for hospitality, say 9:00 AM?

If you came early for hospitality, would you also stay for First Day school if it began promptly after the rise of meeting?

First Day School for youth

Are you a parent or do you have family/friends attending First day school?

What are the most important things for the children to learn in First Day school?

We need new FDS teachers! Would you be willing to teach, or periodically assist with First Day School for our youth?

Note to Committee clerks and members: Please indicate below or contact Linda Lotz if/when you would like to schedule one or more First Day programs next year.

PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE FOLDER IN THE FOYER OR EMAIL TO LLOTZ25@HOTMAIL.COM.