



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

Meeting for Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday
9:15 a.m. Wednesday

Volume 52 No. 6
February 2006

From Worship and Ministry

Spiritual Aspects of Meeting Membership

In February, 2005, Haddonfield Friends Business Meeting requested the Worship & Ministry Committee to prepare Statements of Principle on Worship, Business and Membership. Worship and Ministry met in worship sharing to consider these things, the notes of which were recorded and edited to prepare these documents. Below is the Statement concerning Meeting membership.

Haddonfield Friends Meeting is a community of men and women seeking spiritual growth and who have come together to share their spiritual journey. We grow through the experience of direct revelation, finding the Divine Presence in our midst. Therefore, our worship is a Divine Communion, being one with God and with one another.

Our experience shows that there is that of God within all of us. Thus, we can find guidance from our own Inward Teacher. We also seek to learn from the journey of others. We find the wisdom gained by the journey of others often shines through for all of us to learn and benefit.

As we journey together, we find our most common quality is our diversity. We come from different backgrounds and hold different views. In order for our community to thrive, our spiritual center must be greater than our differing backgrounds, viewpoints and concerns. We are therefore challenged to find unity in our diversity.

We find that getting beyond the needs and desires

that often define ourselves improves the quality of our worship and spiritual journey. We seek to gather all into our worship. We acknowledge and hold in the Light all others with whom we worship.

Friends are asked to be faithful to our ideals and testimonies beyond their time in worship. We must not only express our ideals in words but also to give testimony by our actions for all to see, and to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

Coffee and Hospitality for February

Library Committee

Upcoming Events

February 4 — Meetinghouse Maintenance Workshop
9 a.m. Arch Street Meeting House. **February 18 — Vitality Among Friends**
See article on page 3.

February 24-26 — Young Friends Environmental Gathering. Contact Cookie Caldwell at cookiec@pym.org or 215-241-7222.

February 25 — Singing City Choir Winter Youth Concert
7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church, 17th & Sansom Streets, Philadelphia. Singing City Choir (featuring our own Deedy Roberts) will be joined by area high school choirs in this concert. See Deedy for ticket information.

February 26 — Quarterly Meeting at Westfield
See article on page 3.

Looking Ahead

The Multigenerational Women's Retreat that was scheduled for March 3-5 has been postponed indefinitely.

March 5 — Celebration of Friends International Center in Ramallah. 2-4 p.m. Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia. Meet Jean Zaru, clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting, Palestine, and Kathy Bergen, program coordinator of the new Friends International Center in Ramallah.

March 25 — PYM one-day session. See article on page 3.

March 31-April 2 — Conference for Racial Justice and Equality, Burlington Meeting House Conference Center. See article on page 3.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business January 8, 2006

Some 31 Friends were in attendance. The Meeting began with a period of worship. The Clerk (Alternate Clerk, Steve Berryhill) read from *Faith and Practice* — a passage from "Social Responsibility and Witness," p. 210.

Connie Brookes delivered the correspondence report. Highlights:

- There are several interesting programs from PYM, including a threshing session on the PYM budget, a teachers' workshop on confronting bullying and a Meetinghouse maintenance program.
- Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting has asked us to appoint Friends to some of the HQM committees.
- We have a "Thank you" note from Vanessa Julye for our financial support for her ministry.

The Friendship Committee's annual report is held over until February. The Library Committee's annual report is held over until February.

For the Education Fund Committee, Steve Berryhill presented the committee's first annual report. Steve's report was accepted with thanks. Steve spoke passionately about his committee's fund-raising activities and with appreciation for the time and effort contributed by committee members and others. Committee members, besides Steve, are Sal Scafidi, Tim and Tanya Hogan, Cindy Kolaski, Shayna Riddle, Lisa

Whittington, Bob Bashoff and Tracy Carpenter. He appealed for more help from other Meeting members, pointing out the long-term benefit to the Meeting. Steve reported on his application for a Tyson Fund Grant and on the results. This is a challenge grant; for every \$3 contributed over the next 3 years, up to a total of \$15,000, we would receive \$1. Meeting members are encouraged to contribute in any way possible (including fund-raising ideas), in order to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Pat Williams presented the results of the discussion at a meeting on January seventh, of Finance, School, and Education Fund Committees. It was agreed that it is essential for Meeting families accepting tuition aid to either pay by June 1st all tuition still due or be enrolled in AMS before the beginning of school in September. Meeting approved circulating the questionnaire. This applies to the school year of 2006-2007. Parents are also expected to attend Meeting for Worship, contribute service to the school and/or Haddonfield Meeting and make a financial contribution to Meeting.

In Scott Buchheit's absence, the Clerk presented the Monthly Meeting Recorder's annual report as attached. There was an increase of 3 members plus 3 children who reached majority (21 years). The report was accepted as amended.

Lisa Boyell for Nominating Committee reported that Kitty Mizuno has been nominated for Religious Education Committee. The nomination will be held over for one month.

Connie Brookes raised a concern about kitchen equipment and maintenance of the kitchen and auditorium. These problems were referred to Friendship and Property Committees.

The Clerk reminded Friends that at February Meeting for Business, the Treasurer's Quarterly Report, Children's Inclusion Committee Report and Finance Committee Report on Friends Fiduciary Investment are scheduled. Also the annual report of Worship and Ministry has been held over from January.

Respectively submitted,
Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

Religious Education

February 5 — Niyonu Spann, Dean at Pendle Hill, will speak about how the following Pennington message speaks to her:

“Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything, and sink down to the seed which God sews in thy heart and let that be in thee, and grow in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee, and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of life, which is his portion.”

Isaac Pennington

February 12 — Monthly Meeting for Business, no adult First Day School.

February 19 — Gary Smith will lead a discussion exploring the relationship between self-examination, meditation and prayer.

February 26 — There will be no First Day School activities. Families are encouraged to attend Quarterly Meeting at Westfield. *See below.*

Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting

Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting will be held on February 26 at Westfield Meeting. Come worship with and meet other Friends in the Quarter.

Agenda

10:00 — Meeting for Worship

11:00 — Business Meeting. Quarterly budget, nominating committee, and consideration of minutes coming to Yearly Meeting will be discussed. A presentation will be given on Afghanistan and Medford Meeting’s project to raise funds to build a school there through American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Os Cresson, who lived in Afghanistan as a child, and members of Medford Meeting active with the school project and AFSC will speak. Lunch, provided by Westfield Meeting, will follow business meeting.

Earlham Program on the Bible

Earlham School of Religion will be coming to the Philadelphia area to explore “Vitality Among Friends” in a series of day-long conferences. The theme for 2006 is “Reading Sacred Texts as Friends.” The first

event will be on the Bible, with plenary sessions and workshops. It will be Saturday, February 18, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House. On March 25, a session on examining early Quaker journals will be held at Westtown School, Westtown, PA. Looking at Non-Christian Sacred Texts will be the topic on April 15 at George School, Newtown, PA.

Special PYM Session is March 25

On Saturday, March 25, there will be a special session of PYM devoted to examining how we can create a brighter future for the Religious Society of Friends in this region. All Friends are invited to this session at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House.

Over the last few years PYM has undertaken several projects to enrich our shared spiritual lives, build up our Meetings as communities of faith, and help Meetings reach out to the world. The purpose of this special session is to share the learning of these projects, hear the stories of Meetings developing greater vitality, look at key challenges our Meetings face, and share specific approaches and skills that can be useful to building stronger Meetings. The day will include worship, speakers, discussions, workshops, and some unusual opportunities for Friends to share, learn, and have fun together.

Conference for Racial Justice and Equality

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality within the Religious Society of Friends, along with Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM), and New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), will host the First Annual North American Conference for Racial Justice and Equality within the Religious Society of Friends on the weekend of March 31–April 2. It will be held at the Burlington Meeting House Conference Center.

Guided by the question “Are We Being Faithful To Our Testimony?” the conference format includes shared worship, caucuses, experience sharing and yes, fun. Because of the importance and impact of this issue, high school Friends will be participants in the program. A special program is also being developed for children under the age of 14.

The registration fee is \$130 per person, which includes accommodations and meals (except for Saturday night).

Children 13 and under are charged \$65. The maximum fee for families is \$300. Deadline for registration is February 28.

Gatherings for Extended Worship

The winter gathering on Worship, Ministry, and Eldering will take place Saturday, February 25 from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. at Central Philadelphia Meeting. The entire morning will be given to unprogrammed worship. Afternoon is an opportunity to reflect and share on a theme that emerges from the morning worship, a time to find fellowship in the deep matters of the Spirit. All those who feel a call to ministry of any sort, including eldering, or who are longing for a deeper experience of Quaker worship are welcome to attend. Child care will be available if reserved one week in advance. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Quaker Pilgrimage to England in July

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Education Standing Committee is sponsoring a Pilgrimage to the Lake District in England from July 6–20 this summer. British Friends call the Lake District the 1652 Country because it was there that Quakerism began. British Friends will guide the PYM pilgrims to see the places where George Fox, Margaret Fell, and early Friends gathered, suffered, and were inspired. They will visit Pendle Hill, Swarthmore Hall, Lancaster jail, and other important sites of the earliest Friends Meetings. The cost of \$2,450 includes airfare, lodging, meals and transport for the first week. The second week will be open for people to travel on their own. Register by March 15.

A Message from a Visiting Friend

On January 15th, two visiting Friends joined us in Meeting. They were both dressed in traditional Quaker manner (black and wearing wide-brimmed hats). One of the men, Chip Thomas, a member of Marlborough MM of Western Quarter of PYM, rose and gave this message. I thought other Friends might like to read it. Jayne

Friends, I have a concern that I have carried for some time now, and I hope that you can be comfortable with me if I lay it before you here today. Now, few would disagree with the historical fact that Quakerism has Christian roots. But, what is also true is that

BOOK LIGHTS

*By Judy Kruger
For Library Committee*



Now's your chance to make suggestions for additions to the HMM library! Committee members will soon go to Philadelphia to purchase new books at the Friends General Conference Bookstore. What titles for children, youth, or adults do you suggest for our library? Contact Jayne Stokes or Mary Berger.

This month I happily present two delightful books for kids ages 1 to 100 in which Quakerism and animals play important parts.

“My name is Benjamin Mouse. I was born in a Quaker meetinghouse on potluck day, shortly before desert. My parents were not Quakers, however. They were just passing through, and had stopped in for a bite to eat. When they moved on, I stayed behind enjoying some leafy vegetables and a bit of rice. I've lived here ever since, and that makes me a ‘mouse in residence.’”

Benjamin The Meetinghouse Mouse
by Benjamin as told to Clifford Pfeil

“Wherever Obadiah went, a sea gull was following him. It followed him all the way to the candle maker's, and it was waiting for him when he came out of the shop. When he was sent to the wharf for a fresh codfish, it hopped along behind him. And at night when he went to bed, he could see it from his window. There it was, perched on the chimney of the shed, facing into the wind. Of all the sea gulls on Nantucket Island, why did this one go everywhere Obadiah went?”

Thy Friend, Obadiah
by Brinton Turkle

One more note about books: If anyone else is moved to write about something they borrowed from the HMM Library, your words are welcome and encouraged. I'd love this column to be a spark!

Quakerism, at its heart, even today, is a Christian religion. If this does not seem right to some Friends, it is clear that the reasons are not so much the changes that we in the Society of Friends have gone through, but that too many of those that profess Christianity

have moved away from the true spirit of Christ. Too many prefer to see Jesus, not as a humble and tender lamb, but as a roaring lion. And, as in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, this Lion is seen at the head of a vast army that proudly bears the sword. The problem with this interpretation of Christ is that it is too easy to use it to get wrapped up in earthly battles, where violence begets violence, and evil is met with evil instead of overcoming evil with good. When the very first Quakers encountered this contradiction they responded with our first public peace testimony. In it, they declared that “The Spirit of Christ, which leads us to all Truth, would never lead us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for the Kingdoms of this world. Therefore we cannot learn war any more.”

It is the choice of words that these Friends unabashedly brought to bear on this issue that brings me to the crux of my concern. For while Fox and early Friends midwived a rebirth of true Christianity, we on the other hand shudder to consider the truth that this title applies also to us. We stumble over the word Christ as though the misuse of that word over the centuries could have possibly have changed the loving and tender spirit that lies behind it. But we are no strangers to this loving spirit. It gathers us to worship. It is present, here, in our midst, today. And we all know, first hand, that living in the power and the presence of this Spirit takes away the occasion for all wars. For the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of Love. And by whatever name you call it, the Spirit of Love is the Way, the Truth and the Life. For truly only Love has the power to break the bow and shatter the spear. And only in the strong arms of Love can we be carried across the river Jordan and into the Promise Land.

It is my longstanding and deep-seated concern that both the Society of Friends and the society at large will suffer a great loss if we lay aside our spiritual heritage. But I am willing ... I am even eager to admit that finding just the right name to call the Spirit is not nearly so important as establishing a relationship with it. On the other hand, as we establish and maintain this relationship, it is not a bad exercise to try to find the words to describe it. I have found no better words than those of the 13th chapter of First Corinthians. And if Friends can tolerate me just a few minutes longer I should like to share these words with you now.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flame, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became grown, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

But for now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

And the greatest of these is love.

Treasurers Workshop March 11

Treasurers and Finance Committee members of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are invited to discuss their work on Saturday, March 11, from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. For more information, contact Connie Brookes at Friends Fiduciary (215-241-7272 or cabfidcorp@aol.com) or Kathy Reilly at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (215-241-7205 or kathyr@pym.org). In case of inclement weather, messages will be posted on both phones indicating the new date for the workshop.

China Summer Workcamp Accepting Applications

Are you looking for a life-changing adventure this summer? The sixth annual China Summer Workcamp — July 24 to August 20 — is looking for participants. Workcamp participants will travel to the Hunan province in rural central China. For three weeks, participants will join Chinese, Korean and Japanese volunteers in teaching English and environmental studies to local children. Visit <http://www.pym.org/workcamp/China/china.htm> to download the application and find more information about the program. Applications must be received by March 15.

February Food Drive

The local Quaker community is again making food bags in February when the weather is cold and food is scarce. Please join Friends Meetings and Friends Schools so that we can make food bags for approximately 100 people. The food bags will be donated to New Visions in Camden.

Non-perishable food donations will be collected through February 8th. Westfield Meeting's Young People's Peace Group will pack the food bags on the 10th and they will be delivered to people in Camden the following week.

Read Any Good Books?

The Library Committee is starting a book swap program. If you have a book that you think Friends might want to read, leave it in the box in the library. Any subject or age level will be accepted except textbooks and books in poor condition (no mold, please). After you've read your selection, you may keep it or return it to the box for someone else to read.

Sky Dark, Small Stars

Sky dark, small stars I only
wish the music to be there, rising
faint or bright above Orion

or singing here. Seven sisters not
seen so bright, up this slope
the snow is crossed by light

tire tracks and worn by trees'
shadows crossing at each
side; there is no breeze;

the snow squeaks beneath my
feet in this cold February night.

Daniel Picker

February 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	2	3	4
5 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am First Day School	6	7	8 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	9	10	11
12 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Meeting for Business 11:05 am RE Committee	13	14 7:30 pm Care Committee	15 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Prop. Committee	16 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	17	18
19 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am First Day School 12 noon covered dish	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY	21	22 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	23	24	25
26 10 am Quarterly Meeting at Westfield 9 am Ad Hoc group on Racial Justice and Equality 10 am Meeting for Worship	27	28				