



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 52 No. 10
June 2006

From Worship and Ministry

Editor's Note: Marshall Massey, a Nebraska Friend and frequent contributor to this newsletter, is walking from Nebraska to Harrisonburg, VA and the summer sessions of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Along the way, he is seeking unity that Friends may act together on the environment. A letter from Marshall to our meeting has been posted on the Peace & Social Concerns bulletin board. In the article below, he writes how this leading became clear to him. This article was posted on his web site, <http://journal.earthwitness.org>, which he will update as he travels.

When It Became Clear, and Why

By Marshall Massey

It's time to resume that exploration of how we know when we're led. Let me speak a bit of my own present case.

I was invited to address this summer's sessions of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, as one of its keynote speakers, about a year ago. I felt clear to accept the invitation almost immediately. But for months after I accepted, I wasn't clear at all about what God might wish me to say. I groped and pondered for inspiration, but remained utterly empty.

And then, in October of last year, what seemed like a leading came to me: that I must walk from my home in Omaha, Nebraska, to Baltimore's sessions in Harrisonburg, Virginia, before giving my talk, as a form of spiritual preparation. I felt clear that, in the course of the walk, I'd be opened to the words that would be needed.

This sense of leading came out of the blue — I had had no previous intimation of it. And it terrified me. The length of the walk, the arduousness of it, the risks, the costs, the inevitable privations, the fact that I'd lose my job, all felt overwhelming. Moreover the theatrical element in it led me to mistrust it as a possibly lunatic urge.

I turned to my Monthly Meeting for clearness. And the Meeting and I struggled together over the question of how one distinguishes between a genuine leading and a pseudo-leading.

There are tests of leadings, which have been known to Friends for many generations:

1. Is the leading consistent with Christ's teachings, with the manner he used in dealing with others in the course of his life, and with the values we find embodied in his teachings and life? A genuine leading will be consistent with these things, though the consistency may be hard to recognize at first, as the leadings given early Friends to preach to the public were sometimes hard for their listeners to recognize as Christian. A false leading may be clearly inconsistent, or may only seem to be consistent.
2. What sort of fruits does the leading seem likely to bear? Are they thoroughly good? A genuine leading won't bear fruits that aren't thoroughly good, because God does not will anything that is not thoroughly good. (Of course, a genuine leading might bear fruits that seem crazy at first, but lead to good fruits in the end. One thinks of Stephen Grellet preaching to the deserted lumber camp, seeing no sense in doing so, and a person coming up to him years later, saying he'd heard from back in the woods where Grellet couldn't see him, and had been converted.)
3. Does the leading indulge the person's own desires or ambitions? Or is it a cross to those things? A genuine leading won't indulge desire or self-will — though it may be consistent with the higher hopes and wishes of the person given the leading — and it may cross (that is, contradict) the person's desires and will utterly. A false leading may clearly indulge desires or self-will, or may only seem to cross them.

If these tests seem difficult to apply, it's because they truly are. Easy judgments of other people's leadings are

frequently wrong; I have been wrong about others' leadings at times, and others have been wrong about mine.

So my Monthly Meeting had its work cut out for it.

We spent five weeks of labor on the question of whether my leading was genuine. During that time, my Meeting found some potential pitfalls — things that I definitely needed to watch out for in myself, and be careful of, should I proceed; but it found no evidence that I'd actually fallen into any of those pitfalls. And in the end, while the Meeting felt that my leading passed all the tests listed above, we all realized that this still wasn't enough: for we saw that my sense of leading might pass all these outward tests, so far as we could determine, and yet still be inwardly from myself rather than from God.

This recognition — that the outward tests were not enough — brought us to a standstill, and at this point we floundered, although we were still talking.

But I then felt moved to say, "Let's go back to the beginning. Let me talk about the context in which I felt this leading." And I began to say a few sentences about the context — and people started hearing something, and suddenly, very quickly, one after another, they said words to the effect of yes, this leading is real.

What was it that suddenly convinced them? In the space of those few sentences, I had apparently allowed a bit of the same thing I myself had felt, when the sense of leading came to me, to come through and be visible to others more clearly. The Meeting could now feel God's direction behind the leading, the same direction that I had felt previously.

Unfortunately, that is still a rather unsatisfactory answer, because it begs the question of how we recognize God's direction. How did we know that what we were encountering was God?

How could we know? How could anyone know?

I've been thinking hard of late about how to answer such questions, you see. And the answer lies, I now think, in how we listen to God.

We Friends find God in the place of conscience, as the Voice that teaches us right from wrong, good from bad, kind from unkind, upward from downward: the Voice that, at the rawest beginning of our spiritual journey, condemns us when we have done something egregiously wrong, or approves and gives us a sense of peace when we have done something selflessly right at cost to ourselves.

This bare beginning experience of being condemned and approved is merely a seed of something much more wonderful. If we cultivate our sensitivity to that Voice, by listening for it and keeping faith with it when it comes to us, our sensitivity can become great enough in that we start intuiting right and wrong ways forward even in muddled situations, even without knowing why they are right or wrong. Thus, again, the case of Stephen Grellet in the lumber camp, and many other stories of like character in our Society's history.

I believe that this was what was involved when my Meeting gave its approval to my sense of leading. We knew the leading was genuine because, at some level, we could finally feel it came from the same Voice that teaches us right from wrong, upward from downward. We had trouble seeing that it was genuine because our powers of discernment are modest. But I think we had a little divine help there at the end.

What this says to me is that leadings are neither so extraordinary, nor so mysterious, as what we sometimes make them out to be. Every time we know that a given course of action would be wrong, or that a given course of action is really what's needed to make things better, that's a leading. We go through life constantly being handed leadings, if only we are willing to notice the fact. Leadings are not something that only great saints get; they are actually just about as natural as breathing is.

It's just that leadings aren't normally so all-fired dramatic.

And thank Heaven for that! — for we generally need the consolations of undramatic lives.

Coffee and Hospitality for Summer

Volunteers are needed to provide hospitality during the summer months. Please sign up on the chart on the bulletin board.

Upcoming Events

June 3 — Called Session of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

9 AM coffee and fellowship, 9:30 AM–1 PM session. Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. All Meeting members and attenders are invited to come together to enjoy each other in worship and business. In particular, we gather to consider the Treasurer's report, to consider the approval of the annual budget, to hear the membership statistics, to approve the annual slate from Nominating Committee (approval of clerks will come at residential sessions in July), and to hear the annual report

of Friends Fiduciary Corporation. We will also consider the ways in which we come together as a Yearly Meeting community, in terms of purposes and places and times. This will inform further discussion at Residential Yearly Meeting in July.

June 25 — Clean-up at the Meeting House

Please join Property Committee at the rise of Meeting for this late spring clean-up of the Meeting House and grounds. Bring rakes, brooms, buckets, etc. and help make the Meeting House shine.

June 25 — Quarterly Meeting

Atlantic City Meeting. Worship at 10 AM, business Meeting at 11 AM. A picnic will follow — please bring your own lunch and the Meeting will provide a beverage and dessert. Archana Gour (an Indian Quaker) and Viv Hawkins will give a program entitled “Quaker Service Among Mid-India Tribal People.” The program will be about 30 minutes in length followed by time for questions. Directions: When heading east on Rt. 30, turn left on Jimmie Leeds Road. Go past Stockton College and hospital to light at Pitney Road. Go right and the Meeting House is about ½ mile and on the right.

Looking Ahead

July 8 — Burial Ground Clean-up

The Fair Hill Burial Ground summer clean-up will be held from 10 AM to noon. Come and help with clipping, weeding, and planting in the burial ground and nearby community gardens. This Quaker burial ground is located at Germantown Avenue and Cambria Streets in North Philadelphia.

July 23 — Peace and Justice Potluck Picnic

4–7 PM at the Taylor Farm in Cinnaminson. Please bring a potluck meal contribution plus your concerns about countering the impacts of militarism in our lives. Sponsored by the PYM working group Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns.

July 25–30 — Residential Yearly Meeting

DeSales University, Center Valley, PA. Information and registration are available online at the PYM web site, www.pym.org. There is a \$5 discount per adult registrant for online registration. Registration deadline is July 3. For any inquiries, please contact the Residential Yearly Meeting coordinator, Sue Makler, at 1-800-220-0796, x7238 or registrar@pym.org.

July 28–30 — Basic Quakerism Weekend

Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA. Inquirers’ Weekends are designed for Meeting attenders, new members and anyone else interested in an introduction to Quaker faith and practice. Leaders will be Mary Ellen Chijioke, library director at Guilford College, and Trayce N. Peterson, director of campus and Quaker ministries at Earlham College. PYM and Pendle Hill co-sponsor two Inquirers’ Weekends per year.

August 11–12 — Teacher training in conflict resolution

Contact Elke Muller at 215-241-7223 or elkem@pym.org for more information.

September 16 — Quaker Arts Conference

9:30 AM–4:30 PM. Burlington Conference Center is holding this first ever Quaker Arts Conference, sponsored by The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts. It will feature an artist show and hands-on workshops on painting, historical impersonation, photography, self-publishing, auto harp, historical fiction writing, self-expression, knitting and more. There will also be performances and a luncheon, as well as a day of fellowship with Quaker artists and art-enthusiasts!

September 29–October 1 — Tri-Quarter Gathering

“Faith in the Moment: Building Tomorrow Together” is the theme of this year’s Tri-Quarter Gathering at Camp Ockanickon in Medford, NJ. Having faith in the moment means we trust our connection to the Divine, that we are open to signs and wonders and the still, small voice within. At Tri-Quarter Gathering, we enrich ourselves and each other with our words, our actions and the fruits of the sacred silence. To receive information about the many inspiring work. Visit www.triquarter.org for continuing updates.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business May 12, 2006

Some 17 Friends were in attendance. The Meeting began with period of worship.

Connie Brookes presented the correspondence report — highlights include:

- During the period between the resignation of Tom Jeavons and the search for a new Yearly Meeting Clerk, the PYM Transition Project Group wants to hear from all voices and perspectives as they consider how to define this critical role. Four sessions will be

held in various geographical areas during May and June. The schedule is on the bulletin board. (*See the article on page 5 of the newsletter — ed.*)

- Information on PYM Residential Yearly Meeting is arriving in everyone's home. Be on the lookout.
- On the table in the foyer are copies of the application for the "Reverend John B. Dicks Memorial Scholarship," awarded annually to an African American male or female who attends church in, or resides in, Haddonfield Borough. They are due May 19.
- We have received an invitation from the Historical Society of Haddonfield to the Founders Day Celebration in tribute to Elizabeth Haddon on June 11. There will be a Service of Commemoration at our Meeting House at 2 PM, followed by a garden reception at Greenfield Hall (the Historical Society). RSVPs are requested. The suggested donation of \$35. is to benefit the Historical Society. (*More below on this event.*)

Connie presented a corporate resolution to authorize new signers for PNC Bank and for our Vanguard Money Market account. Friends approved. This authorization remains in effect until the Meeting approves new or additional signers.

For Nominating Committee, Lisa Boyell presented a final slate of committee membership. Friends approved with appreciation to Nominating Committee.

For Care Committee, Diane Snyder presented the committee's annual report (carried over from April). Friends accepted the report with thanks.

Friends approved the application of the Lyons family for membership in Haddonfield Monthly Meeting. The application was held over from last month, as is customary. The welcoming committee, Gary Smith and Bob and Connie Brookes will visit the family — Julie, Mike, Bridget and Will.

Friends approved the application of Diana Alvarado. Care Committee will arrange with Maria for a welcoming committee on a Sunday after Meeting For Worship.

The committee's recommendation to release Michael Boyell from membership (held over for one month) was considered. Friends approved. The Clerk will write a letter to Michael.

Since January of this year, the Meeting has suffered the loss of several valued members. Many of their family members have expressed their deep appreciation for

the sensitive and loving care from the Memorial and Graveyard Committee during the period of stress and great sorrow at the loss of their loved ones, and for the beautiful and comforting Memorial Services. In recognition of the enormous amount of time and hard work that has gone into preparation of these Memorial Services, Friends approved a Minute of Appreciation to the members of the Memorial and Graveyard Committee.

Connie read a Minute of Appreciation for Therese Barringer for her four years of service on the School Committee and for her ongoing participation in the life of the School. Friends approved the Minute.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee annual report is held over until August. For the Property Committee, Stuart Harris presented the committee's annual report. Friends accepted the report with thanks.

There will be a transition period of adjustment while Diane Marini gradually assumes responsibility for the care of the Meeting House and grounds.

For the Finance Committee, Pam Perry presented the Monthly Meeting's Preliminary Monthly Meeting Budget. The final budget will be presented in June.

Bob Brookes, Meeting Clerk, read the Quarterly Report he had prepared to send to the Quarterly Meeting. The report was approved.

For Worship & Ministry Committee, Gary Smith suggested that, since there will be many non-Quakers at the Meeting House for the Historical Society's Founders Day Celebration (*see correspondence report*), We should have a member of Meeting here to greet visitors and talk about Elizabeth Haddon. He and Bob Brookes volunteered. Other Friends are encouraged to attend. The HSH contact person is Craig Ebner.

The PYM campaign for its General Fund is looking for volunteers to man the phones at a phonathon on May 25. Contact Elizabeth Foley.

Summer Meetings for Business will be held June 11 and August 13. There is no Meeting for Business in July.

Friends and regular Attenders may request copies of the complete minutes from the Recording Clerk at joanne@synchcorp.com or 856-429-9186.

The Summer History Project at Camp Onas

Since its days on the banks of the Neshaminy Creek in the 1920s, Camp Onas has created rich summer memories for young people. This summer, the board of directors, staff, and campers of Camp Onas will collect, organize and celebrate those memories. The Summer History Project will include teaching campers to record oral history and inviting past campers, staff and directors to tell their stories; a camper exchange with Camp Dark Waters to celebrate our historical relationship; digitizing old photos, slides and videos; creating a permanent time line; and building a large mural showing the past, present and future vision of Camp Onas.

Friends connected with Camp Onas are invited to participate. We are especially looking for Friends who attended Camp Onas prior to 1969. Please send your memories and photos (they will be returned after processing) to Camp Onas, 609 Geigel Hill Road, Ottsville, PA 18942.

The Summer History Project will conclude with a celebration on the last Sunday of summer camp, August 13, beginning with Meeting for Worship at 10 AM, followed by lunch, presentations and viewing of the results of the Summer History Project. For more information visit www.camponas.org.

Sue Neiger Gould, Director of Camp Onas

Input Sought in Search for New PYM General Secretary

Subsequent to Thomas Jeavons' resignation as PYM General Secretary and prior to the search for his successor, a Transition Project Group has been appointed by Interim Meeting to review the General Secretary job description and the PYM administrative structure of which it is such an integral part.

The Project Group hopes to hear from all voices and perspectives as we consider how to define this critical role in a way that best serves the Yearly Meeting, including Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. Clearly, the voices of Friends from throughout the Yearly Meeting are crucial.

With this in mind, a small sub-group has scheduled four sessions on different dates and on different sites for the purpose of hearing the ideas, experiences, concerns, perspectives, and visions of individual Friends on the role of General Secretary in the Yearly Meeting structure. At least two members of the Transition Project Group will

be present at each session. We will be happy to describe how we are approaching our task. But most importantly, we will come to listen!

One of the sessions will be held June 4 at Burlington Conference Center at 4 PM. The Transition Project Group would also be happy to hear from Friends by mail or e-mail. Comments can be sent via e-mail to tpg@pym.org or c/o Transition Project Group at PYM, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

*Jackie Bowers and Warren Witte, Co-Clerks
Transition Project Group*

A Visit from HFS Kindergarten to Rafael Cordero Molina School

Deedy Roberts

As a result of a push by the school committee to get meeting members into our school, I have been visiting in Teacher Marietta's kindergarten class most of the year. On alternate Thursdays I've gone to my old Camden public school, Rafael Cordero Molina, where I taught ESL until retirement. During the visits I developed a friendly tutorial relationship with the children through reading and encouraging school-related activities. This included the creation of a "Flat Stanley" doll by each child. The dolls have been played with by their own creator and have been sent for a "photo op" with a buddy from the other school. They each carry a little backpack of photos and easy-to-read description. In some ways this resembled a "pen pal" program but instead of letters the students shared dolls. Both teachers, Maureen Fulcher and Marietta Hanigan, began fervently wishing for an actual meeting. The vice principal of Molina put it all together in an instant when I spoke of it casually to him one day. "It's easy," Mr. Medley said, "Just bring your children here. The cars can easily be parked on the lot. The neighboring Northgate Park can easily be reserved — draw up a good plan for the principal to approve and have your lovely day." His clear thinking made it all so doable. The next time I walked into Molina the manager of the park walked in at the same instant. The principal saw us both, walked us around to the teacher and the day was on track.

One of Marietta's students really should have credit for the beginning of this dream. As we were making the dolls he asked, "Is this for peace?" Yes Chris, it is.

The visit was not a long visit as the children are very little, but it matched our happiest expectations. Betsy Burger,

BOOK LIGHTS

By Judy Kruger
For Library Committee



Our Wonderful New Library Books Have Arrived!

FOR KIDS

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig (Eugene Trivizas/ Helen Oxenbury). A hilarious skewed version of the traditional tale.

Rosa (Nikki Giovanni/Bryan Collier). The story of Rosa Parks' famous bus ride home in 1955.

My Book of Thanks (B.G.Hennessy/Hiroe Nakata). A charming little book about gratitude for daily gifts.

Rachel and Obadiah (Brinton Turkle). Two young Friends on colonial Nantucket Island race to see the ships.

And To Think That We Thought We'd Never Be Friends (Mary Ann Hoberman/Kevin Hawkes). A sibling squabble turns into the biggest, friendliest parade their town, their country, and the whole world have ever seen.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS:

Lives that Speak: Stories of Twentieth-Century Quakers (Religious Education Committee of FGC). Fifteen modern Friends speak to young people from 4th to 8th grade about living lives that express Quaker testimonies.

Whispers of Faith: Young Friends share their experiences of Quakerism (Quakers Uniting in Publication). A

collection of deeply-felt writing on worship, testimonies, communities, spiritual journeys, and walking on water. Contributors are young Friends worldwide.

Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality (J. Brent Bill). The well-known Friends minister reminds us with essays and exercises that silence is a dwindling resource that needs to be preserved for the sake of our souls.

Each of Us Inevitable: Some Keynote Addresses at Quaker Gatherings, 1977-1993 (Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns and FGC). 19 speakers, gay, straight, and other, consider how the contributions of LGBTQ persons are vital both among Friends and in the general society. Several local contributors are included.

The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith (Marcus J. Borg). A renowned Jesus scholar shows how we can live passionately as modern Christians by practicing the timeless elements of Christian faith.

Godless for God's Sake: Nontheism in Contemporary Quakerism (Ed. David Boulton). 27 essays from Quakers in 4 countries tell how they combine committed membership in the Religious Society of Friends with rejection of traditional belief in a transcendent, personal, and supernatural God.

The Barn at the End of the World: The Apprenticeship of a Quaker, Buddhist Shepherd (Mary Rose O'Reilly). A Buddhist/Catholic/Quaker seeks a spirituality of existing fully in the world in her year of tending sheep and then studying with Thich N'hat Hanh.

who teaches cooperative games, gave me several suggestions over the phone which we put to good use. We had getting-to-know-you circles. We played "Squirrel, squirrel, in the tree" and then we just played. There were balls and hoops and jungle gyms and basketball courts. There was a fence around the beautiful tree-filled park and a good park management office for the inevitable scraped knee. The teacher had the buddy children make pretzel and cookie men on a bed of chocolate frosting. That was the most popular activity. And, oh, how those children got along. They grabbed this delightful opportunity to make new friends, and make new friends they did.

Where does it go from here? Already Molina has said, "... and we want to come to Haddonfield next year."

Educators New to Quakerism

By Haddonfield Friends School Teachers Rhea Metz and Peggy Bretschneider

Pendle Hill, located on twenty-three acres in Wallingford, PA, is a beautiful wooded Quaker center for those seeking spiritual growth, study, and service. It was founded by Quakers in 1930 yet welcomes people from many different countries and faiths. Although Pendle Hill provides for those who stay for up to a year in the Resident Study Program, it also offers many short-term retreats and workshops for adults and young people.

We, Tr. Rhea and Tr. Peggy, attended a two-day seminar last week entitled "Educators New to Quakerism" presented by the Friends Council on Education, and

subsidized by Haddonfield Friends School. About thirty other Friends school teachers from as far away as New England and Oregon joined us for this wonderful opportunity to explore the history and background of Quakerism, to reflect upon what it is that makes a Friends school a Friends school, and to meet and share experiences and ideas with other teachers.

Rather than a formal creed, the Society of Friends possesses a common agreement on behavior; these agreed-upon actions are generally called their “testimonies.” One of our opening activities explored the major “testimonies of Friends,” the positive qualities of harmony, simplicity, community, and equality. We challenged and supported each other in discovering ways to make these manifest in our classrooms and schools. An excellent presentation on the history and background of Quakerism followed.

Quaker pedagogy made up the major portion of our second day. How we sustain the spirit in Quaker education was the focus of our reading, reflection, and evaluation. We came home with an extensive list of classroom strategies that extend and deepen learning, as well as strategies that are an outgrowth of Quaker thinking and behavior. These we can certainly share with our colleagues here at HFS.

Meeting for Worship with the Pendle Hill community and some (very little!) down time was included in our schedule, allowing us time to integrate our new learning and insights. Additionally, we were given time to socialize with newfound colleagues. Our kind and knowledgeable presenters, the warmth and hospitality of the staff, and the peace and beauty of the setting contributed to the spiritual enrichment and intellectual stimulation of our experience at Pendle Hill.

From the Library Committee

If you use the Meeting library, you are going to see some changes. The Library Committee had a clean-up day recently and moved some books around. The children’s books are now grouped together along the right-hand wall. The display rack contains picture books, while the bookcase has books grouped according to reading level. The sign-out desk has been moved to the corner and has a display of our newest books. (*See Judy’s column on page 6 for details.*) The built-in bookshelves around the room have also been reorganized. Last year, we arranged the books in categories, such as Quakerism, biography, etc. This year we’ve expanded the numbers of categories so that readers can zero in on the topic they want. We’re trying to make the library as user-friendly as possible, so more people will use it. With summer here, now’s the time to see what our library has to offer. Also check out our book swap box for some beach reading!

Teachers’ Fund Grants available

The T. Wistar Brown Teachers’ Fund supports members of PYM who are teaching at the primary or secondary school level and need help with financing further study to improve their training. The Fund also makes grants to PYM members who are over the age of 21 and studying to become teachers. **The deadline for applications for the Fall/Winter semester is June 10. .**

June 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 10 am Meeting for Worship	5	6	7 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 6:30 pm Frolic 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	8	9	10
11 9 am Peace & Soc. Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Meeting for Business	12	13 7:30 pm Care Committee	14 7 pm School Committee	15	16	17
18 10 am Meeting for Worship	19	20	21 7:30 pm Prop. Committee	22	23	24
25 10 am Quarterly Meeting at Atlantic City 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Clean-up	26	27	28	29	30	