



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

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From Worship and Ministry

Friend's Ministry of Prayer, Part 2

By Marshall Massey

And so where, then, did all this Friendly prayerfulness get lost?

From the 17th century to the 20th century, there seem to have been a number of times when Quaker ministry fell from the true freedom of the Spirit into routine patterns. In these times of fallenness, the same things would be said again and again, by minister after minister, week after week, year after year. No doubt this ministry was still spontaneous in the sense of being delivered in response to an immediate nudging from the Spirit, and being delivered moreover without forethought. But it was unspontaneous in the broader sense of being locked into a narrow, predictable pattern.

But then, from time to time, Friends would suddenly awaken to the realization that the world and their own hearts cried out for something fresher and freer — and they would reawaken, break out of the accustomed patterns into fresh life, into innovative responses to the world's new needs.

This happened, for example, in the eighteenth century American colonies, as Friends realized they had been lulled by prosperity into acquiescence in the wrongdoings of colonial society.

It happened again in the early-to-mid nineteenth century, with innovations that divided Friends into quarrelsome camps, Hicksite versus Orthodox, Gurneyite versus Wilburite. And it happened yet again in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as Friends realized that their distinctive, cloistered ways were cutting them off from compassionate ministry in the world.

In each of these periods of reawakening, Quaker ministry came alive, too, and Quaker writings acquired a new freshness and a new edge of insight.

I have heard an elderly Friend in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) imitate the ministry that still prevailed in her community during her early twentieth century childhood. It was sing-song and clichéd to the point of being funny; in fact, almost everyone in the room chuckled to hear it. You could feel, in the amused reaction of the meeting, a general agreement that this was a style that had fallen out of touch with the real concerns of Christ, and that Friends had been right to move on and leave it behind.

Well, in the twentieth century awakening from that most recent period of patterned ministry, the old custom of praying publicly in meeting somehow got left behind. I suspect it was because everyone realized that the old style of prayer, like the old style of ministry, had become mannered to the point of being somewhat crippled. What they really wanted in prayer was the complete freedom of the Spirit, as opposed to mannerism. They wanted it, when you get right down to it, for the same reason that they wanted to be more effective ministers to the age of two world wars.

This didn't mean that public prayer in meeting for worship ended altogether. But it did mean that vocal public prayer became rare, as Friends grappled with the question of how to be more authentic.

And yet what did not become rare at that time was silent, undramatized prayer in the meeting for worship. Countless unprogrammed Friends have told me at various times in the last thirty years that they were praying within themselves, fervently, at the meeting for worship that they (and I) had just attended. Indeed, I have so prayed myself at various meetings — silently, but with

all my heart. And I think it would be very wrong to assume that this sort of prayer did not count, merely because it was not spoken aloud in the meeting.

For the truth is, outward signs of prayer are not what matters. If I may quote the Catholic saint Francois de Sales on the subject:

“You tell me you do nothing at all in prayer. But what would you want to do that you are not already doing, that is, presenting and representing your nothingness and your misery to God? The most eloquent appeal that beggars make is to show us their sores and their neediness. But sometimes, you tell me, you can't even do that much and just stay there like a shadow or a statue. Well, that in itself is no small achievement. In the palaces of princes and kings there are statues that serve only to please the eye of the prince; be satisfied then to serve the same purpose in the presence of God. He will bring the statue to life when he chooses.”

And this silent sort of prayer — sometimes just standing like statues in need — is what yet prevails today. Even first-time visitors to meetings for worship seem to be naturally drawn to pray in such a way.

Coffee and Hospitality for March

Memorial and Graveyard Committee

Upcoming Events

March 3 — Our Media and a Healthy Democracy
7:30 PM at Swarthmore College, 101 Science Center. How fair is the media? How well does it serve our need for information to make responsible choices? How free is our “free press”? These are among the questions to be addressed by Roger Aronoff, executive secretary of Accuracy in Media; Bill Israel, a journalist and professor of journalism at the University of Massachusetts; and Renée Loth, op-ed editor of the *Boston Globe*. Sponsored by the Pendle Hill Peace Network. For more information, go to <http://phpeace.net/phpnev0405/index.html>.

March 5 — War Taxes & Conscience
12:30 – 3:30 PM, Arch Street Meeting House. See article on page 7.

March 11–13 — Developing Coalitions Across Race and Class

A weekend workshop at Pendle Hill led by George Lakey and Judith C. Jones. For more information, go to www.phpeace.net or www.pendlehill.org.

March 18 — Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues

12 PM. Fifth Annual Romero Center Lecture Series on Faith & Justice, Rutgers-Camden Law School.

12–2 PM: Film Screening: *Dead Man Walking*

2:15–3:15 PM: Panel discussions and workshops on criminal justice

6 PM: Lecture by anti-death penalty activist and author of *Dead Man Walking*, Sr. Helen Prejean.

For tickets or more information, call 856-964-9777.

March 18 –20 — Weekend Workcamp

A Workcamp is a unique educational experience that seeks to give a multi-dimensional view of inner city life by offering workcamp participants a variety of experiences which include meeting neighbors and working with them in their homes, attending services at a local church and going on a guided tour of West Philadelphia. Volunteers should be 15 or older. Cost is \$45 per weekend. Financial aid is available. Contact Arin Ahlum Hanson at 215-241-7236 or arinh@pym.org for more info and registration forms.

March 20 — Library Committee Used Book Sale.

More information on page 5.

March 31–April 3 — Annual Sessions of PYM.

Register by March 16th! See article on page 6.

Looking Ahead

April 5th — Princeton Peace Network at Princeton University presents Robert Meeropol
7:30 PM, Princeton University, McCosh Building, Room 10. Meeropol is the younger son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and author of *An Execution in the Family*. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact the NJADP office at 609-278-6719.

April 8-10 — If We Are All For Peace and Justice, Why Is It So Hard?

A 3-day Interfaith Conference at Arch Street Meeting House sponsored by the Pendle Hill Peace Network. Among the offerings will be a prominent national speaker combining faith and political savvy, a Saturday morning interfaith worship followed by a panel of speakers from the world's major faith groups speaking together about the source and tradition of their religious faiths' peace and justice testimonies. Saturday afternoon will be given to skill-building workshops on fundraising, interfaith dialogue, making our message heard, among others. Music and theatre will help us celebrate peace-making through the arts Saturday evening, and Sunday

morning will provide a time for considering the future direction of the Pendle Hill Peace Network. For more information, see www.phpeace.net

April 16 — Elaine Pagels Lecture

9:15 AM, Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House.
For more information, on the web, go to www.pym.org/pagellecure.

May 1 — Clean up around the Meetinghouse

Join us after Meeting for Worship in sprucing up the Meetinghouse grounds for Spring. We will work rain or shine. Sponsored by the Property Committee.

February Monthly Meeting for Business — February 12, 2005

The Meeting began with a period of open worship. The clerk read Extract Number 142 from *Faith & Practice* (John Woolman, 1741).

For Finance Committee, Connie Brookes presented the annual report concerning the Monthly Meeting's funds invested with Friends Fiduciary Corporation. The Meeting's long-term investments are all in Friends Fiduciary. The current value is approximately \$700,000. Connie is the Executive Director of Friends Fiduciary.

Gary Smith presented the Worship & Ministry Committee's Annual Report.

For Flora McKinney, Bob Brooks read the report from the Working Group on Conscientious Objection to Military Service. Flora reported that a letter had been sent to the young people of the Meeting encouraging them to begin documenting their beliefs regarding the Peace Testimony and military service. The Working Group has acquired a fireproof safe in which to keep these statements.

For Care Committee, Mary Noland requested that Monthly Meeting approve a Minute of Support for Drew Humphries, who has received criticism and hate mail since moderating a forum at Rutgers University on "How to Survive on Parole & Probation". The forum was sponsored by FTSS (Friends Transition Support Services) and included Thomas Trantino as a panel member. After much discussion, the Meeting suggested changes to be made to the minute. *The revised minute follows below.* The Clerk will forward the revised minute to Rutgers, Drew Humphries and FTSS. Mary will convene an ad hoc committee which will consider appropriate communication to the wider community.

Their suggestions will be brought to a called Meeting for Business for discussion.

For Property Committee, Bob Turrin reported on a recent PYM workshop for Monthly Meeting property committees, and in particular about a program to subsidize the use of solar energy for houses of worship. Property Committee is gathering information on a State of NJ program encouraging churches to install solar panels. He also reported that work continues at Joe's house, with labor and materials being donated by Lou Tomassetti.

Laura Smoot asked for a minute of support for a trip to Japan in August for Young Friends Peace Witness and a trip in April to help plan the August event. The Clerk will write a letter of support for Laura's travels to Japan.

Deborah Kost, Head of School, gave a detailed report on the School and its various programs and activities. The report can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Minute in Support for Drew Humphries, FTSS, and Rutgers University Law School

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends minutes our support for the work of Friends Transition Support Services (FTSS), a project under the care of our Meeting which reaches out to help men and women who have been recently released from prison, and to people whose behavior is putting them at risk for being sent to prison.

We minute our support for Rutgers University Law School-Camden for hosting the panel discussion on January 22, 2005 on "How to Survive on Parole & Probation" and for Dr. Drew Humphries, a Rutgers professor and member of our Meeting, for moderating it. We also appreciate Leah Morris, who attends our Meeting, and Thomas Trantino, who works for FTSS, for participating as panel members and contributing to this important discussion.

This minute does not diminish our appreciation, respect and support for the law enforcement officers who daily protect and care for our communities while putting themselves at mortal risk. Friends recognize the vital role of peace officers in maintaining an orderly society with justice under law for all.

We understand the pain and grief experienced by those who have lost loved ones to violence. We do not seek

to dishonor the memory of officers killed in the line of duty or those in the law enforcement community who have suffered the loss of fellow officers. Haddonfield Monthly Meeting also acknowledges the difficulty experienced by victims of violent crimes and members of the law enforcement community in accepting the return to the community of convicted persons who served their sentences for those violent crimes.

The mission of FTSS is not in conflict with law enforcement. FTSS seeks to reduce violence in our society, to help increase the chances for social peace and livable communities and to bring reconciliation to all within our society. For centuries members of the Religious Society of Friends have held concerns for prison conditions, promoting restorative justice and the rehabilitation of offenders. We endeavor to heal the wounds that criminal actions cause to the victim, the offender and the community. This work emanates from the historical experience of early Friends who were imprisoned for their beliefs, and from our deeply held belief that there is that of God in everyone, even those who have committed serious crimes.

FTSS seeks to facilitate support groups for ex-prisoners and to promote their understanding, acceptance and practice of peaceful alternatives to violence and criminality. FTSS seeks constructive interaction with at-risk youth and adults who still have an opportunity to avoid imprisonment. FTSS also provides community education about the realities of prison life and the kinds of help most needed by individuals returning to society. Ultimately the goal of FTSS is the same as that of police officers and the law enforcement community, safer communities and reduced recidivism.

We are also pleased that Rutgers University School of Law-Camden would host a panel discussion addressing ways to help people successfully reenter society after prison. We believe the first step toward finding solutions to the difficult problems of reentry is discussing the difficult issues of parole and probation.

We appreciate Rutgers University and Dr. Humphries for exemplifying the highest standards of academic freedom, free speech and civil discourse in the face of controversy. This controversy stems from allowing Thomas Trantino, who is on parole after 40 years in prison, to speak on this panel. This controversy

reminds us that these standards are more than lofty generalizations; they are the very things that allow us to come together despite our differences and explore common solutions for the common problems facing our community. We of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting minute our respect for the courage of Dr. Humphries and Rutgers University in exemplifying these ideals in the midst of harsh criticism. We believe that this panel discussion and the resulting controversy teaches us how much more work remains before we are able to recognize that of God in everyone.

First Day School for Adults in March

March begins with the final episode of the Racial Justice Program, then Worship and Ministry will present a three-part series on Vocal Ministry. Easter morning, we are suggesting that interested people gather at 9:30 for selected readings on the Resurrection.

March 6th — What can we do ? The last in a series of presentations on Racial Justice. Inspira Williams (an attender of Haddonfield Meeting and a member of the PYM Group on Racial Justice and Equality) will facilitate a discussion in which we will have an opportunity to explore actions that we might take as individuals, as a Meeting, and as a community towards racial justice.

March 13 — Meeting for Business. No Adult First Day School.

March 20 — Vocal Ministry, part one: Preparation for Meeting.

March 27 — Easter. 9:30 AM Scripture Reading. No First Day School.

Quakerism 101

Care Committee is sponsoring this four-week course for members and attenders new to Quakerism or anyone who wants to learn more about the Religious Society of Friends. The first class was February 27, but don't worry if you missed it. You can still attend the remaining classes — March 6, 13 and 20 from 7–8:30 PM at the Meeting House. The instructor is Bill Probsting, a member of Westfield Meeting and Head of Westfield Friends School.

Book Sale!

The Library Committee is holding its annual book sale on March 20 during covered dish. Please donate your unwanted books (no textbooks, magazines, or *Friends Journals*, please). There will be a box in the library for donations.

Head of School Report

*Presented by Deborah Kost at
February Monthly Meeting for Business*

I was asked to prepare a brief summary regarding some of the initiatives and on-going projects at Haddonfield Friends School. The following report represents many, but not all, of the events that have occurred recently, are on-going, or will occur at the School:

All School

We are focusing our attention on the Language Arts Program this year in all three divisions — Early Childhood Center, Lower School, and Middle School — which will enhance our reading and writing programs throughout the School.

The new math curriculum is in place. There were several workshops for teachers this year which focused on using and incorporating the new math curriculum at all grade levels.

Next year, the focus on Language Arts will continue; the School will review its Science curriculum as well. The Personnel Manual regarding policies and procedures within the School will be completed soon. I reviewed the Benefits Sections of the Personnel Manual, and the Sexual Harassment, Suicide, Threats and Violence Policies with Board/Staff Subcommittee. The entire document will go to School Committee.

Bette Kurtz, Kindergarten Assistant Teacher; Shelley Louderback, Third Grade Teacher; Carol Mulhall, Second Grade Teacher; and Sandy Trezza, Assistant Head of School, continue to work on the Curriculum Guide for the School.

I will begin a review of the Personnel Manual with the Guidelines Committee at HFS.

I will begin a review of the Student/Parent Handbook with the Guidelines Committee at HFS, the Middle School Student Guidelines Committee, and PTO.

Quaker Days will occur during the last week of February

Tuesday, 2/22: Middle School visits American Friends Service Committee at 15th & Arch via PATCO; Kindergarten and First Grade will take a walking tour of Haddonfield to Quaker landmarks.

Wednesday, 2/23: All School Meeting for Worship — during which the Kolaskis will renew their wedding vows; HMM volunteer speakers will present: “Favorite Famous Quakers” and their faith in various classes during school day.

Thursday, 2/24: HMM volunteer speakers continue in classes.

Friday, 2/25: Second grade will visit Paulsdale (home of Alice Paul) and Jacob’s Chapel on the trip to Mount Laurel; the topic of conscientious objectors will be addressed in the Library with Middle School students.

In January, PTO sponsored Science Days at Haddonfield Friends, which included a week of science activities and labs by grade and with partners (older students with younger students).

Meeting member Pam Moench liked the Science Days idea and offered her services to help the School coordinate a similar program which will focus on Conflict Resolution. We may be able to incorporate her idea in the current school year during the month of May; if not, we hope to have a program in place for the fall of 2005.

A Conflict Resolution Workshop occurred with all employees and Betsy Berger from PYM during our November In-Service; a similar workshop with parents will occur on April 28th with Betsy Berger and Caroline Packard from PYM.

The celebration of Black History Month continues; PTO provided an assembly called *7 Sister Quilt*, which was well received by students; there was a write-up about this event in the local paper.

Numerous classroom projects focusing on Black History Month and Martin Luther King will be featured in upcoming issues of the Friends and Parents Newsletter. The newsletter is overseen by Rana McNamara, the Director of Development, and PTO.

Early Childhood Center

There were several new assemblies geared to 3/4, 4/5, K: Mother Goose, Academy of Natural Sciences, Mr. Malcolm and Bible Series readings.

The new playground equipment arrived; money was raised for this project from parent donations and grants through the Development Office at the School.

Lower and Middle Schools

3rd grade students will begin their 10-week violin lesson program with Haddonfield School of Performing Arts, which will culminate in an assembly in May.

5th Grade took their annual class trip to Mt. Misery in November.

The Fifth Grade Peace Symposium, hosted this year by Haddonfield Friends School, occurred recently. Students from Westfield, Moorestown, Westampton, Mullica Hill and Orchard Friends attended this event. This event was organized by our fifth grade teacher, Peggy Bretschneider, and Priscilla Adams; the Symposium focused on issues regarding bullying and conflict resolution.

There are three full-time teachers for grades 6-8; we have a math teacher, Carol Fuller, dedicated to teaching math in grades 5 through 8 and a science teacher, Susan Miles, dedicated to teaching science in grades 5 through 8.

Middle School students created the following committees; each committee has a clerk and a recording secretary:

- Activities Committee
- Guidelines Committee
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee

The School is working to create an athletic program for our Middle School; this year we are offering a cross-country club which occurs after the school day. Lori Athey, the Physical Education teacher, and I will be meeting with Debi Surgi, the Athletic Director at Moorestown Friends School. Debi has offered her expertise to get our athletic program off the ground at Haddonfield Friends School.

We are building a sequential science curriculum grades 5-8; the focus will be on the earth, life, and physical sciences.

We have in place a sequential math curriculum in grades 5 through 8 which culminates in the completion of Algebra 1 by the end of 8th grade.

We have a sequential Language Arts program in English and Social Studies, grades 5 through 8.

We have a sequential Foreign Language program; 7th grade students complete part one of Spanish Level 1 and 8th grade students complete part two of Spanish Level 1.

Drama Club began again this year after school day with the Ritz Theatre Company.

6th grade took their annual class trip to New York City.

7th grade will take their class trip to Baltimore, Md.

8th grade will take a two-day trip to Washington, DC.

All class trips coincide and are linked with the academic program at Haddonfield Friends School.

Other

We recently reduced our Maintenance Staff, which will begin a new cyclical cleaning schedule, and our staff in the Extended Day Program.

The Administrative Team will present the 05/06 school budget to School Committee on March 2.

Re-enrollment occurred in January and we have many applications in process for the 05/06 school year; our recent Open House in February was quite successful as well; this area of the school is overseen by Sandy Trezza, Assistant Head of School and Director of Admissions, and Pat Sacchetti, Administrative Assistant and Coordinator of the Extended Day Program.

Peter Maas, Director of Finance and Facilities, and I will continue to review employee benefit options through PAISBOA (Philadelphia Area Independent School Business Offices Association); we will review health insurance, dental, eye, life insurance, short term and long term disability. We will review the school's overall insurance policies as well with members of the Meeting Steve Berryhill and Connie Brooks, and School Committee; we will begin the process of choosing a new auditor for the School which will be overseen by the Audit Committee of the Meeting.

As you can see, we have had and continue to have a very busy and productive school year. In addition, the School is preparing a report for the next School Retreat. Members of the administration, faculty, parent body and School Committee will attend this retreat on Sunday, April 17, 2005.

PYM Annual Sessions

The Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will take place from Thursday, March 31, to Sunday, April 3, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. There will be plenary sessions on matters of concern to Friends, and workshops for a variety of interests. Times of fun and fellowship, too!

The agenda and registration materials were mailed to all members and attenders on the *PYM News* mailing list. If you didn't receive these materials, go online at www.pym.org for more information. The registration deadline is March 16.

Children and PYM Annual Sessions

The word "curriculum" usually brings to mind activities printed out in a booklet format. Yet when children and youth join us at PYM Annual Sessions there is much more curriculum offered than the printed materials. Rather, WE are the curriculum, the living breathing Yearly Meeting, as we do our business, greet one another in the dinner line, share project ideas at the Seek and Find, sing and play joyfully, articulate concerns, learn and discern together.

The children's program committee, CYPYM, is busy recruiting leaders and designing activities such as churning butter, dancing with honey bees, touring AFSC offices, soaking up history, and planning for a peace-filled future. And, we are counting on YOU, all of the Friends participating on this 50th anniversary of the reunification of PYM, to join us in making the experience a rich one for our youngest Friends. They will certainly be doing that for the rest of us. To register your family, go to www.pym.org. If you have questions call Children's Program Coordinator Mary Lou Hatcher at 215-241-7075.

Peacemaking in an Unpeaceful Time

Submitted by Takashi Mizuno

I was asked by the editor to write a message which I gave in the Meeting for Worship on the February 6th. I have permission from Ruby Sales of Spirit House to quote some of the words from Getting Ready To Fly: A Reflection on Hope by Vincent Harding.

I have heard several messages regarding a question "who are we?" in the Meeting for Worship for the past couple of weeks. I have been searching for my answer to the same question "who are we?" I happened to read a speech by Vincent Harding yesterday. Some of his words spoke to my condition. Vincent Harding is an African-American historian and theologian. He was a Professor at Illif School of Theology until last year. I had a chance to meet him and his wife, Rosemary, in one of the weekend conferences at Pendle Hill a couple of years ago. They were among the most impressive

people whom I have met in my life. Rosemary passed away last year. This speech was given last year. I would like to share some of his words with you.

"When she invited me to be here tonight, my beloved sister, daughter and co-worker, Ruby Nell Sales, asked if I would share some words of encouragement with those like yourselves who need to rediscover the resources that will inspire and empower us for the Jesus-impelled journey of peacemaking in a very unpeaceful time. In response to that request, what seemed immediately right was for me to share with you some of the experiences in my own life over the past few months — experiences that have been sources of strength and hope for me. Nothing spectacular, simply moments of Good News that may open new possibilities for you, stories of hope from my life to yours. Before anything else, I need to share with you one of the assurances that certainly comes to mind, especially when I am engaged with women and men of all ages who are working for peace, who are struggling for the ways of justice, reconciliation and revival. Again and again, I am strengthened and steadied when I remember that the same Jesus who called his followers to be peacemakers, who told us that the way of peacemaking was the way of God's faithful children, also assured us that when we allow ourselves to really hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God in our world, in our lives, in our hearts, we SHALL be filled. Blessed assurance!"

Getting Ready To Fly: A Reflection on Hope by Vincent Harding, published by the Spirithouse, 2004.

War Taxes & Conscience

Are you praying for peace while paying for war? Let's talk about it. The Conscience, Militarism & War Tax Concerns of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is sponsoring a gathering on March 5 from 12:30–3:30 PM at Arch Street Meeting House.

- Hear stories from long-time war tax resisters and people new to stirrings of conscience over where their tax dollars go.
- Learn of various ways that people resist their federal tax and how to support the right of religious freedom as it pertains to conscientious objection to war.
- Participate in discussions to consider the role of conscience and to share and listen to personal concerns.

For information, call Joan Broadfield at 215-241-7240 or e-mail joanb@pym.org.

PYM Annual Fund

Annual Fund Contributions were \$30,000 behind last year as of Dec. 31, 2004. In the next four months, we need to raise \$268,843. Seventeen Haddonfield Friends have contributed \$2,910 as of Jan. 31, 2005. These funds support the Programs that are selected and guided by the Purposes and Priorities of PYM.

PYM Purpose: To serve God by nurturing and supporting the collective spiritual journey of Friends and Seekers.

PYM Priorities: Supporting our Meeting Communities in expanding their spiritual lives; enabling community service, and witness that expresses what is best in our faith; creating more visible and more hospitable Meeting communities; and supporting religious education for children and adults.

Flora McKinney

Thoughts on a Birthday

Submitted by Ceil McFadden

To celebrate my 70th birthday, I invited several younger people to tell me how they envision themselves at 70. The responses were all thoughtful, creative and memorable. This is one of them. The friend who wrote it, Sr. Eleanor Berret, has given me permission to share it.

“This morning I’ve come out to a spot in the woods sitting atop the steps leading to the abandoned Catholic Church here at Lake Bonaparte, NY (20 miles from Watertown). Through the trees I can see the expansive lake. It is a rustic, secluded spot just perfect for a visit with you. It’s a little after 10 AM. The

cement steps are cold under me, but the sun is warming my back.

Sitting out here in a quiet, reflective mode, it strikes me that even in my contemplative lifestyle, I give more time to doing than simply being. I am best able to *be* in the outdoors. This abandoned church is surrounded by the presence of God in the trees, the weeds and wildflowers, the sounds of birds and insects.

Your invitation to share how I envision myself at 70, and the sudden, unexpected death of one of our sisters this week, brought the realization that I may not live to be 70 years old. You have stirred something within me. I ask myself how am I using the gifts God has entrusted to me. Do some lie dormant, untapped? About three weeks ago I turned 62, but today seems more like a ‘birth’ day with new life emerging. Creation calls me to be free, to let go, to reflect, to make choices for life.

Creation also calls me to endure the storms, to bend and sway, to provide nourishment for the soul, the heart, to give comfort and peace. I want to let go of *stuff*— things as well as attitudes and mindsets — and allow creation to teach me daily to live life fully. I want to start now, today. I want to begin to recognize the individual songs of birds, the unspoken call for help/comfort of another person, the need to forgive and be forgiven.

I desire to be a woman of gratitude, letting it spill over as the banks of a river.

I hope your 70th year will be a treasure of blessings — one day at a time — leading to the fullness of life for you. Happy Birthday every day.”

March 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Committee	3	4	5
6 9 am Memorial & Graveyard Committee 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 FDS 12:30 pm RE Committee	7	8 7:30 pm Care Committee	9 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	10	11	12
13 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Monthly Meeting for Business	14	15	16 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Property Committee	17 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	18	19
20 Newsletter deadline 10 am Mtg for Worship 11 am FDS Covered Dish Library Comm. Book Sale	21	22	23 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	24	25	26
27 EASTER 10 am Meeting for Worship	28	29	30 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	31		