



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 50 No. 7
March 2004

From Worship and Ministry

When Friends worship, we reach out from the depths of our being to God — the light. We search for communion with God and offer ourselves — the body and soul — for the doing of the will of God. The sense of worship is experienced in the awe we feel in the silence of the meeting for worship. Worshiping together strengthens the members of the community and deepens the act of worship itself; like a living organism whose individual but independent members are essential to one another and to the life of the greater whole.

Faith and Practice

Facing Bench for March

Johanna and Bob DeRose

Coffee and Covered Dish for March

Memorial & Graveyard Committee

Coffee and Covered Dish for April

School Committee

Upcoming Events

March 5 — World Day of Prayer 2004: “In faith, women shape the future”

1 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, Haddonfield. Mrs. Hilda Massenburg from Mt. Olivet Baptist Church will give the Bible message. Refreshments will follow. Readers and greeters are needed. If interested, please see Marietta Donovan.

March 17 — AFSC Program on the Middle East

7 p.m., Friends Center. Rick McDowell and Mary Trotochaud, staff members of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak about the ten months they spent in Baghdad. There is a ministry of presence, from which they share firsthand stories of everyday Iraqis through writing and photos. These appear on the web at www.afsc.org/human-face.

March 19–21 — Young Adults Weekend

Young adults ages 18–25 are invited to Pendle Hill for a weekend program entitled, “Living the Vision: Building Bridges from Ideas to Action.” This is an opportunity for young leaders to develop community, worship and learn how to create a more just society.

March 20 — Benefit concert for Leavenhouse

8 p.m., South Jersey Performing Arts Center at the Tweeter Center, Camden. R&B singer Howard Tate will perform at this concert, which will benefit Grace Church and the North Camden Land Trust, as well as Leavenhouse. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Tweeter Center or by calling SJPAC at 856-342-6633.

March 21 — School Community Visit

HFS students and their families along with HFS faculty and staff have been invited to worship with us and stay for a brief program and covered dish. Sponsored by the School Committee.

March 25–28 — Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Arch Street Meetinghouse. Begins Thursday morning and ends Sunday morning. Three days of worship, workshops and fun for all ages. For more information, including registration forms which can be printed out, go to www.pym.org.

Looking Ahead

April 23–24 — Weekend Conference on “Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice” presented by the Pendle Hill Peace Network. Arch Street Meetinghouse.

May 1 — Workshop on Meetinghouse Maintenance.

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Arch Street Meetinghouse.

February Monthly Meeting for Business — February 13, 2004

The Clerk read from Query Number 4 from *Faith & Practice*, Care for the Meeting Community.

Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the Meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Stuart Hodges read the Treasurer's Quarterly Report. Friends discussed payment of property taxes on the house on Lake Street in which Joe Dempsey has been living. Pat Williams will research whether or not the Meeting is entitled to an exemption.

Connie Brookes presented the Finance Committee's report on the Monthly Meeting's funds invested with Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

Priscilla Adams read a minute sent to us from Burlington Quarter protesting the "Mandatory Minimum Sentencing" law. Friends approved the minute. We will advise Haddonfield Quarter that we have done so. Peace and Social Concerns Committee will send copies of the minute, indicating our approval, to the Governor of New Jersey, the NJ State Attorney General, and our State Legislators. Priscilla also reported that 193 food bags were delivered to Senior Care in Camden.

Pat Williams reported for School Committee that the new Head of School, Deborah Kost (Tr. Deb) is being welcomed and integrated into the life of the School.

She will begin her new position in June of 2004. Friends asked Friendship Committee to plan a social gathering, to take place before the end of the school year, to reach out to the school community and to welcome the new Head of the School.

Pat also reported on the difficulty of finding and keeping members of school committee. School governance is becoming increasingly complex — requiring much expertise and time commitment from committee members. Pat is recommending that, like other Meetings who faced the same problem, Haddonfield Meeting allow our School Committee to seek members from other Meetings in Haddonfield Quarter. The Meeting decided that this should be held over until next month for further discussion and asked Pat to bring back a proposal with more details.

In Ceil McFadden's absence, the clerk relayed Nominating Committee's recommendation that Jayne Stokes be approved to serve on the Nominating Committee of Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting. The Meeting approved.

For Care Committee, the clerk reported on the transfer of June Hodges from Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting. Since Upper Dublin cannot locate her membership records to effect a transfer, and in light of the fact that June participated in the clearness process when the rest of the family became members of our Meeting, Care Committee recommends that Monthly Meeting approve June for membership without a formal letter of application and without holding the application over. The Meeting approved.

Harold Heritage reported that he and Louise and Ruth Podolin had welcomed Michele Tarter, who has transferred from Fallsington Meeting.

For the Religious Education Committee, Leila Barclay announced an upcoming lecture series on the Middle East to explore topics concerning the region and its conflicts (*see article on next page*).

Next month's Meeting for Business will be held on March 14 at rise of Meeting for Worship. On the agenda: discussion of PYM's budget in advance of Yearly Meeting.

Adult First Day School for March

March 7 — Workshop on the Meeting's response to February's sessions on racial equality.

March 14 — Meeting for Business. No First Day School for Adults, but children's classes will meet.

March 21 — School Committee Program.

March 28 — Understanding and Relating to People Living with Disabilities.

The Religious Education Committee also is offering a four-part series on the Middle East entitled "The Middle East in an Election Year." The series will explore the issues confronting those who live in the region and our response to the day to day realities of life there. *The Wall Street Journal* in a recent article called the Middle East "the font of terrorism." What is "terrorism?" What is it like to live in constant insecurity? The talks will deal with aspects of the conflict that are not often headlined in the U.S. news, but which will help us better understand the region. All four presentations are from 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse.

Monday, March 15 — The separation barrier in Israel/Palestine: What is it? Where is it? Who does it separate? Is it a solution or a problem? Presented by Leila Barclay.

Monday, March 22 — Iraq one year later: Political and social ramifications of the war in Iraq. What did the war accomplish? What will elections accomplish? Presented by Peter Lems, Program Associate for Iraq, American Friends Service Committee.

Thursday, March 25 — The Jewish Perspective: the Jewish Peace movement in Israel and the US. What does the future hold for Israel/Palestine if conflict continues? What are the hopes for peace? Presented by Cy Swartz, Bubbes and Zaydes (grandmothers and grandfathers).

Sunday, March 28 — Arab Christians: Christian heritage in the Middle East. Voices from the Christian communities in the Holy Land. Palestinian Christian and Muslim perspectives: in conflict or cooperation? Presented by Rev. Dr. Michael Feicht, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Haddonfield.

A Year of War in Iraq

Events commemorating a year of the war in Iraq are being planned for March. Now is a good time for Friends to think how they are led to commemorate the lives lost on both sides, and to work and witness for a peaceful future. Worship, witness, gatherings of many kinds can help energize and heal the pain of these times. Joan Broadfield, Peace & Justice Coordinator at Yearly Meeting, welcomes emails and phone calls as you consider where you may be led — joanb@pym.org; 800 220 0796, ext. 7240; or 215-241-7240.

Quaker Week at HFS

Teacher David, our enthusiastic and energetic librarian at HFS, coordinated many delightful Quaker Studies activities last month. On Friday, February 6th, our kindergarten through fourth grade students took school buses to Moorestown and Mount Laurel. The first graders toured the Mount Laurel Meetinghouse. They were given a brief history of the building flavored with some Quaker traditions, practices and stories. Mid-morning, they were joined by the kindergartners and participated in a service project. They made beautiful wreaths full of pink and red hearts to use in the special Valentine Senior Care food baskets. What a great idea, Priscilla!

Second, third and fourth graders went to Mount Laurel to visit Jacob's Chapel and "Paulsdale," Alice Paul's family home, where they learned about her involvement in the women's rights movement. She was instrumental in securing women's right to vote. It was Alice Paul who submitted the first version of the Equal Rights Amendment to Congress in 1923 and she worked with international women's organizations during the 1930s and continued to be active in this field until her death in 1977.

HFS middle school students took the high speed line to Friends Center in Philadelphia, where David McCormick had arranged for a tour of the Center, the Meetinghouse and the E.M.A.P. (Emergency Material Aid Program). They participated in a service project consisting of sorting, folding and packing clothing headed for various Middle East destinations.

During the week of the 9th, David organized activities in the library. He did a lot of research on famous Quakers — not only historical figures, but authors,

actors, musicians and political personalities. The children were very interested to learn about Quakers who were still alive. Meeting members generously volunteered to read to the children and had discussions on Quakers and their impact in the world. Many thanks to Michele Tarter, Ruth Podolin, Louise Senopoulos and Shayna Riddle for devoting time to read to the various grades. David also created special “flip quiz” question cards.

There were lots of questions about the beginnings of our school and the Meetinghouse. Some questions remain unanswered, so they were compiled on clipboards and left in the auditorium so that Meeting members could answer them and enlighten the students.

On Wednesday, longtime Meeting members Jean and Thayer Landis came as special guests. After Meeting for Worship they explained to the children how a Quaker wedding worked. They reenacted their own ceremony that had taken place in the Haddonfield Meetinghouse 56 years ago and brought pictures and the original copy of their wedding certificate which was read by Diane Werner. After the wedding came the funeral! It was a great way for our students to be more informed, and their level of interest and enthusiasm was shown by the number and variety of questions they asked. Many thanks to Jean and Thayer for getting up at 6 o'clock that morning to worship with us and share their story.

It was a wonderfully informative week and hopefully the kick-off for many more interactions between Meeting and School. Many Meeting members have great stories to share. One way to make Quakerism and the Haddonfield Meeting more relevant and real to faculty and students would be to have School and Meeting get to know each other better. Thank you, Teacher David, for all your work and your devotion to the school.

Therese Barringer

Book Sale

Don't forget the book sale from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the 21st! Hardbacks will sell for \$.50 and paperbacks for \$.25. Donations of new and used books (no textbooks, please) will be accepted up until the 20th. Boxes for donations are on the right side of the stage. Proceeds will go to the library committee.

Wanted: Passionate Friends to Talk about Their Efforts

At PYM Annual Sessions we're trying something new to help people find kindred spirits, ideas for nurturing their Meetings, and inspiration. It's called the “Seek and Find.” It will be an opportunity for Friends to share what they have passions and concerns about — their talents, social justice or service work, neat Monthly Meeting projects/events/outreach or First Day School efforts. A big room at the Holiday Inn will be devoted to this on Saturday afternoon, March 27. Folks will have table space and chairs to gather inquirers to find out about their project. It will be the most fun if the room is full of people and energy and networking.

Join Workcamp in Rural China

The fourth annual China Summer Workcamp will be July 26 to August 22, 2004. Twelve volunteers (age 16 and older) are needed to work alongside Chinese, Japanese, and Korean college students. Together we will undertake a joint environmental project in China with the help of local residents, and teach English to the local children.

- Experience life in rural China first-hand by living and working together with Asian college students.
- Learn about current social, political, environmental and economic issues in China while sharing your own special skills and experience.
- Travel from Beijing, one of the most developed cities in the world, to Hunan province in rural central China, one of the most remote areas left on the Asian continent.

The workcamp takes place in rural Hunan Province in a little town called Xiaoshicun. The cost is \$2,200 (includes airfare). Applications are due by April 15. Don't let the cost discourage you from applying; financial aid may be available for those in need. For more information and applications, contact Adam Clark-Valle, China Workcamp, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102; 215-241-7236; or Chinaworkcamp@pym.org. This Workcamp is a joint project of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends Workcamp Program, American Friends Service Committee, and Westfield Meeting.

Quaker Faith and Participation in the Political Process

Friend's individual social leanings may entice some to follow one candidate or political party or another whose stands on certain issues reflect our corporate testimonies on subjects such as peace and justice. But can a path to salvation, which is after all, the point of participation in a religious society, be found through participation in a political party? This subject was discussed last fall on SRQ, an online Quaker newsgroup. Marshall Massey, a Colorado Friend, weighed in with the following:

“Salvation in the Judaeo-Christian-Quaker worldview is not just an otherworldly concept. For example, when early Friends at sea saw their survival endangered by a storm that threatened to sink their ship, or by a pirate ship overtaking theirs, they prayed to God to save them. That too was a type of salvation, as the word “save” indicates; and when they survived, they gave credit to God for saving them.

Salvation in the Bible, too, refers to all sorts of savings from worldly dangers. In fact, its oldest usage in the Bible refers to safety from military attack. When the biblical prophets condemned idol-worshippers for foolishly looking to their idols to save them, they were referring to this-worldly dangers such as war, drought and famine. They mocked the idols, not just because the idols lacked a spiritual reality in the next world, but also because the idols had no hands or feet or motive power to enable them to save anybody in this one. (Viz. Isaiah 37:18-20, Habakkuk 2:19 — also Herakleitos fragment 126 [Bywater])

If you are looking for a political approach to save us from economic foolishness or from tyranny, then you are looking to that approach for salvation — literally.”

Yet can political parties be vessels of salvation? To do so, a balance must be found between the temporal needs of the state that the political party serves and the spiritual needs of the individual who constitute that party. Is such a compromise possible? Marshall continues:

“The Democratic and the Republican parties, to pick two examples, permit what Quakerism teaches we must avoid (starting wars, for example) and thus it would be true to say Republicans and Democrats are not compatible with Quakerism on this point. Hence, the view of political parties on violence is different from that of Christ; and to follow politicians in their

views of violence, into the use of force in self-defense, would lead one to disobey Christ and to imperil one's own soul. Since all major political parties permit what Quakerism teaches we must avoid, they are not compatible with Quakerism on this point.”

Marshall's thoughts reflect those of early Friends such as Edward Burrough, a companion of Fox, Barclay and Whitehead and other early Friends:

“We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party nor against the other...”

— *Edward Burrough* (early Quaker leader and evangelist), *To the Present Distracted and Broken Nation* (pamphlet addressed to the general public, 1659).

“Neither are we of one party, or against another... But our kingdom is inward, and our weapons are spiritual.”
— *Edward Burrough*, *A General Epistle to all the Saints* (pamphlet addressed to the Quaker community, 1660).

Burrough's 1660 pamphlet was written to Friends caught up in the turmoil of the collapse of Cromwell's protectorate and the Restoration of Charles II. Then, as now, changes in government could be accompanied by great social upheaval. Friends caught up in the struggles of such times may be tempted to leap into them, believing one side or the other to better reflect God's will for His people. Yet careful discernment has long been cautioned in such things:

“...It was ... a matter of religious principle among Friends, not to interfere in political questions, nor to mix themselves up as partisans in the agitations of the times about temporal things; yet their free and uncompromising censure of many of the principles as well as practices of the day, rendered it difficult for superficial or prejudiced observers, to distinguish their object from that of other classes of agitators.”

— *Edward Smith* (Friend), “*The Life of William Dewsbury*”, in *Evans & Evans, eds., The Friends' Library, Vol. 2* (1838).

Edward Smith's sentiment here was typical of most Friends for the first three centuries of Quakerism, up until the mid-twentieth century. While many Friends have participated as individuals in wars and political struggles, the majority of Friends have been reluctant to take sides in any struggle for power, opting instead to minister to the needs of all men and women.

“The Society of Friends has maintained lobbies to influence legislation from their earliest days up to the Friends Committee on National Legislation which is active in the United States today. The first important lobby was led by William Penn and George Whitehead in the 17th century. This lobby was established not only to influence the members of Parliament but also their constituents.”

— *Howard H. Brinton, Quaker Journals: Varieties of Religious Experience Among Friends (1972).*

Marshall added:

“Being a Quaker is about the Spirit, it’s not about our opinions, certainly, which is one of the reasons why following our opinions into membership in some political party is problematic — for if we are Friends at all, then we’re Friends all the time, not just Sunday morning, and there’s nothing we do that we should be doing as private individuals following our private opinions rather than as Friends under obedience to God.”

“True godliness doesn’t turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavors to mend it: not hide their candle under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick...”

— *William Penn (Quaker leader, founder of Pennsylvania), No Cross, No Crown (1682).*

The structure of the society in which we live is not something fixed and immutable that determines our courses of action without choice in ourselves, it is the product of human activity in the past, a compound of both success and failure. Far from encouraging us to despair this should drive us to renew our efforts to use our own capacities to influence the future direction of the change that is continuously taking place. To seek to withdraw ourselves from this struggle is to turn our backs on the responsibility our Christian discipleship demands of us.

— *Industry and the Social Order Conference, London Yearly Meeting, Minute 8, 1958.*

One final thought:

“Before you can begin to think about politics at all, you have to abandon the notion that there is a war between good men and bad men.”

— *Walter Lippmann (journalist, political commentator, author, d. 1974).*

*Gary Smith
With thanks to Marshall Massey*

Poetry Old and New

Friends Benches

By Daniel Picker

This dull, big flat
steel screw in bench
back, wood rough-hewn
grain black oxidized

above pale olive-hued
cushions not dark drab,
bench-length seats here,
before, beside, by beige

painted radiator chipped
over broad woodplanks
varnished rich shine
by pale patterned carpets,

bench back dry, steel
screw in sight, clear
panes shine with sky
outside, light of sun,

voices of birds, leaves
rustle quiet gospel;
we sit, listen as these
benches speak: first day,
this silent, cool Eden.

March 2004



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 9:15 am All-school Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Committee	4	5	6
7 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS 12:20 pm REC 6 pm Worship & Ministry	8	9 7:30 pm Committee for Care of Members and Attenders	10 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	11	12	13
14 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Monthly Mtg for Business	15 REC Program on Middle East 7:30 pm	16	17 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Property Committee	18	19	20
21 Newsletter deadline 9-1 Book Sale 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am FDS 12 covered dish	22 REC Program on Middle East 7:30 pm	23	24 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	25 REC Program on Middle East 7:30 pm	26	27
28 PYM ends 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS REC Program on Middle East 7:30 pm	29	30	31 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	← PYM ANNUAL SESSIONS →		