



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 52 No. 7
March 2006

From Worship and Ministry

Vocation: The Purposeful Life, Part One

by Gerald K. Hibbert

Is there a purpose in the universe? Has God any Purpose for me? What is a sense of Vocation? How can we distinguish it from our own desires? These are questions that we all ask at times, and we often find it difficult to give a clear answer.

Everything will depend on our own idea of God. In this of course we differ widely among ourselves, but in proportion as our idea of God becomes more like Jesus' conception of Him, we find it more and more natural to believe in "the guiding hand of God," and to feel that He has a Purpose for each one of us to fulfill. It is largely a matter of faith (which does not mean credulity) backed up by a steadily deepening experience of the spiritual life. If God is the Father of our spirits, "in whom we live and move and have our being," He will most certainly have a Purpose both for the universe and for each individual soul — the purpose, namely, that is inextricably bound up with Love, the full development and ultimate well-being of every object of that love. Of course, if God be impersonal or not Love, this falls to the ground. It is based entirely on a belief in such a God as the God of Jesus.

Our immediate subject is that of a Purpose for the individual rather than for the universe. We are not now concerned with the question "Is God revealed in History?" One can only remark here that on a long view of the past it is difficult to resist the conclusion that on the whole nations reap what they sow; that there is a nemesis which attends cruelty, injustice, and

oppression; and that loyalty, justice, and magnanimity tend to life. The state of the world today (1936) is pretty clear evidence to many of us that there are certain moral principles which cannot be disregarded with impunity, and in this we see a Divine Purpose.

Coming to the question of a Purpose for the individual, it is certain that the men and women who have been the great creative and inspiring personalities have implicitly believed themselves to be not their own, but gripped and commissioned by some Higher Power, whose they are and whom they serve. They give differing names to this Higher Power, and their conceptions of it vary, but there is always this sense of an imperious Call to which they cannot be deaf. Whether it be Amos with his "The Lord God hath spoken; who can but prophesy?" or Paul with his "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel," or Luther with his "Here stand I; I can no other," it is all the same experience. Nor is this confined to Judaism and Christianity: it is found in all the great religions of the world in varying degree, and also in religions that are neither great nor organized.

This comes out markedly in the case of Jesus himself. Again and again does he use of himself the strong phrase "It is binding on me," "It behooves me." He goes through life as a man under authority, as one who is commissioned by his Father to his great task, and as one who delights to do that Father's Will. It was not a matter of outward compulsion, of course. He could have transgressed his Father's Will had he chosen. It was a sense of fulfilling with utter and complete joy his Father's purpose for him gladly surrendering himself to the fulfillment of that purpose because he and the Father were one in spirit, in mind, and in will. "Lo, I delight to do Thy will, O Lord!"

Should this be the normal experience of every human being? Personally I think it should. As we in our degree and up to our measure yield ourselves fully to the Divine Constraint, placing ourselves gladly at the disposal of God, eager to find out His will and then to do it, realising that we are not our own but under His authority and representing Him, it will surely give us a sense of the worth and dignity of human personality such as we never had before, and a joy of abandon that comes from the free surrender of our own will to the highest that it knows. We do our best work when we forget ourselves, when we are in the grip of some high ideal, when (in the language of the Christian) we enter into the joy of our Lord.

Coffee and Hospitality for March

Memorial and Graveyard Committee

Upcoming Events

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, newly-appointed program coordinator of the new Friends International Center in Ramallah. Partake of some of the savory and sweet delicacies of Palestine, complemented by mint tea and Arabic coffee.

March 11 — Treasurers' Workshop

See article on page 4.

March 19 — Called Meeting for Business

7 p.m. in the Meeting House. This will be a Meeting for Worship for Business devoted to prayerful consideration of the concern brought by Care Committee in 2005 that the current form of organization of Haddonfield Friends School and its relationship to Haddonfield Monthly Meeting may not be conducive to the long-term well-being of either part of our community, nor well-suited to the sound management of the complex issues that a K through 8 Quaker school will face in the future.

March 25 — PYM Special Session: Celebrating Our Meetings' Vitality

See article on page 4.

March 25 — Early Quaker Journals

Westtown School, Westtown, PA. Part two of Earlham School of Religion's *Vitality Among Friends* conference series.

March 31–April 2 — Conference for Racial Justice and Equality, Burlington Meeting House Conference Center.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business February 17, 2006

Approximately 20 Friends were in attendance. The meeting began with a period of open worship.

The clerk read Query Number 3 from *Faith & Practice*, Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education.

Connie Brookes presented the correspondence report as attached. Highlights include:

- Would we welcome a visit from a PYM staff member to learn about the residential Yearly Meeting at Allentown, July 24-30? Yes — perhaps a FDS program on a covered dish Sunday.
- AFSC is looking for nominees for its Board of Directors. (See the bulletin board.)
- FWCC is presenting a “Quaker Conference on Torture” at Guilford College, June 2-4.
- World Day of Prayer at First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield, Friday, March 3.
- Thom Jeavons, PYM General Secretary, is resigning effective March 31.
- Information on the Friends Center Construction Project. (On the bulletin board.)
- A letter from Priscilla Adams thanking Friends for the 182 bags worth of food for New Visions in Camden.

Diane Snyder presented the Care Committee's recommendation that the transfer of membership of Lucy Savarese from Newton Monthly Meeting to Haddonfield Monthly Meeting be approved. Friends approved the transfer. The Clerk will acknowledge the transfer in a letter to the Clerk of Newton Monthly Meeting. Bob and Connie Brookes and Joanne Heizer will welcome Lucy back to Haddonfield Meeting.

Care Committee also recommended Deedy Roberts and Mary Noland for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee recommends Louise Senopoulos and George Harrison for Care Committee. As is customary, these nominations will be held over until March Meeting for Business. Friends approved the

appointment of Kitty Mizuno for Religious Education (This nomination was held over from January).

For the Ad Hoc School/Monthly Meeting Committee, Connie Brookes reported that the committee has been gathering information from other Meetings and Quaker schools. They request that the Monthly Meeting gather at a special called Meeting for Business for discussion — not decision — on Sunday, March 19 at 7 p.m., so that sufficient time may be devoted to this subject. Friends approved.

Friendship Committee Report, held over from October, will be postponed to March. It was observed that Friendship Committee has not had a meeting in 18 months. The Meeting Clerk will write a letter to Nominating Committee Clerk to ask that they inquire into the health of Friendship committee.

Library Committee (held over from December) will also be postponed.

Gary Smith gave Worship and Ministry's annual report. Highlights of the report included the development of First Day School presentations on "Vocal Ministry," "Preparation for Meeting," "Centering Prayer" and "Waiting Worship." Many Friends, due to reasons of health, are unable to attend Meeting for Worship. Worship and Ministry has been visiting these Friends for worship in their homes so that they would not be isolated from our Meeting. The Committee drafted Statements of Principles on Membership, Meeting for Business and Friends Spiritual Message. This year, Worship and Ministry will aim to work more closely with other committees for input on Religious Education, and to use First Day school sessions to define and discuss what is meant by Quaker process, to discuss living in the Spirit, to explore the purpose of prayer and meditation, and to encourage Friends to participate in all aspects of Meeting life. Friends accepted the report with thanks.

Stuart Hodges gave the Treasurer's quarterly report. Friends accepted the report with thanks. Friends approved the Treasurer disbursing funds to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings pursuant to our covenant.

Connie Brookes presented the Finance Committee's annual report on Friends Fiduciary Investment. Friends accepted the report with thanks.

John Donch gave the Children's Inclusion Committee Report.

For the Education Fund Committee, Steve Berryhill requested a Minute from Monthly Meeting approving the creation of an education endowment fund. Previous donations would be accounted for and transferred to this account. For each \$15,000 deposited in the endowment fund, the Tyson fund will add \$5,000 for a maximum gift of \$15,000. The money would be invested with the Monthly Meeting's other funds with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Because of low attendance this proposal is held over to March Meeting for Business.

The clerk reported that in the course of reviewing documents in the Monthly Meeting's safe deposit box, he feels that some of the oldest documents from the early 18th century are becoming too fragile to handle.

Stu Harris, for Property Committee, requested input and guidance from Friends on the purchase of a new or used dishwasher for the Meeting House kitchen. The one now in use is not working properly. Parts to repair it are not available. It may take a while to find a suitable used replacement. The Meeting authorized Property Committee to buy a new one.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Respectively submitted,
Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

Religious Education

March 5 — A discussion about the priorities of our Monthly Meeting for FCNL legislative action.

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

March 19 — Witness for Disarmament, facilitated by Jada Jackson of Trenton MM, and Takashi and Kitty Mizuno.

March 26 — This program is still being developed and will be announced soon.

General Secretary Thom Jeavons leaving PYM

General Secretary Thom Jeavons will be leaving the employment of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as of March 31 to accept a new professional opportunity in Indiana. Interim Meeting has taken steps to appoint an Interim General Secretary by April 1. Yearly Meeting

Clerk Gretchen Castle sent an announcement to clerks of Monthly Meetings on February 7. That letter is available at www.pym.org.

Special Session on March 25: Celebrating Our Meetings' Vitality

All Friends are invited to join the special session of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on Saturday, March 25, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. The day will include worship, music, panel presentations and workshops on the theme of "Cultivating Our Roots, Creating Our Future."

There will be time to hear about the experiences Monthly Meetings have had through involvement with the project Deepening and Strengthening Our Meetings as Faith Communities, the Spiritual Formation Program, and the Making New Friends Project. Together we will lift up and celebrate the ways in which our Monthly Meetings are vibrant and vital faith communities. The day will end with remarks by Gretchen Castle, clerk of PYM, as we look forward to residential sessions this summer and continued exploration of how to support our Monthly Meetings in their growth and development.

Friends who have questions may contact Lyle Jenks at (215) 241-7225 or 1-800-220-0796 extension 7225 or lylej@pym.org.

Treasurers Workshop

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. In case of inclement weather, messages will be posted on both phones indicating the new date for the workshop.

Gathering on Conscience and Militarism

Saturday, April 1, is the date of the annual gathering for those interested in conscientious objection and working against militarism. It is sponsored by PYM's Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns Working Group. The day will include a gathering of the whole group, and two separate sessions — one for those considering or practicing war tax resistance, and

BOOK LIGHTS

*By Judy Kruger
For Library Committee*



REMINDER: Please give your suggestions for books to purchase from the Friends General Conference Bookstore to Jayne Stokes or Mary Berger.

An enthusiastic referral from member Inspira Williams led me to the HMM library, where I found *The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship*, by George H. Gorman (1973). While our library has various books which explain our faith to newcomers, this British author uses an unusual lens. He describes what a first-time attender to Meeting for Worship might see and think, then works his way layer by layer into what Quakers may experience on deeper levels during truly gathered worship. Then he connects Friends' worship with Friends' daily lives.

Gorman wrote, "In that ordinary room a group of ordinary people entered quietly into a new dimension in which everyday life was transformed and transcended, as we found a depth of loving communion that was infinite and eternal in its quality ... There was a remarkable sense of freedom among us for we were not bound by dogma nor restricted by the negative side of credal statements. At the same time we were supported by a strong awareness of trust in life as having meaning and purpose. Our experience drew from us the conviction that love was the nature of this meaning and purpose." Of our way of worship, he wrote, "It seems to fit in with the Quaker sense that no strong line should be drawn between so called sacred things and those labeled secular ... such experience is the ordinary everyday events of life, carefully observed and interpreted in a religious manner ... This attitude does, of course, involve a certain discipline of the observation of experience, which arises from training oneself to look continually at the world in a particular kind of way."

Ideally, "... each Friend is committed to a sense of loving care and concern for the deepest well-being of his (sic) fellow Friends, and also to share with them the conviction that this kind of relationship, while firmly part of human life, always transcends it and points to life's real meaning and purpose."

another for networking and supporting families and schools dealing with military recruitment. Resources and information will be available for all.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Joan Broadfield, Peace & Justice Coordinator for PYM and staff for the Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns Working Group. e-mail joanb@pym.org or call 215-241-7240.

April Gathering for Friends of African Descent

The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Gathering Committee is pleased to announce that our 2006 Annual Gathering will be at Penn Center on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, Thursday through Sunday, April 20-23. Our theme will be “Sankofa — Remembering the Past, Preparing the Future.” Sankofa — in the Akan language of Ghana, West Africa — means “we must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward.”

All Friends of African descent are invited to attend. This year’s Gathering will be intergenerational. A committee, including parents of children who attended last year’s Gathering, will be planning a wonderful children’s program.

Experiment With Light at Unity Meeting

Unity Monthly Meeting and Frankford Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia will host an *Experiment With Light* retreat presented by Marcelle Martin on Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friends in the Philadelphia Quarter/PYM will learn a form of meditation based on early Quaker experience of the Light at this day-long workshop. We’ll experiment with using a step-by-step guided meditation process based on instructions Fox gave early Friends about how to make direct, personal contact with the inner Light. We’ll use this meditation to seek answers to the issues and concerns that trouble us, and to bring them into our lives as effective, spirit led action. We’ll share whatever we’ve found in small groups of fellow seekers. We’ll learn how to form an ongoing Light Group.

This gathering will show us just what George Fox meant when he said, “Your teacher lies within you,” and “This I knew experimentally.” Friends who have experienced it have reported that it added new truth and power to their Quaker practice.

This retreat will use the Experiment With Light process by Rex Ambler. It is recommended that participants read his *Light to Live By: An Exploration In Quaker Spirituality* book before attending the retreat. This book is available at Quakerbooks and the Pendle Hill Bookstore.

Marcelle Martin is a skilled trainer and a member of Chestnut Hill Meeting. She graduated from the Shalem Institute Program on Spiritual Guidance.

Registration is limited to 40 people and closes March 30. All are welcome. Potluck lunch will be served. Dessert and beverages, as well as refreshments in the morning and afternoon, will be furnished by Unity. Childcare will be available if there is a need for it.

Please register via email at unitymonthlymeeting@att.net or send registration form to: Unity Monthly Meeting, 4371 Waln Street, Phila., PA 19124.

Carol J. Clark, Clerk, Unity Monthly Meeting

Quaker Arts Conference is September 16

Attention all Quaker artists! The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts is now accepting applications for workshop leaders and artists to show or perform at the First Annual Quaker Arts Conference on Saturday, September 16, 2006, at Burlington Meeting House Conference Center.

Workshops are to be approximately 2 hours in length with a short break, and of an experiential (not purely lecture) format. Of special interest would be workshops in visual art (oil painting/sculpture/calligraphy/collage etc.), writing (creative writing/publication etc.), performing arts (improvisation/musical/vocal/theatre, comedy, dance, etc.) but not limited to those areas.

Also needed are artists (visual/3-D/musical/theatrical) to show at the Quaker Art Show to be held that day for both attendees of the conference and the general public. Cost to show is \$15, which includes conference admission and lunch.

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.

Friends Moving Ahead on the Annual Fund

Elizabeth Foley, Director of Development, PYM

Friends are \$33,000 ahead of where we were at this time a year ago. However, the goal of \$460,000 (to be raised by 6/30) is \$25,000 more than it was last year. Friends who usually contribute in May and June are asked to consider contributing earlier in the fiscal year. These earlier gifts will better enable Financial Stewardship to determine if Friends will be successful in reaching the AF goal in the current year. This is important information as they plan a budget for the next fiscal year. They will be planning for next year's budget several months before June 30th. Many more good stewards of our Quaker faith will be needed before June 30th. Sincere thanks to those Friends who have already supported the Annual Fund.

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

— *Dr. Martin Luther King*

Peace

by Ntakwindja, Bukavu, Congo — age 18

Peace — where are you?
A high wall has risen in front of me
to eliminate the horizon of life

Peace — I am looking for you
We have been killed
by small weapons and heavy blows
These men who massacre others
These men who imprison others and
crush the innocent

Peace — where are you?
I am looking for you
How many broken hearts, murdered?
How many people dehumanized?
How many oppressed, without hope?
How many tortured for their religious opinions?
How many smashed for having said the truth?

Peace — I am looking for you
People are dying without saying anything
They don't even have the strength to speak

Dear God, give us peace

Submitted by Howard McKinney

March 2006



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|-----------|--|---|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | 1 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry | 2 | 3 World Day of Prayer | 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 Library Committee 9 am Peace & Soc. Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Meeting for Business | 13 | 14 7:30 pm Care Committee | 15 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Prop. Committee | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10 am Mtg for Worship 11 am First Day School 12 noon covered dish 12:30 pm RE Committee 7 pm Called Meeting for Bus. | 20 | 21 | 22 9:15 am Meeting for Worship | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9 am Ad Hoc group on Racial Justice and Equality 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am First Day School | 27 | 28 | 29 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Committee | 30 | 31 | |