



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 51 No. 9
May 2005

From Worship and Ministry

The Inward Teacher

By Marshall Massey

What we pay attention to in meeting for worship is the still, small Voice, the inward Guide, which is the source of our intimations of what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is bad.

I don't know if you've ever been in love with anybody, but if you have, you have probably discovered for yourself that expecting it to be "spectacular" is a sure way to kill the relationship and lose your beloved. Love only works when we treat it as something we give to, rather than as something we take from. If we treat it as something we give to, we do indeed receive in return, but what we receive is almost beside the point — the point being, to keep on giving.

It's much the same with the experience of God. In attending to its guidance in our daily lives (I'm not talking about Meeting for Worship now; I'm talking about life all through the work week) — letting ourselves accept the more demanding standards that it gradually brings to the forefront of our consciousness, and letting ourselves be corrected by it — learning to admit we're wrong, or out of order, or hurtful, when we are; learning to make amends, even though that is hard and scary; learning to give of ourselves to others as it calls us to do, even though we initially just don't feel like doing so — we are *giving*, not taking. We are giving ourselves, moment by moment, to its correction and its power of change. It takes real effort.

When we do that, we do indeed receive in return, but what we receive is almost beside the point — the point being, to keep on giving. Is this making any sense to

you? If we do this practice in our daily lives, then, when we come together in meeting for worship on Sunday (and at other times, too, when we feel drawn to sit in worship together) — then the same Guide we've followed all week descends on us as a great comfort; we feel it as the Lord of the heaven we ourselves have been building by our yieldings to it, day by day responding to its urgings and corrections.

"Spectacular" isn't the point of this at all. It would be truer to say that it's an enormously fulfilling "normal," than to say it is in any way "spectacular."

However, the *real* normal is anything but a disappointment. It is what our bodies and minds and hearts were actually designed for; it is what satisfies them most, and what satisfies them most deeply.

Most people go through their lives in a perpetual state of abnormality, of off-centeredness. The Buddha called this off-centeredness *dukkha*, which in his language suggests the problems caused by an oxcart wheel being attached to the axle slightly off its center, so that it always lurches, groans from friction, refuses to go straight, is unusually hard to pull, and wears out the axle at all-too-frequent intervals. A similar analogy for our modern age would be going through your whole life in shoes that never quite fit, and thinking that the pains and the orthopedic problems this causes are just an inevitable thing.

Coming into a right relationship with the Guide corrects these off-centeredness problems. It is *much* better than "spectacular while still wearing ill-fitting shoes."

Coffee and Hospitality for May

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Upcoming Events

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.

May 7 — Voices of Remembrance: Victims of Violence

7:30 PM. Irvine Auditorium of the University of Pennsylvania, 3401 Spruce St., Phila. Come hear the Singing City's 57th Anniversary Concert. A pre-concert panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Daniel Gottlieb, entitled "What is our responsibility in the face of violence?" will be held at 6:30 PM. For ticket information, go to www.singingcity.org.

May 21 — Elaine Pagels Lecture and Workshop

9:15 AM. Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House. Schedule and ticket-ordering information is posted at www.pym.org/pagellecure.

May 21 — Camp Dark Waters Silent Auction and Luncheon

11:30 AM in the Colonial Dining Room at Medford Leas. Camp Dark Waters welcomes all Friends, including former campers and staff, parents and families in PYM, to have some fun and help campers.

June 4 — PYM Session on Climate Change

9 AM to 2 PM at Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Streets, Phila. Friends at Annual Sessions agreed to convene a called session to address the concern about climate change. More information will be in the May/Summer issue of *PYM News* and online at www.pym.org.

June 4 — Downingtown Friends Music Festival

3 PM at the Meeting grounds, 800 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Tony Vacca, percussionist extraordinaire, headlines the second annual spring music festival at Downingtown Friends Meeting. The show will also include some of the Meeting's talented Friends. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Children 12 and under are free. Young Friends will have refreshments, food and festival T-shirts available for sale. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Proceeds benefit the Meeting's Friends school scholarship fund and will help send Young Friends to Nicaragua this summer.

April Monthly Meeting for Business — April 10, 2005

Editor's note: What follows is an edited, "unofficial" version of the Monthly Meeting for Business minutes. If you want to read the "official" minutes, please contact Joanne Heizer, Recording Clerk.

The Meeting began with a period of worship. The clerk read Query Number 3 from *Faith & Practice* — Spiritual Nurture, Ministry and Religious Education.

John Donch presented the Annual Report of the Children's Inclusion Committee, held over from February's Meeting for Business.

The clerk read the Finance Committee's Annual Report, which included the second half of fiscal year 2003-2004 and the first half of fiscal year 2004-2005. Finance Committee projects a deficit of \$25,418 as of June, 2005. Finance Committee is making the Monthly Meeting community aware of this shortfall in the hope that increased contributions may mitigate it.

Finance Committee also reported on the committee's instructions from Monthly Meeting to meet periodically with School Committee on school budget matters. They have spent countless hours working with HFS on payroll, expense allocation, tuition obligations and the financial interrelationship of the Monthly Meeting and School. Friends are especially appreciative of contributions specified for tuition support for Meeting children attending HFS.

In response to the Monthly Meeting's called meeting on financial stewardship in September 2004, Finance Committee has recently completed a draft set of principles on financial stewardship which have been submitted to Care Committee.

The treasurer, on behalf of Finance Committee, proposed a Covenant Contribution to PYM in the amount of \$15,000 and to Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting in the amount of \$6,500.

For Nominating Committee, Ceil McFadden presented the proposed committee membership list. As is customary, approval will be held over for one month. Ceil also read principles for service to the Meeting by serving on Committees.

Friends approved the clerk's execution of a fictitious name registration, to be filed in Trenton, indicating

that Haddonfield Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. conducts some business under the name of "Haddonfield Friends School."

For Care Committee, Mary Noland spoke of the conflict that has been created in the Meeting arising out of the relationship between the Monthly Meeting and the School. Care Committee suggested that the clerk call a special Meeting for Worship for Healing. Friends had several questions about the process. Care committee will explore formats and procedures and report back to Meeting.

Deb Kost gave her periodical report on the school, which included the following:

- Three architects are to give proposals for bringing Boxwood Hall (65 Haddon Ave.) up to fire code.
- There is to be a retreat on April 17th for school parents, teachers and staff as a follow-up to last year's retreat.
- A reminder that members and attenders of Meeting are always invited to attend school events.
- School members will assist with grounds cleanup on May 1st.
- HFS parents, faculty and staff are invited to Meeting for Worship and First Day School on April 21st.
- A new auditor will be chosen by June 30th by the independent audit committee.

Care Committee and the Clerk asked Monthly Meeting to approve the Clerk repeating as host for the cub scouts' visit on April 17. Members of Care Committee and Worship & Ministry will be asked to observe so they may consider forming a ministry to greet and inform inquirers about our Meeting and the Society of Friends.

Friends are asked to hold the following members of our community in the Light: Bonnie Drago, Francie Pagel, Eric Snyder, Connie Brookes and Flora McKinney.

Note: Because Mother's Day falls on the second Sunday in May, Meeting for Business for May will be held Friday Evening, May 6 at 7:30 PM.

First Day School for May

May 1 — Cleanup of the Meeting House and grounds. Please put the date on your calendar and come to Meeting on that day in clothing appropriate to the occasion. Bring work gloves, yard tools, or cleaning materials.

May 8 — Mother's Day. No First Day School.

May 15 — Closing exercises for children's First Day School. The children will share what they've learned during FDS in the past year. Please stay after Meeting to acknowledge the accomplishments of our children and teachers.

Inquirers' Weekend on Basic Quakerism

The next Inquirers' Weekend, designed to introduce attenders and new members to the basics of Quaker faith and practice, will be held July 22-24 at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA. Leaders will be Trayce Peterson, Director of Campus and Quaker Ministries at Earlham College, and Frank Massey, General Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The Inquirers' Weekend is co-sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Pendle Hill.

For more information, contact Pendle Hill at 800-742-3150 or 610-566-4507, ext. 3, or check the website www.pendlehill.org under Spring/Summer 2005 Workshops. Pendle Hill has funds available to match grants from Friends Meetings for scholarships; please ask for details.

Young Friends Summer Gathering in August

August 21-27 are the dates for the PYM Young Friends Summer Gathering at Camp Onas, in Ottsville, PA. For young people 9th to 12th grades or age 14 by September 1, 2005. See Young Friends website www.pym.org/youngfriends for a flyer and registration information or contact Young Friends Program Coordinator Cookie Caldwell at 215-241-7222 or cookiec@pym.org

News from Haddonfield Friends School

Eighth Grade Tours Washington

On Wednesday, March 23, eighth graders and middle school teachers met at 30th Street Station at 7:15 AM

for the first eighth grade overnight trip to our nation's capital. Everyone enjoyed riding Amtrak, including the visits to the snack car. We arrived at Union Street Station in a torrential downpour. However, the rain did not dampen our spirits. The color coded Metro lines were quickly deciphered and within no time we were at the Holiday Inn Capitol Hill. After check-in, we all enjoyed a Starbucks lunch before heading to the Air & Space Museum. Hours were spent exploring here before venturing to the Castle, which was the original Smithsonian. Next, we walked on the Mall, where the students experienced standing with the Capitol on one side and the Washington Monument on the other side.

Evening activities included dinner at the Americana in Union Station and a 2½ hour "Monuments by Moonlight" trolley tour, where we stopped at the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam, Korean, Iwo Jima, and F.D.R. Memorials. The evening tour was a favorite of many of the students.

On the second day, we were at breakfast by 7 AM. Soon after the meal, we took the Metro to Arlington National Cemetery. The mood was somber since we witnessed the changing of the guard and the placing of two wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In the distance, a twenty-one gun salute could be heard. Then we proceeded to the American History Museum, where we enjoyed the exhibit featuring the First Ladies. We also viewed an exhibit taking us from the American Revolution through the war with Iraq.

What a wonderful experience everyone had! We hope the eighth grade trip to Washington will be an annual tradition.

Teachers Missy, Susan and Carol F.

FHA Spring Tour has Underground Railroad Theme

The Friends Historical Association Spring Tour will take place Sunday, May 22, in the village of Ercildoun, PA. At 10 AM we will gather in People's Hall adjacent to Fallowfield Meetinghouse to hear about its history and involvement in the Underground Railroad. The Hall was the site of many meetings of local anti-slavery societies in the mid-19th century in an area where many of the Quaker families were abolitionists. Meeting for Worship will begin at 11 AM.

After a box lunch for which Fallowfield Friends will provide beverage and dessert, we will travel to Longwood to join the 150th anniversary celebration of the building of Longwood Meetinghouse. The 2 PM program will include a keynote address by historian Christopher Densmore, music, and historical displays. A map of the route to Longwood from Fallowfield will be provided to attendees so that they can see other important Underground Railroad sites along the way.

The organizers are particularly interested in inviting descendants of the founders of the Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting of Progressive Friends; see <http://www.undergroundrr.kennett.net/longwoodmeeting.html> for a list of the founders and more information about Progressive Friends.

All are welcome at both meetings. Fallowfield Meeting is located on Route 82, two miles south of Coatesville, PA. Detailed information is available at <http://www.haverford.edu/library/fha/fha.html>.

*Submitted by Mary Sproat
Friends Historical Association*

Friend's Ministry of Prayer, Part 4

By Marshall Massey

Robert Barclay, our great systematic theologian, has pointed out the close connection that true prayer has with waiting worship:

"... Praying ... by the Spirit pre-supposes necessarily a silent waiting to feel the motions; and influence of the Spirit to lead thereunto; and ... in several of these places where praying is commanded, as *Matt. xxvi. 41, Mark xiii. 33, Luke xxi. 36, I Peter iv. 7*, watching is specially prefixed as a previous preparation thereunto ... Barclay, *Apology*, Prop. XI, Sec. 11.

And while this may seem more relevant to private prayer than to public prayer, still, one must remember that, among Friends, there is no real difference of character between the two.

I think the unity of these two kinds of prayer is clearly visible in the statement written by the London Yearly Meeting Revision Committee in 1925, concerning public prayer in meeting for worship:

"Prayer offered in the right spirit ... is a great power and has a wonderfully unifying and quickening effect.

The times of silent waiting in our Meetings for Worship are not intended only for the refreshment of the individual worshipper. If the silence be a living one, in which the worshippers seek to enter into each other's needs and to bear in their hearts the sufferings of the world without and the call to dedication in the service of the kingdom of God, silent prayer may naturally lead to vocal prayer.

The expression of [such public] prayer will not be of the nature of an address to the congregation, neither exhortation nor exposition of doctrine. If it is offered simply and humbly in fellowship with others and as a heart-felt cry of man's spirit to his Heavenly Helper, it is of the utmost value in building up our common religious life."

If we meet as members of one family in the presence of our Father, we should not shrink unduly from this offering of love ... It was to encourage such simple ministry that [Friend] William Dewsbury from his prison in York Tower in 1660 wrote the words, "And thou faithful babe, though thou stutter and stammer forth a few words in the dread of the Lord, they are accepted."

The Wounding and Healing of the Human Spirit

Notes on Dan Gottlieb's lecture to PYM, March 31, 2005, taken by Deedy Roberts

Laura Smoot introduced Dan to the Yearly Meeting. She has known him since she was a baby when he helped supervise her mother, Judy Owens.

In his introduction, Dan, who is a quadriplegic, said that sometimes he pretends to feel strong and smart when he doesn't feel that way. He laughs, cries, hates and loves. He feels grief and confusion, gratitude, awe. He longs for safety and happiness. He is liberal, Jewish, a widower and an orphan.

The Talmud says that every blade of grass has an angel standing over it saying grow, grow, grow. When he had his near-fatal accident twenty-five years ago, he told his loved ones he'd live with it for three years and then quit. He went into his bedroom asking God for hope that one day he would walk. The voice said there was no hope. He ended up choosing life. He felt he wasn't man enough to choose the alternative. He thought then that his children needed him. Then that he needed his children. Then he chose life because, he said, that's what we do. But being human also means we know we will die.

... All religions are about avoiding death. When people are confronted with their vulnerability they tend to close down. When confronted continually with their death, their beliefs become more primitive. It's hard to keep your heart open in the face of fear and against primordial instincts.

... We can't face our divinity until we face our humanity. What does it mean to be human? We live with paradoxes. We belong, yet we are unique. We hunger to be known, loved. Love is necessary but it is terrifying. To be human is to suffer, to live with injustice, to be betrayed and to betray. The divine child is always an orphan. We wrestle with orphanhood, loneliness.

... Humanity is about diminishing suffering, finding happiness and peace and having the ability to give and receive love. When the heart is open, it's alive. We live with our demons. We don't have to fight them anymore. The demands of the ego close the heart. We try to be someone we are not because we are afraid to be who we are. Everything which you need to heal your wounds is already in the body. Put it in a healthy environment and it will heal itself.

... At the core of our humanity we have the ability to show compassion. Children have awe. They are unskilled at prejudice. Girls grow up hiding parts of themselves out of shame. Who should they be rather than who they are. They lose some of their humanity. The media sees our children as performance units rather than spiritual ones. A voice becomes silenced as we disavow parts of ourselves. How can we be so quick to judge when we come from children who knew the angels?

... Altruistic love opens the heart. Consciously, selflessly, generously love. Love the invisible people in your life. Know their moods, smells, eyes, eating habits, sadness. Then tomorrow love one more person in that way. What heals the soul is compassion for others. The pursuit of personal justice can lead to misery. The pursuit of social justice leads to happiness. Keep your heart open and listen to the voice of your soul.

... Our task is to see the world through God's eyes. We must see our enemies, our friends, the homeless and our neighbors through God's eyes. Hatred never cured hatred. The Buddha said that only love cures hatred.

Dan spoke of how much effort he puts into pretending not to be broken, but that we are all broken. We need

to come together and weep, to open our palms and say “I don’t know what to do.” You can’t *not* suffer in this life. Everything is what you do with it. The Buddha spoke of compassion for self and others, in that order. Despair is the pain which comes with wrestling with hopelessness. We need to not be blind to our own badness. We have to tolerate our own intolerance. Pause for half a second between a stimulus and your response and you have all the choices in the world. When you put your hand on the door knob, feel the temperature. You then have more ownership of your life.

The final line of a poem he quoted entitled *September 12th* was “Give me the strength to grow compassion to all.”

Workcamp Alumni Development Project Assistant (7hr/wk)

The PYM Friends Workcamp is seeking applicants for the position of Workcamp Alumni Development Project Assistant. This is a temporary part-time (7 hours a week) casual position for a grant-funded project. The employee will gather current contact information of Workcamp alumni, update the Workcamp alumni database, and develop a structure and newsletter to effectively connect to Workcamp alumni. We are seeking an organized, outgoing person who can work independently. Familiarity with the Friends Workcamp program is a plus! \$15 per hour. Application deadline is May 31. This position will start in June and end in December 2005. Please send a resume to Arin Ahlum Hanson, Friends Workcamp Coordinator, at arinh@pym.org or call 215-241-7236 for more information.

PYM Children’s Religious Education Coordinator

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting expects to initiate a search in May/June to fill the position of Coordinator of First Day Schooling and Children’s Religious Education this summer. In the meantime, our Quaker community has an opportunity for visioning and discernment about First Day schooling and children’s religious education. Questions that arise include: “What do we want for our children?” “What do we want for our community?” Friends are invited to share their thoughts, in writing, with Tom Hoopes, PYM Director of Education. E-mail education@pym.org or mail to 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102.

May 2005



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 Meetinghouse cleanup 12:30 pm RE Committee	2	3	4 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Committee	5	6 Monthly Meeting for Business 7:30 pm	7 12-4 pm HFS Spring Fling RD 5/14
8 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship	9	10 7:30 pm Care Committee	11 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	12	13	14
15 Newsletter deadline 10 am Mtg for Worship 11 am Closing Ceremonies FDS Covered Dish	16	17	18 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Property Committee	19 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	20	21
22 10 am Meeting for Worship	23	24	25 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	26	27	28
29 10 am Meeting for Worship	30	31				