



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 53 No. 3
November 2006

From Worship and Ministry

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (*Part 1 of 2*)

The Light

"That was the true light, which enlightens every man coming into the world." (John 1:9)

God has given to every person a light to guide his way. This light shines in good people and bad people, in people of all religions and people who have no religious belief, in people who feel they are saved and in those who feel they are lost. Nobody is ever so lost as not to have a glimmer of light. It is always close at hand. Even in the darkest and most confusing situation, there is a right way to go, and the light will show it.

The light shows us what is right and what is wrong. It doesn't depend on what we may have been taught by other people, or read in books, or figured out according to some philosophy or plan we might have. When we have light, we can just see that some actions are right, or wrong. For instance, we can see that we ought not to tell a lie, even though our minds might come up with all sorts of plausible excuses for lying.

The light is pure. Its home is in the conscience and not in the seat of emotion. It comes from above and is called the light of truth, or the light of Christ.

Following the Light

"While you have light, believe in the light, that you may become children of the light." (John 12:36)

To follow the light you must start where you are, and take one step at a time. Don't expect to see a long way ahead. Even if you feel you have a vision of things to come, that is not the place to put your attention. Right now, there is something you should do, because it is right — or stop doing, because it is wrong. It might be something very small.

The light shows us what we ought to do: we can either obey it or disobey it. When we obey, we feel a sense of peace and inner comfort, and our lives are brought into God's harmony. Each step taken in obedience leads to our being given more light.

If we disobey the light we feel guilty and uneasy. Stubborn disobedience leads to less light, and to a life out of harmony with God and our neighbor. It is never worthwhile, for no matter how attractive are the things we gain by wrongdoing, we will not get to keep them, and we will hurt ourselves and others.

Licia Kuenning, Glenside Meeting

Coffee and Hospitality for November

Finance Committee

Facing Bench for November

Drew Biehl and John Sheffield

Upcoming Events

November 1 — HFS Development Meeting

6:30 p.m. in the Meeting House. A follow-up to September's planning and design charette. See article on page 4.

November 3 — Poetry by Candlelight.

7:30 p.m., 120 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield. Hosted by Emalyn and Ilise Feitshans and Family. **Featured poet Rocky Wilson.**

November 4 — Worship and Ministry Gathering

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Germantown Friends Meeting. Come enjoy extended worship, good fellowship, and opportunities for small group discussion. All are welcome. Morning refreshments at 9:30. Worship begins at 10. Our afternoon speaker is Deborah Saunders of Cropwell Meeting. She will address the subject: "Nurturing Loving Communities and Leadership Through Friends' Practice Of Spiritual Discernment." This gathering is

hosted by the PYM Meeting on Worship and Ministry (www.pym.org/worship). Lunch will be provided free to those who pre-register. Space is limited. When lunch spaces are filled, attenders may be asked to bring a bag lunch.

November 4 — Bible Association Meeting

1 to 4 p.m. at Mullica Hill Meeting. Esther Murer will speak about her Quaker Bible Index project at the annual meeting of the Bible Association of Friends in America. The event is co-sponsored by PYM's Adult Religious Education Working Group, Mullica Hill Monthly Meeting, and Salem Quarterly Meeting. Map and directions: www.mullicahillfriends.org.

November 4 — AFSC Annual Public Gathering

1:30 p.m. at Arch Street Meeting House. The keynote speaker will be Helen Thomas, who was a member of the White House press corps for more than fifty years. Her presentation for AFSC, under the general theme "Speaking Truth, Seeking Justice," will focus on how well the press meets its responsibility to inform the public. Following the keynote address, AFSC will present several panels highlighting programs related to AFSC's current priority areas of peace building and human migration/mobility. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.afsc.org.

November 4 — Education Fund Dinner

7 p.m. in the auditorium. See page 4 for details.

November 8–11 — William Penn Welcome Week Arch Street Meeting House. See page 5 for details.

November 11 — "Voice of the Muse"

Singing City Concert, 8 p.m. at Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House. The concert will feature "the magnificent gifts of women to the choral art. Voice of the Muse will lift up the gifts of Hildegard von Bingen, Fanny Mendelssohn, Undine Smith Moore, and local composers Andrea Clearfield and Jennifer Higdon. These are not merely women composers, they are GREAT composers!"

November 18 — PYM Special Session on Peace

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House. The Session is intended primarily as an experience of worship focusing on peace and how it has been a central concern of the Religious Society of Friends. In announcing the Session, Yearly Meeting Clerk Thomas Swain wrote, "The Session will not center on specific zones of conflict and violence nor will we intend to address questions of what to do in programs of peace-making in a troubled world. Instead, it will be a worship-centered listening for new inspiration and guidance in re-examining deeply the meaning and

the requirements of living in peace in these times." It is the hope for the Session that we write an epistle to Quakers and other groups around the world. Registration for lunch and/or childcare up to age 5 will be necessary. Registration and further information will be available at www.pym.org.

November 30–December 3 — Ten Thousand Villages Crafts Sale

Woodstown Meeting, 104 N Main St, Woodstown NJ. Since 1946, Ten Thousand Villages has supported the work of many artisans from developing nations, providing fair trade money for their handmade crafts. Come purchase a beautifully handmade craft, for yourself or as a gift, and support talented, creative artists from developing countries who may be otherwise unemployed. For more information visit www.tenthousandvillages.com or www.woodstownfriends.org.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business October 8, 2006

27 Friends were in attendance. The meeting began with a period of worship. The clerk read Query Number 2 from *Faith & Practice*, Meeting for Business.

There was no Correspondence Report this month. Nominating Committee is still searching for a Correspondence Secretary.

For the School Committee, Pat Williams reported on the progress of the legal separation of the School from the Meeting. Pat also presented the Preliminary Income Statement. Friends are encouraged to attend a Meeting with the school consultant on November 1st at the Meeting House at 6:30 p.m.

For Care Committee, Bob Brookes reported on the resignation of Steve Berryhill from Haddonfield Monthly Meeting. The request will be held over for the customary one month.

Debbie and Philip Whiting have requested that their infant son, William, be accepted into membership in Haddonfield Meeting. For Care Committee, Bob Brookes recommended that the request be approved without the usual one-month wait. Friends approved.

Gary Smith reported for Worship & Ministry on the recent "Family Movie Night" event. Thirty people attended and all present enjoyed a covered dish dinner and a movie, "Friendly Persuasion." The committee hopes to host another event in the near future.

Westfield Monthly Meeting is currently considering a minute on same gender marriage. They have asked that if Haddonfield has such a minute, would we please send them a copy. Friends recalled that we did approve a Minute some years ago. The Clerk, Drew Biehl, will research the Meeting's records and, if necessary, contact the libraries at Haverford and Swarthmore, where Meeting Minutes are archived.

Friends are reminded that Friendship Committee will be presenting its annual report at the November Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business on November 12th.

The Meeting approved a grant of \$160. to send Drew to the Clerks' Workshop at Pendle Hill. The funds will be drawn from the Conferences Fund.

PYM is looking for a General Secretary and is accepting suggestions from Meetings and individuals.

Friends approved a minute of appreciation for the many members of Meeting and of the school community who continue to persevere against a myriad of problems. We applaud their successes and achievements.

Deedy Roberts reported for Memorial and Graveyard Committee that Nancy Alberts, daughter of Mary and Dewitt Markham, died on September 12th in Pittsburgh. She was fifty-seven years of age. Nancy attended our meeting as a child. Her parents are buried in full caskets in our graveyard. Nancy's cremains will be buried in her mother's grave plot. A memorial service was conducted by her family at the Kain-Murphy Funeral Home.

The meeting concluded with a period of worship.

First Day School

Adult classes:

How should we respond as Quakers to the increasingly violent world in which we live? We are focusing on this question in the context of considering what our response could be to the situation in the Middle East. Leila and Sara Barclay spoke movingly on October 15 about their first-hand experiences in Lebanon over the past year. We were left with a vivid picture of the horrors that the Lebanese people have been facing, especially during the Israeli invasion this past summer. But throughout their presentation, Leila and Sara made it clear that they are optimistic, because they believe in the resilience of the Lebanese people and the ability of the diverse population of Lebanon to cooperate and prevail.

November 5 — Mohammed Ibrahim will be our guest. He has been speaking to groups from his perspective as a

Sudanese Muslim since September 11, 2001, about how and why people are using the Muslim context to be violent. Until recently he has been working for the AFSC Project Voice, working on immigration networking. Linda Lotz has selected some background materials for our series on our Quaker response to the situation in the Middle East. If you would like these e-mailed to you, contact her at Llotz@afsc.org. Printed copies will be placed on the table in the foyer of the Meeting House. If you have questions, please contact Kitty Mizuno.

November 12 — Business meeting

November 19 — Cleanup day, sponsored by Property Committee. Please bring rakes and other gardening tools, cleaning supplies and lots of energy to spruce up the Meeting House grounds before winter. Covered dish follows.

Young People's classes

High School students will gather in the foyer of the Meeting House with their teachers David Galivan and David Austin, who plan to take them to the Three Bean Cafe on Haddon Avenue during the First Day School hour.

Middle School students are under the leadership of Ty Drago this year. They are learning about other religions.

Upper Elementary School students will be under the leadership of Helene Drago until Christmas time. They are learning about Quakerism. In the second part of the year they will be learning about the life of Christ, beginning at Christmas with His birth. Sue McDevitt will teach this class.

The Lower elementary school, kindergarten and preschool group still needs a teacher to be in charge of the class on a weekly basis. At present Julie Lyons, Tanya Hogan, Nancy Engle and Inspira Williams are all prepared to assist, but are unable to commit to being the teacher for the class. If you want to have the rewarding experience of teaching this wonderful class, please speak to Religious Education co-chairs Inspira Williams or Kitty Mizuno.

Support the Education Fund

The Education Fund Committee is having a dinner on Saturday, November 4 at 7 p.m. at the Meeting House. We have a new, improved meal planned and have tapped Meeting for one of our best cooks to play lead chef. We are planning on having the Meeting children perform. All proceeds will benefit the Education Fund Trust assisting the children of our Meeting in receiving a Quaker education. Tickets are being sold with a recommended donation of \$50, but any donation will be accepted.

Make New Friends (But Keep the Old) ...

New Haddonfield Meeting member Mike (or Michael, your choice) Lyons, husband of Julie, is an outgoing person, committed teacher, longtime running coach, and downhill ski enthusiast. Mike's very favorite topic of conversation is the world's best ski areas. His votes go to Salt Lake City in the U.S. and Chamonix in France. The couple started teaching their children Will and Bridget to ski at the age of three.

Mike's philosophy of parenting is that "the world doesn't need more bratty children. We expect good behavior and we teach them good listening." As a teacher of sixth grade math and science, Mike strives to build trust and a good rapport with his students. "Then they'll listen to you, and the content becomes more meaningful."

Growing up in 1970s rural Chew's Landing, three miles from Haddonfield, Mike remembers his new housing development being surrounded by farms. The developer, Charles Gemberling, was a Haddonfield Meeting member. An older man, Nick Virgilio, owned nearby peach and pear orchards. As children, Mike and pals often bicycled to watch a crop-duster land on the fields. Julie and Mike settled in Chew's Landing and are raising their children in a changed landscape, where the farms are only a memory now.

Mike's paternal grandfather left Newfoundland for New Jersey to work as a crane operator on the Ben Franklin Bridge. His maternal grandfather, an Italian immigrant, settled in Woodbury and managed the Grand Union market.

Despite a college degree in Economics and Italian Studies (including a year abroad in Bologna), Mike was working in landscape architecture and winter snow plowing when he met Julie. He then got his masters degree in teaching via what was then called the "collaborative study group" method and would now be called "distance learning."

Raised Catholic, Mike heard about Friends from his sister, a third grade teacher at Westfield Friends School. By the time he and Julie began attending Haddonfield Meeting two years ago, he felt fairly comfortable about Quakerism. Some of his leadings are environmental issues, patterns of distribution of wealth in the US, and religious intolerance. "We are very far from Christ's teachings in America," Mike said sadly.

Judy Kruger

... One Is Silver And The Other Gold.

A song sung in Girl Scout camp.

HFS Development

Once again, we invite you to participate in the development of a vision for the future of Haddonfield Friends School. On Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting House, Mary Holland of CICADA Architecture/Planning will present three alternative plans for the development of Haddonfield Friends School's campus and facilities over the next twenty years, and will solicit comments and thoughts from the HFS community.

For those who participated in the planning and design charette on Saturday, Sept. 9, this will be an opportunity to revisit in further detail the alternative plans for the future development of school facilities that were initiated by charette participants. For those who were unable to participate in the charette, this will be the best opportunity to participate in the process by contributing your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

After the November 1st meeting, CICADA will be asked to develop a final Master Plan that combines the best ideas from your comments and suggestions concerning the three alternatives presented that evening. The final Master Plan will be presented to the School Committee in March 7, 2007.

Please join us on November 1st and contribute your thoughts.

Deb Kost

Monarch Butterflies and HFS

Have you ever seen a group of HFS students walking through town dressed as colorful butterflies? Have you seen the butterfly garden behind the school? Did you ever wonder how this all started? A special edition of the Friends & Parents newsletter from HFS tells the story. It all began with Tr. Louise Heritage, who brought a monarch caterpillar into her classroom in a glass jar for her students to observe. It was



a quiet, simple, and amazing monarch study for many years. Then, in the mid-1970's, Tr. Bonnie Smith was transferred to second grade next to Tr. Louise. Tr. Louise asked her if she would like to have a monarch caterpillar in a jar for the beginning of the new school year. By 1991, the butterflies had captured the imaginations of the students and teachers and they began a monarch parade to celebrate the Monarch migration (*the photo above is from this year's parade*). In 1994, the butterfly/peace garden was planted with plants that supplied nectar and food for butterflies and their larvae. For more of the story and more pictures, go to www.haddonfieldfriends.org.

William Penn Welcome Week

Arch Street Meeting House is hosting the following events as part of a city-wide celebration of William Penn:

Thursday, November 9 at 10:30 a.m.

The history and culture of the Lenni Lenape will be presented by the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Cultural Center.

Saturday, November 11 at 1 p.m.

Emma Lapansky Warner will speak about Ben Franklin and the Quakers.

Saturday, November 11 at 3 p.m.

Music from William Penn's world, featuring selections from Purcell and Matteis, songs and dances from the Lenni Lenape Nation and from Africa, Irish folk songs and original songs about Penn.

Quaker Peace Testimony

Ask anyone, Quaker or otherwise, about the essential beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends and chances are you will hear something about Friends historic peace testimony. "Quakers don't fight in wars" is something specific that people can say about this peculiar sect which steadfastly refuses to be defined by creed or dogma. Moreover, in a world where it is considered acceptable, indeed praiseworthy, to go

to war and kill one another for the sake of peace or justice, in a world where we have learned to define successes, amass our fortunes or win our arguments at the expense of others like us (our enemies) who lose out, the perception that 'Quakers are peacemakers' sets Friends apart and makes them visible.

But Friends' peace testimony is not a creed, in the sense of a statement of belief true for all time. Nor is it a code of behavior, a set of rules to which all Quakers individually and corporately must adhere. On the simplest level, "testimony" means "bearing witness" and Friends' long heritage of witnessing to peace can be found in public statements and personal reflections, in their refusal to bear arms in times of civil and international conflict, in acts of prophetic confrontation and of quiet, reconciling diplomacy. But these are merely outward and visible signs of inward conviction. This conviction springs from a living Spirit, mediated through the human experience of those trying to understand and follow its leadings. It grows afresh in every life, in every worshipping group, in every generation.

At the heart of this conviction is Friends' experience that there is something of God—the seed of the Spirit—in all people. Quakers believe that more can be accomplished by appealing to this capacity for love and goodness, in ourselves and in others, than can be hoped for by threatening punishment or retaliation if people act badly. This is not to ignore the existence of evil. It is to recognize that there is no effective way to combat evil with weapons which harm or kill those through whom evil is working. We must turn instead, in the words of early Friends, to the "weapons of the spirit," allowing God to reach out through us to that of God in those with whom we are in conflict. "Spiritual weapons"—love, truthsaying, nonviolence, imagination, laughter—are weapons that heal and don't destroy.

All this sounds grand indeed; its consequences are for the most part very ordinary. The peace testimony is not something Quakers take down from a shelf and dust off only in wartime or in times of personal or political crisis. Living out a witness to peace has to do with everyday choices about the work we do, the relationships we build, what part we take in politics, what we buy, how we raise our children. It is a matter of fostering relationships and structures—from personal to international—which are strong and healthy enough to contain conflict when it arises and allow its creative resolution. It is a matter of withdrawing our cooperation from structures and relationships which are unjust and exploitative. It is a matter of finding creative ways of dealing with conflict when it does arise, with the aim of freeing all concerned to find a just and loving solution.

Like everyone else, Quakers live in the real world. Insights which are gloriously clear in the spirit translate into words or actions which seem muddled and imperfect. From time to time we fail, we fudge, we are hurt, and hurt others. To accept as a certainty the spiritual conviction which underlies the peace testimony is not to be certain of the outcome. We cannot guarantee that we will never kill, far less that we will never do violence to those with whom we share the earth. Nor can we, by refusing to do harm and seeking always for a creative response in conflict ensure our own personal safety or the triumph of the causes we support. We can only choose to live day by day as if it were possible always to defend what we value and to resolve conflict without deliberate harm—in such a way that if damage does occur, healing is possible.

If we choose to attempt this, we are not alone. Those who have lived and witnessed before us (by no means all of them Quakers) have left examples for us to find and follow. Those of us alive now who are struggling with the same dilemmas can offer each other comfort, courage and support. And we are many. We are beginning to realize that security is common, indivisible, and cannot be assured by military means. To seek to live at such a time in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars is no longer (if it ever was) a saintly, other-worldly alternative. It is now an urgent and practical imperative.

*Mary Lou Leavitt
from a series of online pamphlets on
Quakerism at www.pym.org.*

November 2006



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:15 am Meeting for Worship HFS Development Meeting 6:30 pm	2	3	4 Education Fund Dinner 7 pm
5 9 am Library Committee Meeting 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS	6 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	7	8 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	9	10	11
12 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	16	17	18
19 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Cleanup 12 noon Covered Dish	20 7:30 pm Prop. Committee	21	22	23 10 am Meeting for Worship THANKSGIVING	24	25
26 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS	27	28	29 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	30		