



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 52 No. 1
September 2005

From Worship and Ministry

The Gathered Meeting, Part Two

Thomas R. Kelly

Again, and again this community of life and guidance from the Presence in the midst is made clear by the way the spoken words uttered in the meeting join on to one another and to our inward thoughts. This, I presume, has been a frequent experience for us all, as a common life and current sweeps through us all. We are in communication with one another because we are being communicated to, and through, by Divine Presence. Such indeed is a taste of "the communion of the saints."

John Hughes once told of two Friends side by side in such a gathered meeting. The secret currents of worship flowed with power and then encountered a check. One man moved nervously but did not rise to his feet. Finally the other Friend arose and spoke a few words of searching power, and the meeting proceeded in as sense of covering. After the meeting had broken, the man who had spoken nudged his silent neighbor and said, "Next time, Henry, say it thyself."

But our interest in the gathered meeting is not in such striking side-phenomena as lift the eyebrows of the doubting Thomases, but the central fact of the overshadowing presence of the Eternal One. For it is God Himself who graciously reveals himself in such holy times. The gathered meeting, as group mysticism, shows all the four characteristics which William James applies to mystic states, namely, indescribability, a knowledge-quality, transiency, passivity.

The experience is ineffable; it is not completely describable in words. We live through such hours of expanded vision, yet never can we communicate to another all that

wonder and power and life and re-creation which we knew when swept along in the immediacy of the Divine Presence. To an absent friend we can only say what Philip said to Nathaniel about Jesus; "Come and see." And such must always be the report of any experience of God, by individuals or in groups. "He is wonder and joy, judgment and power. And He is more than all these. Come and see."

The experience has a knowledge quality. The covering by God in the gathered meeting carries with it the sense of insight, of knowledge. We know Him as we have not known Him before. The secrets of this amazing world have been in some degree laid bare. We know life, and the world, and ourselves, from within, anew. And lo, there we have seen God. We may not issue from a gathered meeting with a single crisp sentence or judgment of capsuled knowledge, yet we are infinitely more certain of the dynamic, living, working Life, for we have experienced a touch of that persuading Power that disquiets us until we find our home in Him. And, in the old phrase, we have directly known the healing which drops from beneath his wings. We have been re-energized with that Power and re-sensitized by that tenderness, to meet the daily world of men with new pangs and new steadiness.

It is transient. The sense of Divine covering in a group is rarely sustained more than three quarters of an hour or an hour. One need not seize hold upon it and restrain it from fading; or restore it the next Sunday at will. Each such meeting is a gracious gift of the Eternal Goodness, and the eyes of all must wait upon Him who gives us meat in due season.

Coffee and Hospitality for September
Worship and Ministry Committee

Upcoming Events

September 9–11 — Faithful, Effective Work for Peace and Justice

A weekend conference for Quaker Peace and Justice Committee Clerks and Members to be held at Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA. For more information, contact Joan Broadfield at 215-241-7240 or joanb@pym.org.

September 17 — Gathering for Extended Worship

9:30 AM to 4 PM at Lancaster Meeting, 110 Tulane Terrace, Lancaster, PA. The morning will be given to unprogrammed worship. Afternoon will be an opportunity to reflect and share on a theme that emerges from the morning worship, a time to find fellowship in the deep matters of the Spirit. All those who feel a call to ministry of any sort, including eldering, or who are longing for a deeper experience of Quaker worship are welcome to attend. Child care will be available if reserved one week in advance. Bring a brown bag lunch.

September 18 — “Beyond Oil” Teach-In

Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Streets. The Plenary Program, from 2 to 6:30 PM, includes presentations and panels on the concept of “peak oil”, climate change, environmental justice, and war and militarism. Presenters include Ken Wiwa, Nigerian activist, and Jan Lundberg, former publisher of *The Lundberg Report*. There will also be presentations on these themes from 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM at Friends Select School, 17th and Cherry Sts. Suggested contribution for entire program is \$20. Sponsors include the PYM Earthcare Working Group, Pendle Hill Peace Center, Shalom Center, the Henry George School, Catholic Peace Fellowship, and Sierra Club-Southeast PA. On-line pre-registration at www.phillybeyondoil.org is recommended as space is limited.

September 24 — Buckingham Friends Peace Fair

11 AM to 4 PM, Buckingham (PA) Friends Meeting House. Music, food, children’s activities and information from local peace groups. Free. For more details, see the web site www.quakerpeacefair.org. There is also a Young Friends Gathering in conjunction with the Peace Fair. Contact Cookie Caldwell at cookiec@pym.org or 215-241-7222 for information about the YF Gathering.

September 24 — Treasurers’ Workshop

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Arch Street Meeting House. This workshop will focus on Friendly audits, written procedures for treasurers, and keeping Meeting records accessible. Monthly and Quarterly Meeting treasurers, clerks of finance committees and anyone interested in meeting finances are invited to attend. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Connie Brookes at Friends Fiduciary (215-241-7272, cabfidcorp@aol.com) or Kathy Reilly at PYM (215-241-7205, kathyr@pym.org).

September 30–October 2 — Tri-Quarter Gathering

Camp Ockanickon, Medford Lakes, NJ. Under the care of Burlington, Haddonfield, and Salem Quarters, the theme of this year’s gathering is “Together in the Light”. Activities will include workshops, hay rides, stargazing, square dancing and an ice cream social. There are flyers in the foyer of the Meeting House with details and registration forms.

Looking Ahead

October 3— Golf Outing at Tavistock CC

Help raise money for Haddonfield Council of Churches’ Habitat for Humanity project in Camden. Contact John Donch for details.

October 15 — Yard Sale at the Meeting House

See article on page 4 and enclosed flyer.

October 22 — Workshop on Pastoral Care at the End of Life

This workshop is sponsored by Friends Hospice Project of Philadelphia and the Worship and Care Standing Committee. It will take place from 9 AM to 3 PM at Plymouth Meeting, 2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA. For more information and to register, contact Brad Sheeks at Friends Hospice Project, 215-241-7525, friendshospice@aol.com.

October 22 — Quaker College Fair

Arch Street Meeting House, from 1 to 4 PM. This year’s keynote address will be delivered by Melinda Wenner Bradley, a member of West Chester Meeting and an alumna of Bryn Mawr College. The Quaker College Fair is co-sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the Friends Association for Higher Education (FAHE).

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business Sunday, June 12, 2005

Minutes

(The following minutes are abridged from the complete minutes, which are posted on the Meeting House Bulletin Board. Copies are available on request from the clerk or recording clerk.)

Friends approved the clerk writing a letter of introduction to Quaker communities that the Buchheit-Perry family may visit when they go to Japan this summer.

Friends approved the following committee appointments held over from May: Ann Pugh for Friendship, Mary Spitzer for Property and Nancy Engle for Religious Education Committee.

Nominating Committee presented the following proposed committee appointments: Alister Dodgson for Friendship, Julie Lyons and David Austin for Peace and Social Concerns, Mike Lyons for Property and Mary Anne Gaffney for Religious Education. These new nominations were held over until August.

Council of Churches representative Marietta Donovan reported on a proposed Habitat for Humanities project in Camden. There will be a fundraiser at Tavistock Country Club on October 3rd. Sponsors are needed for the house and for the golf outing. John Donch is our contact person.

Monthly Meeting approved the 2005-2006 budget. John Donch was minuted as standing aside.

Pat Williams presented the School Committee's annual report, received with thanks. Friends approved the 2005-2006 school budget.

Friends approved a minute that that the two school buildings (47 and 65 Haddon Avenue) belong on the financial statements of the School as assets but are owned by the Meeting for the use of the School. Any equity realized from these buildings will be limited to use of the School. Money raised for the use of the school must be assigned to the school. Nothing in this minute is to be construed as permission to impose a lien on any part of the property in the original deed to Haddonfield Meeting. (This minute will be reconsidered in September.)

Friends approved the transfer of Inspira Williams from Rancocas Meeting.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business August 14, 2005

Minutes

(The following minutes are abridged from the complete minutes, which are posted on the Meeting House Bulletin Board. Copies are available on request from the clerk or recording clerk.)

Due to the heat, Friends approved an abbreviated Meeting for Business and carrying over items that require extended discussion.

Friends approved an ad hoc search committee (Bob Turrin, Lou Tomassetti, Steve Berryhill and a school committee representative to be named) to begin the process of finding a new caretaker to take over when Joe Dempsey is no longer able to serve.

Friends approved the following committee appointments held over from June: Alister Dodgson for Friendship, Julie Lyons and David Austin for Peace and Social Concerns, Mike Lyons for Property and Mary Anne Gaffney for Religious Education.

The minute approved in June to the effect that the two school buildings (47 and 65 Haddon Avenue) belong on the financial statements of the School as assets but are owned by the Meeting for the use of the School; that any equity realized from these buildings will be limited to use of the School; and that money raised for the use of the school must be assigned to the school; but that nothing in this minute is to be construed as permission to impose a lien on any part of the property in the original deed to Haddonfield Meeting will be reconsidered in September .

The clerk took this action after receiving several communications to the effect that Friends did not understand and were troubled by the minute. The clerk felt that it may have been approved prematurely without true unity.

Religious Education

Religious Education Committee is in the process of putting together a fall program for the children, which will begin on September 18. We will be contacting parents of all the children on the Membership list. We are also in need of parents and other adults in the Meeting to become involved in the children's program.

Talk to anyone on the REC about volunteering to teach or be a Friendly Presence.

For the adults, a three-part program (October 2, 16 and 23) will be offered by scriptural scholar Tony Prete. It will be different from most FDS offerings in that it will be 2 hours in length and be offered as a brown bag seminar in the auditorium. Participants will be asked to bring their own lunches. It will be open to all Meetings in Haddonfield Quarter. An overview of the program follows:

The Bible and the Tension between Structure and Pain

We live in a world made safe by mutually agreed upon rules and regulations: rules for driving, for public order, for the protection of ourselves and our neighbors, for harmony within the family and stability within the society. To keep these rules is to ensure predictability and order; to violate them is to risk danger and chaos. This same thinking characterized the ancient Near East, the world of the Bible. For the Israelites, rules and regulations were the conditions of the covenant that this people had with their God.

Like other nations, Israel viewed these rules as coming from their God. But Israel is unique because it acknowledged that these rules and regulations are not always beneficial to everyone, and therefore it was willing to question and sometimes challenge their validity. The human condition that provided the most authentic grounds for this questioning and challenging was the existence of pain. Any rule or regulation that lead to pain was open to review, revision, or rejection.

Thus one of the underlying dynamics of the Bible is this tension between structure and pain. It characterizes a struggle not only within the Israelite people but within their God as well. We will look at how this struggle manifested itself throughout the history of Israel and the involvement of their God in that history. And we will ask — for the Israelites and for their God — which of the two tendencies predominated and whether the tension between them was ever resolved.

Yard Sale Alert!

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Education Committee will be sponsoring a yard sale at the Meeting House on Saturday, October 15 at 9 AM. The proceeds will benefit the Meeting and the Education Committee.

Donations of goods, time, and your Friendly support will be greatly appreciated. You will be receiving additional information as the date draws near.

Tr. Deb Awarded Klingenstein Visiting Fellowship

Tr. Deb, HFS Head of School, has been accepted into the Klingenstein Visiting Fellowship Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Klingenstein Visiting Fellowship brings together up to twenty heads of school from around the world for two weeks of intensive study of educational issues facing independent schools, such as cultural relativism and institutional integrity, 21st century curricula and multiculturalism. Each participant also selects a topic of particular interest, and Tr. Deb has chosen “effective school governance.” School Committee is thrilled that the Klingenstein Center has recognized Tr. Deb’s outstanding accomplishments, and it looks forward to her sharing her new knowledge and skills with the HFS community.

Tr. Deb is beginning her second year as Head of Haddonfield Friends School. In her first year at HFS, she instituted a “transition to high school” advisory program for eighth-graders and oversaw adoption of new math and Spanish language sequences and social studies and physical education curricula as well as updating of the science curriculum. This year HFS will begin a three-year program to incorporate the Balanced Literacy reading program in the School’s language arts education.

A strong advocate of Friends education and student centered teaching, Tr. Deb aims to incorporate into her students a love of learning and a desire to improve their lives and that of their community. She is most interested in development of a wide variety of teaching techniques in response to the range of learners among students.

Friends House Moscow — From Russia with Love

True or False?

- Czar Peter the Great attended Quaker meetings for worship in England.
- The Russian word for Quaker (pronounced “Kvah-ker”) is also the word for the sound a frog makes.
- There is a Friends Meeting in Moscow.

- Russian Quakers are actively working on issues that impact the disabled, victims of domestic abuse and ethnic violence, COs, prisoners, refugees and the environment.

All true, which you would know if you had joined a small but enthusiastic group of Friends who recently attended an enlightening talk at our Meeting by Julie Harlow, a Friend from Davis (CA) Monthly Meeting, who, when not tending to her duties on the Board of Directors of Friends House Moscow (FHM), travels across the U.S. to educate Quaker communities about the work of FHM. Adding texture to the discussion was our own Kevin Heizer, whose peace ministry in the Soviet Union in the 1980s enabled him to share his experiences as well. Julie had a magnificent selection of Russian folk crafts for sale, the proceeds of which support the work of FHM.

Russia is a profoundly troubled place with overwhelming problems: poverty, ethnic conflict, inadequate health and social services and other unfortunate legacies of history and culture. In the face of daunting challenges, FHM puts faith into action by working for social justice through numerous service projects that bear witness to Quaker values. In addition, there is a unique connection between FHM and Moscow Monthly Meeting. FHM is vital to the very existence of the Meeting because, as a recognized NGO, it legally can facilitate the Meeting's ability to survive by raising funds, renting a place to worship, etc., which the Meeting cannot do directly due to arcane restrictions on western religious groups.

In her travels, Julie asks that Friends consider helping FHM through what she calls the "three Ps" — prayers, pennies and people. (As to the last, FHM has a pressing need for Russian-speaking interns.) She asked that our Meeting consider a contribution to FHM when we next budget for corporate giving.

For more information about this remarkable Quaker ministry, please look for the FHM brochures and newsletters in the Meeting House foyer, and visit www.quaker.org/fhm. For Friends interested in reading about the history of Quakers in Russia and the former Soviet Union, our library has a new acquisition as a result of Julie's visit, *Constructive Spirit — Quakers in Revolutionary Russia*, by David McFadden and Claire Gorfinkel.

Bob Brookes

Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Called Session on Climate Change

Approved June 4, 2005

To Friends everywhere, greetings from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, gathered in called session, 4 June 2005 in Philadelphia, to seek leading on the issue of climate change.

The science of global warming is detailed, technical, and not without controversy. Nonetheless, we can see the evidence of the reality of climate change, we are aware of ways in which societies and individuals affect it, and we know options for political and personal decision making. This is not a matter to be left to scientists or to governments.

In fact, it is a matter to which Friends are distinctly suited to speak. Our respect for individual and collective seeking of truth and right action gives us the responsibility to witness to our measure of truth, answer to the truth of others, and seek together the rightly ordered way forward.

Individual projects large and small are already underway, and several were raised up in our session, including:

- **Renovation of Friends Center:** Plans go well beyond necessary business updates, to responsibly address sustainability and environmental friendliness. Just as the stylistic simplicity of Quaker meetinghouses have borne solid testimony to our faith, the plans for concrete stewardship offer another opportunity for us to live our faith.
- **FCNL witness:** Friends Committee on National Legislation has been invaluable in keeping us informed and speaking for us in national political discourse. They have been responsive to our concerns on environmental issues.
- **PYM Climate Action Network:** Our Peace and Concerns Standing Committee has approved the concept of developing a network, composed of individuals named by Monthly Meetings, who would plan regional action and coordinate for activity throughout Yearly Meeting.
- **Engaging Monthly Meetings in environmental concerns:** On behalf of the Earthcare Working Group, clerk Ed Dreby issued a call to Monthly Meetings to walk in faith: not expecting God to rescue us from our folly, but expecting miracles to bless our discernment and actions.

We entered a deep period of open worship to discern our leading. Friends spoke movingly of both the dire need for action and the responsibility of Friends to be a model and a partner with other religious and civil groups for acting in faith and witnessing in works.

A few Friends have faithfully been under this weight for years, but the time has arrived for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to engage the concern corporately. As distilled in our minutes of the session, we resolved the following:

Friends at this session unite behind the desire that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting incorporate this concern about the rise of global climate temperatures and its dangerous implications for life on our earth into the body of its work in the world. We feel ready, with divine assistance, to assume the challenges of being prophetic witnesses to protect our earth. We call upon the Yearly Meeting, in all its manifestations, to seek ways to hold our members lovingly accountable to live in God's world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion and to join other like minded groups and organizations in supporting this concern.

*Signed on behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,
Gretchen Castle, clerk*

Work For Peace

Commemorate 9-11 by donating a day's wage to the International Nonviolent Peaceforce!!!

In Sri Lanka the Nonviolent Peaceforce is working with many courageous individuals who are struggling to find nonviolent ways to stop the violence. It's a slow and painstaking task for those lonely Sri Lankans trying to bring about such change. Coping by being careful about where you go, what you say, and with whom you associate is how these people are still alive today. Send your donation to: Nonviolent Peaceforce, 425 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Flora McKinney

Grant Writer Needed

The Education Committee is looking for someone at Meeting with grant writing experience.



BOOK LIGHTS

*By Judy Kruger
For Library Committee*

Welcome to my column about the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting library, which will appear in the newsletter, space and stamina permitting. I would like to introduce you to the library room itself today. Future columns will focus on specific books and publications.

The library is located in the hallway to the right of the foyer. It is open during First Day (Sunday) hours when there are people in the Meetinghouse. Armchairs allow for comfortable browsing.

The room contains periodicals such as *Friends Journal*, multiple copies of our Yearly Meeting's most recent version of *Faith and Practice*, and the entire line of Pendle Hill Pamphlets. There are children's books, and books for adult readers shelved by subject. Categories of books are:

- Religion and philosophy
- Quakerism
- Bible studies
- Peace and social concerns
- The human condition
- The arts
- Prayer and meditation
- War and peace
- Biography
- Pamphlets, journals, and newsletters

Borrowing books is simple. You remove a card from the pocket, sign and date it, then place it in the small storage box. Return your materials whenever you are finished. The Meeting library is a wonderful place for people new to Quakerism, as well as for anyone deepening their faith or knowledge.

Next column: Books which provide an overview of Quaker history and beliefs.

Annual Fund Exceeds Goal for Second Year

Friends were successful in raising \$447,943.60, exceeding the \$435,000 goal by \$12,943. This success finally hinged on the work of 30 phonathon volunteers from 22 Meetings whose service to all of us raised \$51,674.

Clearly, if not for the phonathon PYM would be faced with a budget deficit for 2004-2005 of \$38,731.

Sincere thanks to the 91 Annual Fund Representatives, 30 phonathon volunteers, and most especially to the 2,081 Friends who supported our Yearly Meeting, which supports 104 Monthly Meetings — all of us.

Elizabeth Foley

PYM Grants Available

Opportunity for Young Adult Friends

PYM's newly established FCNL Network has received a grant from Friends Institute toward the expenses for two Young Adult Friends to attend the Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation from Thursday evening, November 10, to Sunday, November 13. Friends who have attended the annual meeting have found inspiration and renewed hope from participating in FCNL's spirit-led witness in Washington for Friends testimonies. The Young Adult Friends who use the Friends Institute grant will be asked to report on their FCNL experience in their Monthly Meeting and in at least one other setting.

Public School Teacher Project Grants

The Education Standing Committee of PYM is now taking applications for Grants for Friends Teaching in Public Schools for the 2005-2006 school year. These grants are for PYM members teaching or working in public education to support special projects or activities that address Friends social testimonies. Approved grants have typically ranged from \$300 to \$600. Applications must be postmarked by October 1. For more information, or to receive a grant application, please contact: Elke Muller, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Education Programs Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102, 215-241-7223, elkem@pym.org or download the form at www.pym.org/education.

Chestnut Hill Meeting Seeks First Day School Coordinator

Part-time (15 hrs/wk) ministry with FDS Committee in assisting children K-8 with spiritual journey through rewarding, fun, nurturing FDS experience. Send resume/cover letter to: Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, 100 E. Mermaid Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19118 or email to: ezelasky@hotmail.com and jdkahil@aol.com.

St. Francis in my Garden

St. Francis in my Garden
is a kind of prayer
I rescued him
from a dreary corner
were no life was

To let him stand
among the daffodils
and Sun light.

A reminder
to us all
to care for
small things.

Howard McKinney

September 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 10 am Meeting for Worship	5 LABOR DAY	6	7 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	8	9	10
11 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Mtg for Worship Meeting for Business	12	13 7:30 pm Care Committee	14 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	15 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	16	17
18 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:00 am FDS 12 noon covered dish	19	20	21 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Prop. Comm. 7:30 pm School Comm.	22	23	24
25 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS	26	27	28 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	29	30 Tri-Quarter Gathering	