



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 53 No. 1
September 2006

From Worship and Ministry

Corporate Practice in the Religious Society of Friends

By Marshall Massey

Friend Lloyd Lee Wilson wrote in one of his essays that “the solitary Quaker is an oxymoron.” This is not (so far as I know) an official position of any body of Friends anywhere. Nor is it something that Friends went out of their way to say to me in the communities where I learned my Quakerism, way back when.

But in the past twelve years, I’ve come to think that it holds truth. After all, most of the things that have made Friends distinctively Friends, and continue to define what Quakerism is today — from our corporate practices of worship and discernment, and our corporate experience of the Presence in the Midst, to our testimonies of harmony and reconciliation, equality, mutual aid and willing accountability to one another — are things that one Friend cannot manifest alone. She or he needs to interact with other Friends who are moved by the same Spirit in order for them to happen. And our testimonies define us as Friends — so if we cannot manifest them alone, how can we show when we’re alone that we are Friends? At the very least, it’s going to be hard to do.

Take our peace testimony as an example. One pacifist alone cannot do much more than refuse to be violent or to be provoked by violence. And even her refusal to be violent can come across as contrarian rather than as truly peaceable (harmonious).

But a community of pacifists can model a way of life together in which violence is left entirely behind; they can demonstrate with their daily lives how problems can be worked through, how people of differing views can get past misunderstandings and ultimately be reconciled, how forgiveness works, how people can build up mutual trust and closeness and supportiveness amongst themselves to a degree where

it becomes very hard to feel alienated from or angry at any other community member.

“By this the world will know you are my disciples,” said Christ, “if you (he used the plural “you”) have love for one another.” The plural “you” in this context suggests it was not just one-sided love, but a corporate practice involving the whole community and drawing it together, that Christ was calling for. (*John 13:34-35*) And that is how Paul, too, must surely have understood it, judging by his famous words to the Galatians — “Bear one another’s burdens, and thus you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Now, I did not grow up a Friend. I grew up in a household that was secularized and very individualistic, and did not come to Friends until I was twenty. I had no role models, when I was a child, of people working closely together as community members. Thus, coming to recognize the communitarian nature of the Quaker path, and the Christian path in general, was a hard, slow journey for me — and as I said at the beginning of this essay, it has only been in the last dozen years that I feel I have begun to really understand it.

And this fact — that I have come to the communitarian understanding so late, and as an initially uncomprehending outsider — has been both a blessing and a curse. It’s been a blessing, because I’ve been forced to think slowly and attentively about the basics, and that is great training! But it’s been a curse, because — being such a raw beginner — I’ve managed to make every sort of mistake along the way, usually many more times than once, and sometimes in very public ways.

This journey across the country (*read about Marshall’s journey from Nebraska to Virginia on the internet at www.earthwitness.org*) has been a real challenge to me, not only to deepen my understanding of the communitarian nature of Quakerism, but also, and more importantly, to really put it into practice. Submitting my leading to the

community was hard for me — and the members of my meeting have told me that I still sounded a bit too much like I knew the answers already! Asking for money and guidance from Friends to make the journey possible was hard for me; I was mortally embarrassed about not being able to do all that on my own. Approaching my visits with Friends communities, not as opportunities to speak on the environmental matters I care so deeply about, but as times to be silent and let the Friends I was visiting instruct me, was hard for me, and still remains hard; I have to still my own urges to speak, and relax my grip on my opinions. But all these things were part of the leading I was given, and so I have struggled — sometimes successfully, sometimes not — to overcome these bad habits of mine and be faithful.

And the reward, on the occasions when I have succeeded to some small extent in following that leading, has been that I have begun to feel like Christ's disciple, and like an actual member of the Society of Friends, on levels I'd hardly even glimpsed before this journey began. And when I have fallen short of good communitarian practice, at various points in this journey, I have felt myself cheating myself of that reward.

Coffee and Hospitality Schedule

Each year the Friendship Committee asks that the responsibility for the Sunday morning coffee and covered dish on the third Sunday of the month be shared amongst the various committees. The schedule is as follows:

September	Worship and Ministry Committee
October	Care Committee
November	Finance Committee
December	Property Committee (<i>no covered dish</i>)
January	Children's Inclusion Committee
February	Library Committee
March	Memorial and Graveyard Committee
April	School Committee
May	Peace and Social Concerns Committee
June/July/August	Friendship Committee and volunteers (<i>no covered dish</i>)

Upcoming Events

September 9 — Planning Retreat for HFS

A day-long retreat to determine and influence the future of Haddonfield Friends School. See article on page 4.

September 16 — Quaker Arts Conference

9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Burlington Conference Center. The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts is holding their first Quaker Arts Conference with an art show, performances

and hands-on workshops. Come for a day of fellowship with Quaker artists and art enthusiasts and participate in workshops on painting, historical impersonation, photography, self-publishing, autoharp, historical fiction writing, self-expression, knitting and more.

September 23 — Quaker Peace Fair

11 am to 4 pm at Buckingham Meeting (PA). This annual event is about peace, equality, and the environment. Exhibitors will include The Peace Center, Habitat for Humanity, the American Friends Service Committee, the Audubon Society, and other nonprofit organizations. Throughout the day there will be live music, children's activities and poetry readings. Admission is free. Chicken barbecue and vegetarian lunches available. Buckingham Meeting is located at Route 263 and Route 202 near Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA. For information visit www.quakerpeacefair.org.

September 23 — Friendly Persuasion

Worship and Ministry Committee will host a showing of the classic 1956 film *Friendly Persuasion* at 7 pm in the Meeting House auditorium. The film will be accompanied by a covered-dish dinner. The film, starring Gary Cooper and Dorothy Maguire, dramatizes the domestic and spiritual lives of 19th century Friends living in Indiana at the time of the Civil War. It also shows how Friends' values were tested when confronted by that conflict. All members and attenders of Haddonfield Friends are welcome, especially families with children. There is no cost to attend, but prepared foods for dinner and dessert would be greatly appreciated. Worship and Ministry will supply the popcorn.

September 29–October 1 — Tri-Quarter Gathering

"Faith in the Moment: Building Tomorrow Together" is the theme of this year's Tri-Quarter Gathering at Camp Ockanickon in Medford. Having faith in the moment means we trust our connection to the Divine, that we are open to signs and wonders and the still, small voice within. At Tri-Quarter Gathering, we enrich ourselves and each other with our words, our actions and the fruits of the sacred silence.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business June 11, 2006

Some 26 Friends were in attendance. The meeting began with a period of worship. The clerk read Query Number 9 from *Faith & Practice*, Ministry of Outreach.

Connie Brookes read the correspondence report. Highlights:

- Information from PYM's Earthcare Working Group on renewable energy is on the bulletin board
- Quakers and the rise of Capitalism — on bulletin board
- Connie Brookes received a note from Miriam Fischer Schaefer, daughter of George Fisher and Mary Fischer, recently deceased. In the note, Miriam expressed gratitude to Meeting members for their support upon the death of her mother, especially with the activities around the memorial service.
- The update of the listing of our Meeting Clerk, Recording Clerk and Committee Clerks has been sent to PYM.

This is Connie's last correspondence report. Friends approved a minute of thanks to Connie for her service to the Meeting as Correspondence Secretary — one of many ways Connie has given of her time and expertise.

Nominating committee announced the addition of Dale Longstreth to School Committee.

For the Graveyard and Memorial Committee, Ruth Podolin reported the death on April 24 of Mary Stuart Fisher and, on June 2nd, of Paul Weber. Mary was a long-time attender at Haddonfield Meeting. Paul and his wife, Amy, were loyal and active members of our Meeting for many years. With the help of two additional Meeting members, the Committee is moving forward with its plans for a Memorial Garden.

For the Finance Committee, Pam Perry presented the final Monthly Meeting budget. Friends approved.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Religious Education Committee and School Committee annual reports will be held over until August.

For School Committee, Pat Williams raised a concern that a minute approved at the January 2006 Meeting for Business was incorrect as recorded. At the Meeting for Business today, Friends approved the correction to the recorded minutes of January Meeting for Business.

For Care Committee, Robert Brookes reported that the Monthly Meeting has received a request from Keith Wallace for a transfer of his membership to Fort Myers (Florida) Monthly Meeting. Care Committee recommends that the Monthly Meeting approve the transfer. Friends approved and instructed the clerk to write a letter of transfer.

Connie raised a concern about the shortened social time between Meeting for Worship and FDS. A brief discussion ensued. There was general agreement on the difficulty of reconciling the need for F(f)riendly social interaction with

the need for a reasonable amount of time to present a meaningful First Day School program, especially when there is a guest speaker.

Howard McKinney observed that Yearly Meeting is trying to resolve the question "What is the proper role of Clerk of PYM?"

Mary Noland asked that we minute our appreciation of Deb Kost, Friends School Head, for how well she has professionally and responsibly led the school through a difficult time. (*Deb Kost has advised the School Committee of her decision to resign her position effective June 30, 2007.*) Friends approved

Our new Clerk, Drew Biehl, asked for a minute of appreciation for Bob Brookes, our retiring Clerk, for his sense of humour, his leadership, his patience and his funny faces. Friends approved. And the Recording Clerk would like to add her appreciation of his diplomacy and tact.

The meeting concluded with a period of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business August 13, 2006

Some 20 Friends were in attendance. The meeting began with a period of worship. The clerk read Query Number 3 from *Faith & Practice: Spiritual Nurture, Ministry and Religious Education*.

The meeting expressed its gratitude to Bob Brookes for acting as Clerk for the past four years. He led the meeting through many changes involving the relationship with the school and many other difficult topics. Bob's leadership and humor will be missed.

There was no Correspondence Report. A new Correspondence Secretary has not yet been appointed.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee report, held over from May Meeting for Business, will be held over another month.

Kitty Taylor Mizuno, for Religious Education Committee, presented the committee's annual report. The report lists a great variety of First Day School programs for adults, including Bible study, global warming, the Koran, Quaker women fighting slavery in the 1700s, and Quaker process.

- Children's classes included Bible stories, character-building activities, what it means to be a Friend, what Quaker committees do and participation in a Christmas play written by Ty Drago. Additional activities were provided by parents and other members of Meeting.
- There is a new policy in place for protection of the children. Copies of the policy are available for anyone who would like to have one.

Friends accepted the report with thanks to the committee.

For Care Committee, Bob Brookes reported on several items.

- The Meeting's list of committee members is incorrect with respect to the Newsletter Committee, which Care Committee selects. The correct slate should be: Jayne Stokes, Deedy Roberts, Louise Heritage, Harold Heritage, Ginny Barker, Mary Berger, Nancy Engle and Linda Yamamoto.
- Kay Tatum will be 99 years old on August 23rd. Care Committee has a large birthday card for Friends to sign. Anyone wishing to sign should contact Bob Brookes. Ruth Podolin will deliver the card to Kay.
- Care Committee has focused recently on strengthening the clearness process on the path to membership. As part of this effort, the committee requests that Monthly Meeting approve having a Quakerism 101 course here in the fall, with Bob Brookes as facilitator. Friends approved.
- The Clerk has received a letter from the Whitings requesting membership for their son, William. It has been passed on to Care Committee.
- Property Committee is looking for a caretaker for the Meeting House and grounds. Diane has decided she is not interested in continuing in that capacity. She will, however, finish the work she began on the Lake Street house.

Deedy Roberts presented to Meeting a photo album given to her by Edith Wallis from the effects of her father, Albert Wallace. Deedy felt it should be in the care of the Library Committee. Many of the photos chronicle the construction of the education wing in the 1950s. There are also photos of Meeting members through, at least, the late 1960s. The meeting accepted the album with gratitude. It will be passed on to Library Committee. The Meeting Clerk, Drew Biehl, will send a thank you letter to Edith Wallis.

Dale Longstreth was approved for School Committee. Karen Buchan was proposed for School Committee. Karen is a member of Goshen Meeting in Westchester Township, PA. This will be held over until next month.

The meeting concluded with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

Friends and regular Attenders may request copies of the complete minutes from the Recording Clerk at joanne@synchcorp.com or 856-429-9186.

First Day School Begins

First Day School will commence on September 24 with an intergenerational activity in the Meeting House. Then there will be an opportunity for children and parents to informally meet teachers in their classrooms. In October, the Adult First Day School class will follow up on a session held last April on Islam and Peace with some sessions in response to recent developments in the Middle East.

Planning Retreat for HFS

We invite you to participate in the development of a vision for the future of Haddonfield Friends School.

On Saturday, September 9, from 9 am to 3 pm in the auditorium in the Meeting House, parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, School Committee and Meeting members, neighbors, and friends will participate in a day-long retreat. A series of presentations and participatory exercises will culminate in a charette session, in which everyone will work in small groups to design the facilities that will support the School's educational goals over the next ten years, and beyond.

A facilities evaluation of the Main School buildings and the buildings on the Boxwood site has already been completed. In addition, zoning and site development capacities have been determined for the two sites. This information, along with anticipated program needs of the School, will inform the work at the retreat.

Architects from CICADA Architecture/Planning, Inc. will lead the presentations and exercises, and will serve as draftsmen for each charette team.

This is an exciting time for the School, and we hope you will be a part of it.

Deb Kost, Head of School

New Position at PYM

Evan Draper is PYM's new Monthly Meeting Services Specialist. This new position serves as the primary staff contact for any Friend or Monthly or Quarterly Meeting who is seeking information or a service from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Evan can be contacted at evand@pym.org and 215-241-7182.

Website is Quaker Youth Outreach Project

KidsQuake is a website dedicated to children everywhere who are learning about Quakerism. KidsQuake is a youth outreach project of the Southern Quarter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There are fun things to do, some Quaker history and trivia, and epistles from children around the world. Printable alternatives are provided.

Visit www.friendsmedia.org/kidsquake/ with Friends who are young in age and/or spirit and find out what it means to be a Quaker and have some fun too!

Parents and First Day School teachers are invited to send student-created artwork, stories, poetry, epistles, queries, minutes, or photos of anything their class or Quaker youth gatherings are doing.

September 30 Gathering for Extended Worship

The fall gathering on Worship, Ministry, and Eldering will take place Saturday, September 30, from 9:30 am to 4 pm at Mickleton Meeting, with the entire morning given to unprogrammed worship. After a bag lunch together, we will have a time of worship-sharing. All those who feel a call to ministry of any sort or who are longing for a deeper experience of Quaker worship are welcome. These gatherings are a time to find fellowship in the deep matters of the Spirit.

Mickleton Meeting is at 43 Kings Highway (Rt 551), Mickleton. Child care will be available if reserved one week in advance. Bring a brown bag lunch.

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 November 9, to Sunday, November 12. This year's annual meeting — with the theme "Building a Living Peace: Beyond the Absence of War" — will focus on setting the Legislative Priorities for FCNL's witness on national policy. Friends who attend the annual meeting find inspiration and renewed hope from participating in FCNL's spirit-led witness in Washington. The Young Adult Friends who receive the Friends Institute grant will be asked to reflect on their experience in their Monthly Meeting and at least one other setting.

September 2006



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10 am Meeting for Worship 7 pm Worship & Ministry	4 LABOR DAY	5	6 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	7	8	9
10 9 am Peace & Soc. Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Meeting for Business	11	12 7:30 pm Care Committee	13 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Committee	14	15	16
17 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 12 noon Covered Dish RE Committee meeting	18	19	20 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Prop. Committee	21	22	23 ROSH HASHANAH
24 9 am Library Committee 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS	25	26	27 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	28	29	30