



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 51 No. 1
September 2004

From Worship and Ministry

“I told them...wait upon God to feel his power, to gather their minds together to feel his presence and power therein, to wait upon him.”

George Fox

The Light Within

(From Pages 16 & 17 of *Faith and Practice*)

The Light Within is the fundamental and immediate experience for Friends. It is that which guides each of us in our everyday lives and brings us together as a community of Faith. It is, most importantly, our direct and unmediated experience of the Divine.

Friends have used many different terms or phrases to designate the source and inner certainty of our faith — a faith that we have gained by direct experience. The Inward Light, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Spirit of Truth, the Divine Principle, the Christ Within, the Seed and the Life, the Spirit of Truth and the Inner Light are examples of such phrases. George Fox refers in his *Journal* to “that Inward Light, Spirit and Grace by which all might know their salvation” and to “that Divine Spirit which would lead them into all truth.” He wrote: “There is one, even Jesus Christ, that can speak to thy condition.” And encouraged Friends “to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.” Many Friends interpret “That of God” as another designation for the Light Within.

For Friends, the Light Within is not the same as the conscience or moral faculty. The conscience is a human faculty, which is conditioned by education and the cultural environment; it is not, therefore, an infallible guide to moral practice. It should nevertheless be attended to, for it is one of the faculties through which the Light shines. Friends are encouraged to test the leadings of conscience by seeking clearness, through direct

communion in Meeting for Worship, and through the clearness process. Such testing enhances and clarifies insight so that the conscience may be purged of misconceptions and become more truly obedient to the Light Within. When conscience has been transformed by experiencing the Light, it gives more reliable direction even though it may seem to point in a direction that is contrary to generally accepted authorities.

Friends’ experience has been that following an enlightened conscience brings a release of the spirit and also a state of peace that are independent of the tangible results of the action taken. Spiritual power arises from living in harmony with divine will. George Fox often spoke of the power he experienced in time of need, and of that relationship between power and the Light. For instance, he writes that “the power of God sprang through me,” and, he admonishes us, “hearken to the Light, that ye may feel the power of God in every one of you.”

Continuing obedience to the Light increases our gratitude for God’s gifts. Among these are an awareness of enduring values, the joy of life, and the ability to resolve problems in accord with the divine leading, as individuals or as a Meeting. Under the guidance of the Light, the monthly meeting is enabled to use and transform the aspirations and judgments of its members. This practice helps the Meeting make decisions and face undertakings in a spirit detached from self-interest or prejudice.

Basic Quaker testimonies such as equality, simplicity, nonviolence, integrity, and community have arisen from a deep sense of individual and corporate responsibilities guided by the Light Within.

Recognizing that God’s Light is in every person overcomes our separation and our differences from others and leads to a sympathetic awareness of their need and a sense of responsibility toward them. Friends believe that the more widely and clearly the Light is recognized and

followed, the more will humanity come into accord. "Therefore," writes George Fox "in the Light wait, where unity is."

Coffee and Covered Dish for September
Worship & Ministry

Upcoming Events

September 19 — Called Meeting for Business.
7 p.m. in the Meetinghouse.

September 20–21 — Earlham School of Religion's International Day of Peace Celebration. See article on page 3.

Looking Ahead

October 1–3 — The Northeast Regional Gathering of Friends World Committee for Consultation will be held at the Burlington Meeting House Conference Center. This year's gathering will build on the FWCC Peace Conference held at Guilford College in January 2003. The following speakers from PYM will participate: John Gallery, Jack and Carol Walz, George and Lillian Willoughby. Cost is \$100 per person; some financial aid is available.

October 7–11 — 2004 Annual Meetings of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Burlington Meeting House. See article on page 5.

October 8–10 — Inquirers' Weekend at Pendle Hill. Michael Wajda of Friends General Conference and Mary Ellen Chijioke of Guilford College will lead this event, designed especially for attenders and new members of Friends' meetings. Participants in the Inquirers' Weekend will explore the basics of Quaker faith and practice and how it connects to their spiritual journey. There will be opportunities for worship, discussion, sharing and questions. For more information, contact Pendle Hill's registrar at 610-566-4507, ext. 142; 800-742-3150; via e-mail at registrar@pendlehill.org; or visit the website www.pendlehill.org.

October 9 — Conference on Ensuring Safe Meeting Communities. 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House. See article on page 5.

October 9 — Fair Hill Burial Ground Clean-up. Friends are invited to join the Fall Clean-up at Fair Hill Burial Ground, Cambria and Germantown Avenues, North Philadelphia, from 10 AM to noon.

October 14–17 — FGC's Young Quakes Conference: Power & Compassion. Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt, Wisconsin. What is a Young Quakes conference? In addition to presentations and workshops, it is invigorating discussions, games, worship and worship sharing, singing, hanging out, and building incredible community. Registrations should be postmarked by September 14th. For more information and a registration form, visit the Young Quakes website, www.fgcquaker.org/religious-ed/youngquakes.

October 15-17 — Tri-Quarter Gathering. New Jersey's Tri-Quarter Gathering at Camp Ockanickon near Medford, New Jersey. See article on page 4.

June Monthly Meeting for Business — June 13, 2004

The meeting began with a period of open worship. The Clerk read Query Number 7 from *Faith & Practice*, Social Responsibility and Witness.

Priscilla Adams presented the annual report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. In addition, Priscilla reported on the status of Tommy Trantino's trial. (Tommy was acquitted and released from jail pending his parole review.) Priscilla applauded the work of Justin Loughry and his co-counsel in the Bayside prisoners' trials. The Meeting approved a minute of appreciation for their work.

Pat Williams presented the annual report of the School Committee. Friends approved a minute of appreciation for the tremendous amount of effort, love and time invested in the School over the past year by members of the committee and to Cindy Kolaski for her valuable contributions during her 6 years on the Committee.

Stuart Hodges, Monthly Meeting Treasurer, and Pam Perry for Finance Committee presented the final budget for the fiscal year 2004-2005. The Monthly Meeting approved the budget, which includes a projected deficit.

For Nominating Committee, Ceil McFadden proposed that Tracy Carpenter be added to the School Committee for the 2007 term. The Meeting approved.

August Monthly Meeting for Business — August 8, 2004

The Meeting for Business opened with a period of worship. The clerk read Query Number 8, on Peace, from *Faith & Practice*.

Pat Williams, for School Committee, recommended to the Monthly Meeting that Deborah Kost, our new Head of School, be welcome to attend Meeting for Business on a regular basis to report on, and respond to, questions concerning school life and activities. This would augment and not replace School Committee's reports of school governance matters. After some discussion, Friends approved. Pat also reported on a daylong retreat held for parents and school staff to discuss the school.

Monthly Meeting Treasurer, Stuart Hodges, presented the annual Treasurers' Report. Friends accepted the report with appreciation to Stuart and June. Stuart suggested that Friends who work for companies that match charitable contributions apply for those funds. Friends approved referral of this proposal back to Finance Committee for further discussion.

Diane Werner proposed that the Education Fund Committee be revived to present events and activities to raise money for scholarship assistance for children of members of Meeting to attend HFS. Friends approved Diane going forward with this project.

Meeting approved Howard McKinney's proposal that he organize an ad hoc committee to plan an event in celebration of the restoration of our Meeting Room, focusing on community renewal.

The Clerk reminded Friends that we will have a special Called Meeting for Business on Sunday, September 19th to discuss the long-term implications of our commitment to financial stewardship. This will be in addition to our regular Meeting for Business at the rise of Meeting on the 12th.

Religious Education

First Day School for adults will begin on September 19. We will begin with a community-building activity for adults and children. For the adults, we will begin a 5-week scripture study course that will run through October. Tony Prete will lead.

There is currently no First Day School for children scheduled due to lack of teachers.

Earlham and PYM Observe International Day of Peace

Friends are planning to celebrate United Nations International Day of Peace on September 20 and 21 in Philadelphia. The celebration, hosted by Earlham School of Religion, will include a talk by Nobel Peace Prize winner Betty Williams.

The celebration will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia with a panel discussion on the topic "Pacifism in the Age of Terrorism."

Nobel Peace Prize winner and peacemaker Betty Williams of Northern Ireland will be the featured speaker at a luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, at the Downtown Club in Philadelphia. Spurred by the needless death of children in war-torn 1970s Northern Ireland, Williams co-founded the "Community of Peace People" and works globally to protect and heal war's most innocent victims. Williams' peace and justice vocation is based upon her strong faith in the love and grace of God for all the people of the world.

For event registration information, visit www.esr.earlham.edu.

2004 Tri-Quarter Retreat

Tri-Quarter Retreat, a spiritual retreat for members and attenders of Friends Meetings of South Jersey, will be held Friday, October 15th through Sunday, October 17th at Camp Ockanickon in Medford, NJ.

The theme is "Raising Heaven! Sowing the Seeds of Love." The retreat will hold workshops on topics such as the Thomas Gospel, gifts of the spirit, teen/adult conversation and others. There will be a childrens' workshop, and activities for teens including a rope challenge and teen social.

Other leisure time activities include hiking, canoeing, intergenerational games, an ice cream social, hayride, bonfire and stargazing.

Accommodations include either heated or open cabins (your choice), meals and hot showers. Attenders can come for the day, or stay the whole weekend. Scholarships and first-time attender credit available.

Seeking Deeper Spiritual Experience?

All who wish to deepen their spiritual lives are invited to enroll in the PYM Spiritual Formation Program, now entering its fifth year. The Spiritual Formation Program creates a Quaker intentional community for spiritual growth, worship, study and mutual support and encouragement. During the eight months, participants undertake the early Friends practice of “daily retirement,” read a set of classic and recent writings, participate in a Spiritual Friendship/Accountability Group (usually three to five people), and meet monthly in a Regional Study Group (usually eight to fifteen people) to explore the readings.

The program begins with an opening weekend retreat October 29-31 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, PA. About 50 folks will gather in worship to begin the journey together. A one-day retreat takes place Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005, for renewal and sharing. The program culminates June 24-26, 2005, with a closing retreat focused on discernment of gifts and calls.

The cost of the program is \$400. Visit the PYM website at <http://www.pym.org/worship-and-care/s-f-program.htm> for more information, a registration form, the readings, and a list of past participants. We encourage people to enroll along with others from their Meeting. Please register as soon as you can.

Listening Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine

Polly Lodge, Jackie Coren and Chip Poston of George School will be leading a “Listening Pilgrimage” to Israel and Palestine in March 2005. The purpose of the trip is to allow participants to listen to a variety of Palestinian and Israeli voices from across the political spectrum, as well as to have a firsthand experience of life in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Tentative dates are March 10-27, 2005. Cost is \$2,600, including air fare. Application deadline is December 1. The trip is for adults only. For further information, e-mail Chip Poston at chip_poston@georgeschool.org.

PYM Library Volunteer Orientation

The PYM library offers an orientation for potential volunteers from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, October 3, at the library at 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia. Come and learn about the many interesting activities in the library, and find out if there is something you might enjoy doing

in the company of friendly Friends, or even in solitude if you prefer Quaker silence. Evelyn Baldwin from Newark Meeting (DE) will lead this special volunteer orientation day. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to librarian Rita Varley at 215-241-7219, or e-mail ritav@pym.org.

The PYM library has just one librarian now. Plans are underway to develop a strong volunteer staff to do the work needed to give good library service to members of PYM. Librarians and Quaker historians are specially sought, however, anyone may volunteer.

If you love Quaker books, like to help people, and might be able to commit to volunteering one day a week (or one day a month if you are interested in becoming a member of the Library Services Group), this orientation provides a chance to explore what it would be like to volunteer in the library. Benefits include discovering books new to you, meeting new Friends, and becoming part of a caring Quaker community.

Arch Street Meeting House Needs Coordinator for Volunteers

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is looking for a person to work half-time in guiding and managing volunteers in the Interpretation Program at Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. This is the program that offers tours of the meetinghouse and helps explain contemporary and historical Quakerism to visitors. Persons interested in serving PYM in this role are invited to send a letter to the General Secretary's Office, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. It is anticipated the staff position will be filled this fall.

Competition for Young Adult Friends

Friends Institute is offering a competitive grant of \$5,000 in a business plan competition for Young Adult Friends (age 18-40). The grant will fund new or existing business ideas that address the “triple bottom line” of people, planet and profit. The team leader of the business idea must be a young adult member or attender of a PYM Monthly Meeting. Applicants must submit a concept outline by September 15. The full business plan is due October 25. Finalists will make presentations November 18 at the Sustainable Business Venture Fair in Philadelphia. Innovative business ideas, startups or small businesses may enter. Visit www.newprofiteer.org for application guidelines and additional information on the competition.

Quaker Earthcare Meetings

What does it mean to “live in right relationship with the earth?” If this question speaks to you, plan to join like-minded Friends at the 2004 annual meetings of Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature) at the Burlington Meeting House October 7 to 11, Columbus Day weekend. The residential gathering (commuters also welcome) brings together North American Quakers with a strong concern for healing the human-earth relationship. It will include worship, workshops, field trips, discussions, singing, and fun. Workshops will include: local impacts of climate change; sustainable architecture; energy, economics and social justice; and life choices around food, water, housing, and transportation.

Friday evening’s keynote speaker is Ned Stowe from FCNL. Ned will speak from his perspective as a Quaker lobbyist in Washington and his work around energy policy.

Full information on the programs and registration materials will be available at www.quakerearthcare.org.

Ensuring Safe Meeting Communities

On Saturday, October 9, Friends Insurance Group and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will sponsor a conference entitled, “Ensuring Safe Meeting Communities.” This conference will provide support and guidance about

how to create a safer spiritual home for our children and our community as a whole, especially with regard to protection from potential sexual misconduct in our Meetings. New safety practices will be among the topics discussed. The conference will be at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Contact PYM staff members Helen Fields (helenfields@pym.org, 215-241-7008) or Barbara Hayes (barbarah@pym.org, 609-387-3875) if you have any questions regarding this conference or if you would like further resources about child safety.

Annual Fund Goal Exceeded

The Development Services Working Group thanks each of the 2,232 Friends who made 3,155 gifts to the Annual Fund in the fiscal year ended on June 30th. It was the spiritual commitment and good stewardship of these Friends that made it possible to exceed the \$435,000 goal by \$28,896. There were 402 more donors and 727 more gifts than in the previous year.

Our thanks also go to the 92 Monthly Meeting Annual Fund Representatives and to those Friends whose work on the phonathon helped to bring about a successful year for the Annual Fund.

Elizabeth Foley, Director of Development

September 2004



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:30 pm School Committee	2	3	4
5 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:30 am REC	6 LABOR DAY	7	8 School opens 9:15 am All-school Meeting for Worship	9	10	11
12 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship Monthly Meeting for Business	13	14 7:30 pm Care Committee	15 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Property Committee	16 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry ROSH HASHANAH	17	18
19 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 12 noon Covered Dish 7 pm Called Meeting for Business	20	21	22 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	23	24	25 YOM KIPPUR
26 9 am Library Committee 10 am Meeting for Worship	27	28	29 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	30		