



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

Meeting for Worship
10:00 am Sunday

Volume 50 No. 4
December 2003

From Worship and Ministry

The state of grace is a condition in which all growth is effortless, a transparent, joyful acquiescence, that is a ground requirement of all existence. Your own body grows naturally and easily from its time of birth, not expecting resistance, but taking its miraculous unfolding for granted; using all of itself with great, gracious, creative, aggressive abandon.

You were born into a state of grace, therefore it is impossible to leave it. You will die in a state of grace, whether or not special words are spoken for you, or water or oil is poured on your head. You share this blessing with the animals and all other living things. You cannot fall out of grace, nor can it be taken from you.

Jane Roberts

Facing Bench for December

Deedy Roberts and Shayna Riddle

Coffee and Covered Dish for December

Property Committee

Upcoming Events

December 7 — Simple Gifts

Join us after Meeting for refreshments, crafts, and a book signing from a local author.

December 10–11 — 10,000 Villages Sale

Shop for your holiday gifts while supporting craftsmen in developing countries. During school hours in the auditorium.

December 19 — Christmas Light Trolley Tours

Haddonfield Friends School is starting a new and exciting tradition — Christmas Light Trolley Tours. Board a trolley in front of the Meetinghouse for a tour of Haddonfield's most beautiful Holiday light displays; enjoy caroling on the trolley. After your tour, adjourn to the Meetinghouse auditorium for continued festivities and refreshments. Please bring a canned good which will be delivered to Leavenhouse and New Visions. This is a fund raiser for the HFS PTO. Tickets will be available soon at a cost of \$6 each. Please see/call Diane Werner if you are interested in participating.

December 21 — Christmas Breakfast

8:30 a.m. in the auditorium. Please bring a Christmas bread to share.

December 24 — Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship and Carol Sing

Meeting for Worship at 7 p.m. and carol singing at 7:30. Afterward we will have cider, cookies and time to socialize. If you can, please bring cookies to share. Cider will be provided. Sponsored by Friendship Committee.

December 27–30 — Young Friends Christmas Retreat: "Silence"

Burlington Meetinghouse. Young Friends of high school age will gather for fun, crafts, dancing and a 24-hour period of silence. For more information, check out the Young Friends website, www.pym.org/youngfriends, or call Cookie Caldwell at 215-241-7222; 1-800-220-0796, ext. 7222; or e-mail cookiec@pym.org.

November Monthly Meeting for Business — November 14, 2003

The Meeting opened with a period of worship; the Clerk read from extract 267 in *Faith & Practice*, on Equality and Community:

Living out the immanent and transcendent aspects of spirituality as a Friend has never been a private matter. Quaker structures depend on the shared inward experiences of members as the basis for worship, the ordering of business, and social and humanitarian action. The Quaker way takes on faith the seemingly irrational proposition that the inspirations of individuals can lead a community to unity and spiritual power, not to chaos and dismemberment.

Ursula Jane O'Shea, 1993

Drew Humphreys and Priscilla Adams reported on recent events at the Friends Transition Support Services. Tommy Trantino was arrested after an alleged domestic dispute at the FTSS office and remains incarcerated. A defense fund is being set up. Priscilla and Drew asked for Friends to pray for him, and to write to him. The FTSS steering committee has met and will continue those activities of the project not dependent on Tommy's direct involvement. (See the steering committee's statement on page ?.)

Gary Smith, on behalf of Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting, requested a minute of support for the goals and actions discussed at the October Quarterly Meeting. This minute was approved: Haddonfield Friends Meeting supports the goals of the Haddonfield Quarter discussed at the Quarterly Meeting held in October. These goals are: increased community among Friends within Haddonfield Quarter; establishment of a young people's program; increased Quaker presence in the wider community; increased links between Haddonfield Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; coordinated events calendars within the Quarter. In order to implement the above goals we agree that the following steps should be taken: have a Quarterly newsletter; have visits to Meetings by Quarterly staff and committee members; share activities among Meetings and encourage Friends to attend the events of other Meetings; have committee clerks get together (e.g., clerks of Religious Education from different Meetings); have office space and a telephone.

Lucy Savarese requested a minute of support for her application for a grant from the Chace Fund of \$3000 for a community art project in Camden. She is hoping to fund an artist-in-residence at her school, Sumner Elementary in Camden. The artist will work with fifth graders on a sculpture garden in the city.

The Care Committee recommended approval of the transfer of Michele Lisa Tarter from Fallsington (Pa.) Monthly Meeting. The Meeting approved. Louise Heritage and Ruth Podolin will serve as a welcoming committee. The Care Committee also recommended approval of the transfer of Michael Adam Reale to Louisville (Ky.) Monthly Meeting. The Meeting approved. The clerk will prepare a letter of transfer.

Ceil McFadden, for Nominating Committee, recommended that Steve Berryhill be approved as Alternate Clerk; the Meeting approved.

Stuart Hodges recommended transferring some of the Meeting's funds from a low-interest money market fund to Friends Fiduciary. The Meeting approved.

School Committee requested \$300 to host a holiday luncheon for the teachers and staff, as a demonstration of the Meeting's appreciation for their work and dedication. The Meeting approved.

The Clerk led a discussion of the proposal of holding Meeting for Business immediately at the rise of Meeting for Worship on the second Sunday of each month. Since this change would impact on First Day School and child care, the Clerk will convene an ad-hoc group of the convenors of the committees affected, and report back to next Business Meeting.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

First Day School

December's First Day School schedule is as follows:

Dec. 7— Simple Gifts

Dec. 14 — Meeting members will share Christmas stories and memories

Dec. 21 — The children will present a Christmas play

Dec. 28 — No First Day School

The schedule for Winter and Spring Adult First Day School is beginning to take shape. January will be ded-

icated to exploring the experiences of people from our Meeting who were born outside of the United States. These sessions will feature personal accounts of family life, education, worship practices and spirituality, customs, music and food of their native countries.

February will feature a four-session program with a working title of Friends and Issues of Racial Equality. This program is being developed and presented by a committee that includes Sheryl Harrison, Kitty and Takashi Mizuno, Inspira Williams and Priscilla Adams.

As scheduled, these sessions are:

Week 1: Equality and inequality between black and white; Week 2: Beyond black and white: Issues for people of color who are not African-American including immigrants and political refugees; Week 3: Biracial people; Week 4: The role of white allies in the struggle for racial equality.

Within the series we will be discussing the pamphlet *Sarah Mapps Douglass, Faithful Attender of Quaker Meeting: View from the Back Bench* by Margaret Hope Bacon. The pamphlet costs \$10, and is available for purchase at rise of Meeting and at the Book Table at Simple Gifts — a good stocking stuffer.

A formal schedule with details and dates will be circulated in December and included in the January newsletter.

The schedule for Children's First Day School for the Winter is also forming up. One important development is that responsibility for instruction for Pre-K and Kindergarten children will be re-assumed by the Religious Education Committee as of January.

The Religious Education Committee will be providing an inservice program on curriculum development and teaching methods for First Day School teachers in the Spring. If you have been thinking of becoming a First Day School teacher or substitute, this is an excellent time to get involved. Please consider sharing your talents, supporting the education of our children and having a great time by being a First Day School instructor. Please contact Leila Barclay, Jake McGlaughlin or any members of the Religious Education Committee and we'll help you learn more.

From Nominating Committee

On the Committee list included in last month's newsletter, which you may wish to keep for future reference,

please note these updates: Alternate Clerk — Steve Berryhill, Library Committee — Sheryl Harrison (2005).

HFS News

Due to a decrease in enrollment at the school, the building at 65 Haddon Avenue is not currently needed for classroom space. School Committee has decided to list the building for lease until enrollment goes up.

The Covenant, the Annual Fund and the PYM Budget

Sounds like the title of a children's story doesn't it? It's not that at all, it's how we Friends support our faith community. The covenant is the amount each Monthly Meeting agrees that they can corporately contribute with the participation of all members.

The covenant was never intended to provide the entire \$2,000,000 PYM operating budget. Presently, it provides half of the budget. In the last fiscal year, 1,744 donors (members and attenders) contributed to the Annual Fund.

PYM faces painful cuts in programs, services, and staff over the next few years. In this financially difficult time, if we are to continue to grow in both spirit and in number, it will require more than 1,744 of us providing financial support to the Annual Fund. If you haven't contributed yet, you can make the difference!

Kaye Henley, PYM Annual Fund

Friends Transition Support Services

The Steering Committee of Friends Transition Support Services has complete confidence and trust in Thomas Trantino, whom we chose to be our Program Coordinator. We have worked very closely with Mr. Trantino over the past 19 months and know that by this stage of his life he has become deeply compassionate and totally devoted to non-violence. This in no way makes us less sympathetic with the survivors of those who were his victims when he was a young man. We are also mindful of the strong division of public opinion about him relative to issues of punishment and rehabilitation.

Friends Transition Support Services is a faith-based social service organization of persons who believe in forgiveness and redemption. It helps people coming out of prison, as well as their families, to make the adjustments necessary to

live peacefully in society. It also educates the public about the challenges of re-entry. It is inherent in the nature of our work to struggle with difficult people in difficult circumstances, as do other social service organizations. Our Program Coordinator is on the front lines of such struggle and is always the potential object of criticism by factions with viewpoints unsympathetic to ours. We greatly admire Thomas Trantino's extraordinary dedication to helping those in need, even in the face of personal risk, including the possible loss of his freedom.

PYM General Information Line

When you need information from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and don't know whom to call, Mary Anne Crowley, the Administrative Assistant for Projects and Services, is the answer. She is prepared to receive general inquiries and respond or refer you. Her phone number is 215-241-7230 and her e-mail address is maryc@pym.org. You may also call 1-800-220-0796, and press 7230 when the system answers.

Nonviolent Peaceforce Fundraising

Nonviolent Peaceforce is an international organization dedicated to creating a large-scale peace army of trained, paid civilians from every continent to intervene in conflict situations. Using proven nonviolent intervention techniques, Peaceforce teams help local peacemakers carry out and expand their work to transform violent conflicts. The Peaceforce is currently conducting a three-year pilot project in Sri Lanka and working with local groups in Burma, Israel/Palestine and the Korean peninsula. One of their fund-raising activities is selling \$10 "peace bonds." These would make wonderful holiday gifts. Anyone interested in purchasing peace bonds should contact Susan Tucker.

Quaker Public Educators Gathering

The Third Annual Quaker Public Educators Gathering will be 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, January 10, 2004, at Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia. Free parking is available. The keynote speaker will be Loren Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, NJ, and a member of Atlantic City Area Meeting. Pennsylvania Act 48 credit is available through Friends Professional Education Network. Sponsored by the Public Education Working Group of PYM. For information, contact Elke Muller at elkem@pym.org or 215-241-7223. due to achilles tendonitis.

December 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 9:15 am All-school Meeting for Worship	4	5	6
7 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am Simple Gifts	8	9 7:30 pm Committee for Care of Members and Attenders	10 9:15 am Mtg for Worship 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry 10,00 Villages Sale – Auditorium	11	12 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting for Business	13
14 9 am P&SC Com 10 am Mtg for Worship 11:20 am FDS	15	16	17 9:15 am Mtg for Worship HFS Holiday Program 7:30 pm Property Committee	18	19 Christmas Light Trolley Tour HANUKKAH BEGINS	20
21 Newsletter deadline 8:30 am Breakfast 10 am Mtg for Worship 11 am Christmas Play	22	23	24 7 pm Mtg for Worship and Carol Sing	25 CHRISTMAS	26 KWANZAA BEGINS	27
28 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Extended coffee hour	29	30	31			