

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter



Meeting for Worship
10:00 am Sunday
9:15 am Wednesday

Volume 49 No. 7
March 2003

From Worship and Ministry

If we hope to be guided by an inner light, by an inner voice of truth, how do we distinguish this “true” voice among the internal chorus that calls out to us — the voices of self-interest, of vanity, of selfish pleasure?

If a man feels compelled to leave his wife and children to pursue a personal vision of fulfillment, is this the voice of truth calling to him? If a person is infatuated with the pleasures of food, drink, and gambling and devotes most of his waking hours and disposable income to these pursuits, is this his true nature speaking?

The answer, I believe, lies in George Fox’s sublimely optimistic vision of human nature. If there is that of God in every person, then truth is the *best* that there is in each of us — the part that is naturally drawn toward the good, toward God. If we listen for the truth — for the best that is within us — then our lives will begin to “speak” the truth. As George Fox said, “Truth comes from within. It is the basis for daily life, like the food we eat.”

Our most readily available tool for distinguishing truth in our daily lives is common sense. Like truth, common sense may be hard to define — but we recognize it when we see it. We call it “common” because it’s shared by all. In the same way that we know the difference between right and wrong, between good and evil, we are each endowed with the capacity to apprehend the truth — about ourselves and about the world around us.

As self-proclaimed “Publishers of the Truth,” seventeenth-century Friends announced to all who would listen, “The truth is the way, and the way is the truth.” And this focus on truth, in all its aspects, has remained central to Quaker worship and Quaker life. Truth, Quakers believe, restores our souls and empowers our actions. Truth is our guide,

and truth is our liberator. Quakers often quote the apostle John, who condensed the message eloquently when he proclaimed, “The truth shall set you free.”

It’s a radical concept, but Quakers have always embraced it as reality: The truth *will* make us free — free from meaninglessness, free from lovelessness, free from the emptiness and frustrations of egocentricity.

The search for truth is central to a meaningful life, but it is not as simple as adhering to a prescribed ideology. Each Quaker Meeting involves everyone who attends in a search for truth, and belief in vocal ministry as a counterpart to silent worship and as an instrument of continuing revelation remains basic to Quakerism. Friends hold that one can find truth and new insights at each Meeting for Worship, each Meeting for Business — held monthly to address practical concerns ranging from repairing the Meetinghouse roof to drafting a letter of protest to a congressman to Meeting finances — and in life generally. It is an interactive process that requires openness, diligence, and discipline in equal measure. The search for truth is a lifelong pact with our inner lives that encompasses seeking the truth, recognizing the truth, speaking the truth, and living the truth — which is to say, letting our lives speak.

Quakers also search for truth through a device known as the “query.” Queries, such as “Do we really observe simplicity and honesty in everyday life?” or “Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of sharing?” are designed to prick the conscience and prompt both group and individual self-examination. A query is like a burr under the saddle of the soul. Although queries have varied through time and from one area of the country to another, they invariably focus on helping Meetings and individual Friends conduct their spiritual and temporal lives in

accordance with their religious beliefs. Specific queries may be revisited from time to time within a Quaker community, evoking quite different responses.

*from A Quaker Book of Wisdom
by Robert Lawrence Smith*

Facing Bench for March

David Marshall and Keith Wallace

Coffee and Covered Dish for March

Memorial Service & Graveyard Committee

Upcoming Events

March 1 — Peace and Joy Storytelling Festival.

Friends are invited to attend a festival by the Quaker Peace & Joy Storytelling Group from 10 a.m. to noon at Swarthmore Meeting. Contact Carol Baggerly at carole@bpov.com, or www.bpov.com, click on 'Quaker Storytellers.' Or contact Sally Rickerman at sshrr@earthlink.net.

March 7 — World Day of Prayer

March 8 — Quaker Burial Grounds “self-help group.”

For Friends who have responsibilities for the care or oversight of graveyards. Share experience and practice and identify areas of common concern and interest. 10:30 a.m. meeting with pot-luck lunch following. Friends South Western Burial Ground, 236 Powell Lane, Upper Darby, PA. Please let us know if you plan to come! ledgleg@earthlink.net.

March 8 — The Great Spirit Journey &

Java Jam for the Soul. 7–10:30 p.m. at Arch Street Meetinghouse. A great line-up of pop, rock and folk groups will perform. Money raised will go to the Alaska-to-Philadelphia Young Friends Expedition and Spirit Journey. Last year, Young Friends from this area went to Alaska. This year, Young Friends from Alaska are coming here. Tickets are \$7 at the door. For more information, e-mail Helen Fields at helenf@earthlink.net or go to the Young Friends' web site: www.pym.org/youngfriends.

March 9 — Retreat Planning Session. Members of the Religious Education, Worship & Ministry and Overseers committees will meet to begin planning for a Meeting retreat to be held this Fall. The theme of the retreat will be Spiritual Renewal. 12:30 p.m., after First Day School. Lunch will be provided.

March 22 — The John Woolman Memorial Association's Annual Lecture. 2 p.m. at Medford Leas Auditorium. Vernie Davis, professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Guilford College, will speak on John Woolman's peace witness and its application today.

March 27–30 — Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. See the article on page 5 of this newsletter.

April 4–6 — Nurturing Young Friends: Coming of Age in the Quaker Community. A weekend workshop co-sponsored by Pendle Hill and FGC. Explore ways to engage with adolescents and to empower them to discover their place in the Quaker community. For more information, contact Michael Gibson at FGC, michaelg@fgcquaker.org.

April 12 — Gourmet Dinner to benefit HFS. Save the date and watch for details in next month's newsletter!

February Monthly Meeting for Business — February 14, 2003

The Meeting opened with a period of silence; the Clerk read from the 4th Query in *Faith & Practice*, on Care for the Meeting Community.

Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

Annual Reports

Mary Noland reported on behalf of the Friendship Committee (see report below). The Clerk read the report of the Worship & Ministry Committee (see report on page 4). The Clerk also read the Recorder's report for 2001–02. The report showed a total of 246 members — 177 adults, 67 children and 2 associate members. The Meeting accepted the report, with appreciation to Johanna DeRose.

The Clerk reported, on behalf of the Overseers Committee, two resignations from the Meeting: Joyce Howell and Stephanie Schultz.

Jayne Stokes read a proposed minute in support of FCNL; the Meeting approved the minute with one alteration, and asked copies be sent to FCNL, PYM and Haddonfield QM. (See page 6 of the newsletter for the entire minute.)

Clifton Smoot, a member of this Meeting since birth, read a letter he wrote to the Meeting as a declaration of his beliefs as a Quaker. He presented this letter to help establish his conscientious objector status should the military draft be reinstated. We express our loving support for him.

Bill Patterson has resigned from the Finance Committee. Bill Schmidt has resigned from the School Committee; the Meeting appreciates his seven years service as clerk.

Pat Williams, new clerk of the School Committee, asked the Meeting to reverse the acceleration of the search process for the new head of school and go back to a two-year search (the original schedule). A new permanent head would start in September 2004. The Meeting approved, and commended the Committee for its work.

Friendship Committee Report 2003

We would like to start our annual report with a thank you to Connie Brookes, not only for all her work as clerk of this committee until the fall of 2002, but also

the very organized way the work of this committee was passed on. Her organization makes the work of this committee much easier. We sincerely thank her.

Many thanks also go to all the committees of the Meeting who carry out most of our work. The post-Meeting for Worship refreshment times and the monthly covered dish on the third First Day are organized by all the committees of the Meeting. Committee clerks are always reminded by letter of their designated month and are encouraged to ask non-committee members to assist them. New attenders and new members often appreciate being included in this time of work and fellowship. Until Mary Reiter moved to Cadbury she assisted the clerk in sending these notices to the clerks of the different committees about their designated month. Her work was much appreciated.

The refreshment times after Meeting for Worship during the summer months of June–August are covered by meeting volunteers who sign up on a poster-size list. During the summer months, we don't usually have lunch after Meeting for Worship. But this summer 2002, the Children's Inclusion Committee provided the Meeting with a summer barbecue picnic (inside due to the weather) after Meeting for Worship. June Hodges and Diane Werner worked especially hard on this nice lunch.

The Committee also organizes the annual Christmas Breakfast. Many people work hard on this Breakfast. Hiltrude and Art Dodge shopped, cooked and helped clean-up. Fran and Joseph O'Neill also cooked, got the notices in the newsletter and arranged for the table set up. Fran O'Neill, Lisa Whittington, and Pam Moench made beautiful decorations and set up. Diane Werner, June Hodges, and Lisa Whittington cleaned up. Thérèse Barringer got festive paper goods, which were also used for Christmas Eve. John Sheffield, although not a member of the Friendship committee, graciously offered to clean all the tablecloths and dry towels from the Breakfast. I know that I'm leaving out others but we hoped they will feel thanked because it was a much enjoyed Breakfast before Meeting for Worship on the Sunday before Christmas.

Deb Whiting and her mother, Ruth Podolin, made sure we had cider to go with the cookies, which members and attenders brought to enjoy after the annual Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship. They organized the other refreshments and cleaned up as well.

There was a well-received Bruce Adams' (Valentine) concert at the Meeting House last February (2002).

The concert this year had to be postponed due to illness. The Friendship committee provides the refreshments at intermission at these concerts.

Recent additions of several young mothers, June Hodges, Diane Werner, Deb Whiting, and Lisa Whittington have invigorated our Committee and we are very grateful. Lisa Whittington has bought supplies for the kitchen at an outlet. This helps us hold down our costs and reduces the shopping by other committee members. We bought a new supply of dry towels and spoons which were needed.

Harold Katz is researching the issue of Fair Trade coffee for the Friendship Committee. The *Friends Journal* has had articles on the problem of coffee growers not receiving a fair price for their coffee.

This concern has also been brought to the Friendship Committee for our consideration by Ranan Banerji. The cost of Fair Trade coffee is much higher than we presently pay and, in our brief discussion at our Friendship committee meeting, we did not reach consensus. Harold volunteered to research and report to the committee on this issue for further consideration.

Annual Report of Worship and Ministry 2002

Worship and Ministry is concerned about how well spirituality and prayer are conveyed to our people, young and old, under our care.

What is our faith, and how do we share it?

What is our Purpose in attending Meeting?

What are 'seasoned' members? Are we developing them?

These are the questions Worship and Ministry wrestles with.

David Marshall had a divine leading to visit meetings in the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting area to share the message of "God is Love." He accomplished this, being well received by many meetings. His traveling minute is being returned to the Meeting.

In the Fall, because the vocal ministry seemed to be "worldly" or political in nature, we felt that it was appropriate to read a passage at the start of worship emphasizing responsibilities inherent in our form of worship. We need to give guidance on the importance of waiting in prayer for that still, small voice, and to advise that some messages are purely personal and others are meant to be shared.

We encouraged two new members to attend a Pendle Hill program.

A plan from the Children's Inclusion Committee "to include children into the life of the meeting for worship" was presented to Worship and Ministry. We agreed to begin in September. Children up to third grade are free to leave at 10:20 under structured care. The quality of worship has improved as a consequence, but there are still distractions.

In closing, we are here to worship; doing so at many levels, but the Spirit is available to each.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

"It Takes a Meeting to Raise a Friend."

"Ye have no time but this present time." G. Fox

Peacemaking: The Call to Faithful Action

Adherence to the peace testimony grows out of our experience of God's transforming love. It grows out of our ongoing life of prayer and worship which nurtures our relationship with Christ. But it also grows out of our obedience to the prophetic call of Christ to follow his will in faithful living in the world.

Our peacemaking cannot wait until we feel completely loving. Feelings are notoriously unreliable guides. We are called to obedient love even though we may not be feeling very loving. Often it is through the performance of loving acts that loving feelings can be built up in us. We may start with small, perhaps very tiny steps. It is only as we begin to allow Christ's love to act in and through us that it can become a part of us.

Becoming a peacemaker may require changes in our everyday way of life (e.g., the way we earn our living, or unquestioned payment of war taxes, the wasteful manner in which we secure and use possessions). While we are all led toward Peace, we are led by many different paths. Some witnesses may be required of us all. Others' witnesses may be for those with calls to special ministry. Jesus asks one person to join his band of disciples and another to proclaim God's power at home. We must discern what is asked of us.

from Peace Be With You by Sandra Cronk

Children's First Day School

The Religious Education Committee provides First Day School activities for children from pre-K through high school. There are five groups — pre-K and kindergarten, first through third grades, fourth through sixth grades, seventh and eighth grades and high school. Children learn about their Quaker faith and enjoy the fellowship of other children in the Meeting. Classes begin at 11:20 and end at 12:15. The spring session begins March 16 — the theme is the New Testament. RE Committee encourages all children in the Meeting to attend First Day School.

Adult First Day School for March:

March 2 — Cary Gaul will speak about the National Junior Games for the Disabled. Cary, a Meeting member and son of Teacher Cathy, is on the US team. Adults and children's first day classes are invited to hear Cary's inspirational story.

Cary was born with spina bifida and has been competing in athletic competitions since the age of nine. Last year at the annual June Mason's Track Meet he was named Outstanding Male Athlete and won 12 Gold Medals in swimming and track. Having been named to be a member of the US Junior Team, he will compete in Australia this April.

March 9 — The Peace Tax Fund. Laurence Sigmund, PYM coordinator of Meetings' Initiatives for Peace and Concerns, will tell us about this effort to pass legislation to allow people to participate in the tax system without violating their conscientiously held beliefs.

March 16 — This program is still in the planning stages. Details will be on the easel in the foyer soon.

March 23 — All About Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). What is PYM? What does it do? How are we a part of it? Flora McKinney will tell you all about it.

March 30 and April 6 — Spiritual Insights from Thomas Kelly's writings in *The Eternal Promise*. Essays in the book *The Eternal Promise* will be the basis of this two-part study session. Thomas Kelly is best known through *A Testament of Devotion*, a posthumous collection of essays and speeches which has become a devotional classic. *The Eternal Promise* is a follow-up to that book and contains essays such as *The Gathered Meeting*. Copies of book will be available for \$6.

Vigil for Peace

Medford Meeting is organizing peace vigils for two Saturdays: March 1 and March 8. 9:30 am worship followed by 10:00 – 11:00 outdoor vigil. Medford Friends Meeting, 14 Union St., Medford NJ, 609-953-8914. Please join us.

Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions

"Finding the Power to Make Peace in Every Aspect of Our Lives" is the focus of the 2003 PYM Sessions. In order to meet the challenges our world presents in our personal and professional lives, in our communities and international affairs, it is a time when we need to be all the more closely connected to that Divine Spirit we experience in worship and hope to carry into every aspect of our existence. The importance of helping each other be spiritually centered and live in ways that reflect God's love comes to us anew.

Reflections on "Finding the Power to Make Peace" will cross generational lines as the children's program builds on the theme of peacemaking and as Friends of all ages participate in a peace vigil Saturday afternoon.

The Annual Sessions will be grounded at both ends by speakers whose faith deeply informs their actions. Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak to us in our opening session. Jim Wallace, a founder of the Sojourners community in Washington, D.C., and editor of *Sojourners Magazine*, will address us on Saturday evening.

There will be programs for Young Friends at Germantown Meeting (contact Cookie Caldwell, 215-241-7222 or cookiec@pym.org) and Middle School Friends at Friends Center (contact Melanie Douty, 215-241-7171 or melanied@pym.org) or check out the YF and MS Friends web sites at pym.org. Registration deadline for these programs is March 8.

Annual Sessions relies on volunteers to make the sessions run smoothly. Volunteers are needed for the Children's Program, Dining Room Aides and for Ushers. To volunteer, please contact the following no later than March 15, 2003:

Ushers: George Houghton, houghtonNJ@aol.com
Children's Program: Brenda Rose Simkin at 215-241-7075 or brendar@pym.org.

Minute in Support of FCNL

Haddonfield Friends Meeting opposes the present national administration's push to militarism and military action. We support Friends Committee on National Legislation and its new legislative priority, the prevention of deadly conflict.

We support and join FCNL in its focus on United States energy policy, and for FCNL's recognition that oil has become a cause of injustice, environmental degradation and resort to military force. We join FCNL in its belief that alternatives to military intervention have the capacity for reaching short and long term resolutions to problems of terrorism and the root causes of war: poverty, injustice and ignorance.

Haddonfield Friends Meeting recognizes FCNL's important role over the past year in opposition to the militarism of the Bush administration. We therefore urge all Friends, and specifically the members and attenders of this Meeting, to increase their financial support for FCNL advocacy of policies to prevent deadly conflict. Concretely, we support FCNL's current capita and fundraising campaign to preserve and expand its building on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. That building has allowed FCNL staffers high visibility and continuing presence with the congressional community. We urge all members and attenders of this Meeting to contribute to FCNL's campaign to preserve and expand its physical presence and facility on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

Summer Friends' Workcamps in Burundi and Uganda

There is still time for Friends to apply for these workcamps. The workcamps will include peacebuilding and Alternatives to Violence (AVP) training as well as practical work that is helpful to the local people. The workcamp in Burundi will build classrooms at a school for orphans, while in Uganda, they will build homes for returning refugees. The minimum age requirement is

16 for Uganda and 18 for Burundi. There is no upper limit on age. Friends are advised to have a clearness or support committee at their Meeting. For information, contact Peter Yeomans (peter-yeomans1@dca.net) or Gail Newbold (gnewbold@kennett.net). For an application, contact David Zarembka of the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams at davidzarembka@juno.com.

Health Kits for Iraq

Haddonfield Meeting, Cropwell Meeting and four churches in Haddonfield are collecting family-sized health kits for Iraq. They are collecting the items requested on the list from AFSC (see below). The deadline for shipping is March 31. Look for the big box in the foyer.

Each health kit should contain:

- 4 bars of soap
- 1 plastic bottle of shampoo (13–24 oz. size — place in separate plastic bag)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (minimum 18 oz.)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (leave in packaging)
- 1 hairbrush
- 1 wide-tooth comb
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted sizes preferred)

All the items should be placed in a large ziploc bag. In order to provide the same comfort to all the recipients and to meet the exacting licensing standards for shipment, please include ALL the items listed and ONLY these items. Thank you for caring and sharing.

The E-Newsletter

Starting next month, you have the choice of receiving this newsletter in the mail or in an electronic format. If you would like to receive the newsletter in a PDF format, or would like more information about this option, contact Jayne Stokes at jayne740@earthlink.net.

March 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20-12:15 FDS	3	4	5 9:15 am All School Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Comm.	6	7	8
9 9 am P&SC 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20-12:15 FDS 12:30 Retreat Planning meeting	10	11 7:30 pm Overseers	12 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	13	14 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting for Business	15
16 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 -12 FDS 12 covered dish	17	18	19 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Prop. Comm.	20 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	21	22
23 10 am Mtg for Worship 11:20-12:15 FDS	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 am Mtg for Worship 11:20-12:15 FDS	31			← YEARLY MEETING → 27-30		