

HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, No. 4 ~ December, 2008

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday



From Worship and Ministry

The Remaining Two Doors

In November, we learned a bit about William Taber's essay, "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship," in which he describes entering worship as wading into a stream.

Taber referred to The Door Before as the daily discipline of preparing for worship. We cross the threshold to the Door Inward – the second door – when we arrive at Meeting for Worship.

Now in December, we consider the third and fourth door.

The third door – called "the door within" is an experience of being united with a group which is "waiting on the Lord". He again uses the metaphor of a living stream full of renewing, healing energy. In this state of consciousness, we feel a sense of corporate reality with our fellow worshipers.

During this time early Friend wrote that the inward work of Christ could be done, "that work which brings a person into a transformed life of both faithful attention to the divine presence and also faithful obedience to the divine will as perceived through scripture and through the Holy Spirit". This can be a peaceful experience, but at times a discouraging one when we are led to become aware of things in ourselves that need to be changed. George Fox wrote that the Light would help us to do so.

Taber writes that "The cumulative effect of these new perceptions brought about by the Inward Work of Christ is to bring a profound but subtle change in the way we relate to ourselves, to other people, animals, and to all created things". How we relate afterward to our fellow humans has more weight than how we may feel during the Meeting for Worship.

Spoken ministry will come when we feel ourselves united both with fellow worshippers and with the Divine. Friends can expect, in time, to learn the difference between the true inward motion and other motivations to speak or act.

The Fourth Door called the door beyond, is when we shift back to the more normal state of everyday consciousness. These final brief moments when we shift levels of consciousness at the end of the meeting are just as important as all of the previous stages of worship. We then, hopefully, carry its blessing with us into our life in the world. We also resolve to carry forth into our daily life a new promise of faithfulness to God, "or perhaps a promise to really follow up on that concern which came to us in meeting."

Those working in the Deepening and Strengthening program urge us to read "Four Doors to the Meeting for Worship" in its entirety. Try using the idea of four doors during the next Meeting for Worship that you attend!



Upcoming Events

Dec. 4-7 - Ten Thousand Villages - For the last thirteen holiday seasons, Woodstown Friends have hosted Ten Thousand Villages, an international gift festival that provides vital, fair income to artisans and their families in more than 32 developing nations by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories. Examples of products include a large assortment of holiday ornaments, jewelry, musical instruments, toys, carved animals, handmade paper and cards, scarves, tablecloths, wood boxes, kitchen utensils and bookends. Please consider Ten Thousand Villages for your holiday shopping. The sale will be held at the Woodstown Friends Meeting Annex, 104 N.Main Street, Woodstown NJ. Sale hours are:

3-8pm Thursday

3-10pm Friday

10am-5pm Saturday

noon-2pm Sunday

For more information, visit

www.tenthousandvillages.com

Dec. 5-7 - Claiming Our Peace Testimony -

This weekend workshop at Pendle Hill will be led by Mary Lord, former peace building staff for the American Friends Service Committee. For more information, visit www.pendlehill.org or call 1 800 742-3150 ext. 3. Pendle Hill will match grants from meetings to help enable Friends to attend these workshops.

Dec. 7 - Simple Gifts - Immediately following Meeting for Worship, this intergenerational activity for Haddonfield Monthly Meeting will allow families the opportunity to make holiday gifts by hand. There will be tables in the auditorium for making crafts and wreaths for the holidays.

Dec.21 - Peace Prayer's Gathering - Friends are invited to the Haddonfield Meetinghouse to join in a meditation for world peace from 7-8:30 p.m.

This is a pivotal day. It's the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, the day that invites a time of hibernation in preparation for new life in the spring, a day on which the planting of intentions for peace can be particularly powerful. Come aside and pray with us a while. Sponsored by Faith and Ministry. For more information e-mail PeacePartners@verizon.net or call 856-287-9472.

**Celebrate Christmas
with your Friends**

**Dec. 21
8:30 am**

**Auditorium
Haddonfield Monthly
Meeting**

**Please bring a holiday
bread or sweet to share**

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship and Carol Sing - Worship and Ministry will once again sponsor a special evening worship featuring our favorite songs to celebrate the holiday. Please join us for worship at 7pm, followed by a Carol Sing at 7:30 and fellowship at 8. Your cookies and holiday breads would be very welcome!

Jan. 17 - Heeding God's Call - A peace gathering in Philadelphia to address gun violence aims to include meetings from the city and suburbs. Our expectation is that approximately 2,000 people will participate. Morning programs will take place at multiple faith communities. After a simple lunch, all will

gather at the church called Holy Ghost Headquarters ("the Met") at 858 N. Broad Street for a concluding plenary session, cumulating with a public witness. In preparation for this program of shared worship and public witness, 30 faith communities in the Delaware Valley area are engaged in praying, learning, teaching and planning together. Specifically, they will be working to educate and equip members of local faith communities to reduce gun violence in Philadelphia and surrounding areas, through direct action to encourage responsible gun laws and sales. The focus of the public witness will be the "call" of the local faith communities for gun shop owners to partner with the community to make illegal and bulk purchases of handguns far less likely. Gun shop owners will be called to agree to a 10-point "Code of Conduct" fashioned after the Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership that was recently negotiated between the Coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and a major nationwide retailer of firearms (Wal-Mart). This event is a joint effort of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Church USA. Information on the peace gathering is available online at www.peacegathering2009.org.

Feb. 28 - Gathering for Quaker Educators in Public Schools --Are you a Friend who works in a Public School? You are cordially invited to a free seminar called "Teaching Across Difference." PA Act 48 credits are available. Other seminars for Quaker public educators can be scheduled with your interests in mind. Please contact PYM's Education staff if you (or someone you know) should be on our invitation list. Our intention is to build community, support one another, and learn together. Call or email Elke Muller at 215-241-7223 or ElkeM@pym.org for more information.



Meeting for Worship for Business- Nov. 9

The meeting began with a period of worship.

The Clerk read from Faith and Practice: "The Religious Basis of Our Decision Making."

The Clerk reported on a brief Called Meeting for Business at the rise of worship on Oct. 26, at which time four members were approved for School Committee. These members are: Justin Loughry, Ruth Podolin, Diane Snyder and Inspira Williams. Today, Louise Senopoulous was also approved for School Committee.

Ceil McFadden and Judy Owens reported on a proposal from Care Committee and Worship and Ministry. It was suggested that Haddonfield Monthly Meeting reaffirm its full support of the ongoing effort of the School and Ad Hoc Committees' efforts toward incorporation of Haddonfield Friends School. They described a multi-step process to be led by Care Committee and Worship and Ministry intended to facilitate work toward resolution of the remaining points still in dispute regarding the separate incorporation of the School. The Called Meeting for Problem-Solving proposed at the October Meeting for Worship for Business will be held following the completion of this process. The focus of the meeting will be on moving toward healing and healthier process.

Dan Thompson and Chris Werner will be co-Clerks of the School Committee. There will be a meeting of the Committee with the new members to bring everyone up to date on the status of the separation process.

The report was accepted and the proposal approved by the Meeting and is attached.

There is a timing conflict with the Shakespeare Theater presentation and the Meeting's Deepening and Strengthening program on Feb. 28 to March 1. Drew will work it out with Francie Pagel.

Deedy Roberts gave a report on PYM Interim Meeting, which was accepted with thanks. (Details below).

Pam Perry again presented her report from

Finance Committee on the proposed policy minute on tuition aid for member children attending Haddonfield Friends School. The Proposal was developed in collaboration with Care and School Committees. It suggests that the Meeting will pay up to 1/3 of the tuition for children who are members of the Meeting in grades K-8, provided certain requirements are met. The policy was approved as attached.

Friends approved a Minute of Appreciation for Steve Berryhill for acquiring a Tyson Grant and creating the Education Endowment Fund for the Meeting.

Worship and Ministry proposes that Bill Mason lead a Wednesday evening "Centering Prayer" workshop for Meeting members and attenders in the Meeting House. The time frame will be determined by Bill and the participants. It is expected to be a limited-time offering - perhaps an hour and a half to two hours per evening, lasting about six to eight weeks. Bill may choose a text to lead the experience.

Meeting for worship for Business closed with a period of silent 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.

Notes from Interim Meeting

Deedy Roberts reported that the PYM Interim Meeting on Oct. 23 covered the following items:

- In the third week of January, a large gathering of faith-based activists will discuss peace issues at Arch Street Meeting House and hopes to include representatives from all meetings. The thrust will be urban and suburban meetings and churches joining together to fight gun violence in Philadelphia. They want meetings to volunteer to host this event on the morning of Jan. 17 and then to join in the rally in Philadelphia at 1 pm that afternoon.
- The Greenleaf is donating its sizeable capital to our Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for the support

of elderly Friends in need. Only the interest would be distributed. The money would go first to the four former Greenleaf residents, only one of whom has indicated that she needs it. Second it would be available to needy seniors of Moorestown Friends Meeting, third to members from Haddonfield Quarter and fourth to members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This is a new fund. A board is being formed to manage it.

- We make individual voluntary contributions to the Yearly Meetings Annual Fund. If a two hundred non contributors from the past would contribute, plus the regular contributors of before gave \$21 more, we would make our budget this year.
- The nominating committee would like more names to fill certain positions. One of them is to help run the activities at Arch Street Meeting.

From Worship and Ministry

Friends are reminded to help us maintain the precious silence of our worship. Support those gathering to "kindle" our sacred space (beginning the worship ten minutes earlier) by quieting down as you approach the building and gather in the outer room. We also appreciate leaving any alarm devices off, or better yet, in your car!

Racial Justice Queries

A proposal approved at HMM Business Meeting calls for committees and individual Friends to consider queries designed to promote racial justice. The process aims to eliminate any vestiges of institutional racism that may exist in the Meeting. Committees are asked to consider and discuss the steps they are taking to ensure that their work reflects the testimony of equality and is free from racial prejudice or institutional racism. Additionally, committees are asked to consider the steps they are taking to dismantle racism that may exist within their group.

Individuals are encouraged to examine aspects of racial prejudice to which they may not fully be aware, including feelings of inferiority or superiority or feelings of discomfort or distrust they might associate with people of other races. Friends are invited to consider the ways that racism can occur. As part of this query, Friends are encouraged to consider if such matters manifest during meeting or elsewhere in the Religious Society of Friends.

Committees are asked to submit a report on their queries by the end of January to the Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice. The Ad Hoc Committee is available to answer questions or facilitate discussion for any committees that would find it useful. For more information, contact Kitty Taylor Mizuno at ktmizuno@erols.com.

Religious Education

- Dec. 7: Simple Gifts
- Dec. 14: Meeting for Worship for Business
- Dec. 21: Christmas Breakfast
- Dec. 28: Extended Hospitality
- Dec. 31: First Night activities
- Jan. 18: Deepening and Strengthening

Two Poems

The following poems come from two of our favorite poets at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting: Cecilia McFadden and Harold Heritage.

The first, untitled, poem, was written by Harold and seems well suited to the season:

I hear the music when I forget,
No mind to scheme or secure:
Looking into the inner eye,
Looking into the inner ear,
Being in love with all.

~ *Harold Heritage*

The second poem, printed at the request of several Friends, was recited by Cecilia at a recent Meeting for Worship.

Song in the Wind

I heard Your voice in the wind –
The wind that became my first breath:
In the zephyr that trembles newly-born blossoms
And dances dry leaves lately fallen.

I heard Your song
In blizzard bluster and summer squall;
In March's gusts
And the gales of autumn.

I heard your voice in the wind –
The wind that became my last breath,
Singing Your thousand-verse,
One-word refrain:

“Love
Love
Love
Love”

