



HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, No. 8 ~ April, 2009

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday

From Worship and Ministry

Freedom in Prayer

Prayer is essential in the religious life. We see that illustrated in the life of Jesus. In Mark 9:28,29, the disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't perform certain healings as they had seen him do with a sick boy. "His disciples asked him privately, 'Why could not we cast it out?' And he said unto them, 'This kind (the deaf and mute spirit) can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.'"

We are given a pattern or example to follow in the works of Jesus. With regard to time and place, Jesus' principle of freedom in prayer is seen often in the Gospels. He prayed early in the morning, before dawn in a lonely place...He prayed all night in the hills...He prayed in the evening in the garden....He prayed during the day in the mountains. He faced his last crisis in the act of prayer.

Jesus can be our guide in prayer. His way of prayer may help us find that freedom of the spirit which will enable us to face the crises in our own lives; and his understanding of the nature of prayer may increase our awareness of its power.

Footprints, v. 2.0

One night, a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with God.

(It might have been a beach in the Virgin Islands or Bermuda, but more than likely, it was at the Jersey shore. We'll go with that.)

Across the sky flashed the scenes that made up the man's life. For each scene, he thought he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him and the other to God.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, the man looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that at a few of the places along the path of his life, there actually seemed to be only one set of footprints. He also noticed that this seemed to happen at the very lowest and saddest and most miserable times of his life.

This observation really bothered the man and he questioned God. The man said, "Gee, God, my friend, you said that once I decided to walk with you, you'd stay with me all the way, 'all the days of my life' and all that. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times, when things were really rotten for me, there is only *one* set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most, you just seemed to up and leave me. What is up with that?"

God looked at the man, and then He sighed a little. "My friend," he said, "take a careful look at those footprints." They went back and began

to retrace their steps a bit. "See here? Look at this mess of footprints. See how they're all running in circles and whatnot? There are four spots along your way that are like this." The man saw that indeed this was the case. "These are from your wedding day, and from when each of your sons was born. The last is from the day you became my Friend. Look at how each time, we danced the happy dance together. What a fine time we had on those days!"

They walked a bit further. "Look here, and here, and here. These are when you faced those long, dark nights of the soul. Remember each of those? See how those steps seem irregular? That's when each time, I had to kick your tuckus to snap you out of it, to let you know that I was really there beside you even though you doubted me."

"Okay, okay, I get that," said the man, clearly flustered now. "And I appreciate it, I truly do.

But that still doesn't explain *this!*" And again he pointed at the places where there did indeed seem to be only a single set of footprints.

"My son," God said, "you're a father of boys. You remember how you taught each of your sons to ride a bike? At first, they were both very nervous and afraid. You encouraged them, you coaxed them. You had to make them *believe* that if they had faith in you and in what you told them and showed them, that they would *stay up*, that they wouldn't fall when you let go." He stopped and His hand on the man's shoulder. "They had to believe that you could let them go off on their own and that you would still catch them, that you would *never* let them fall. So you held onto the seat of that bike and you ran alongside, all the time telling them what to do, but then at last, you *did* let them go, to ride alone. But *never truly alone.*"

The man nodded, and he remembered.

"My precious, precious friend," God said, "I love you and I would *never* leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I let *you* go, to ride alone. But I would never let you fall.

And you knew, deep down, that I would be there for you, as I am now and ever will be. You did learn to ride alone. But not truly alone. And your faith in me remained. Indeed, it is stronger now than ever."

"Wow," said the man. "I never thought about it that way. Here all along I thought maybe you were **carrying** me or something."

"Get a *grip*," said God. "That's what faith is all about."

"Cool," said the man. "Wanna go catch the Phillies on the tube?"

"Absolutely," said God to his friend. "I think they just might repeat this year."

"Ya gotta believe," said the man.

"Yeah," said God. "You do."

And they continued down the beach. Together. Side by side.

~ Dave Austin

Upcoming Events

March 27-29 - Living Up to the Light: PYM Yearly Sessions - This Year's March Sessions, to be held at the Arch Street Meetinghouse, will address the Future Life and Leadership of our Yearly Meeting: continued discernment and decision on the Interim Meeting Governance report and *Heeding God's Call to Action: Report from the 2009 Gathering on Peace* and consideration of follow-up actions.

April 4 - Learning to Listen Workshop - Concord Quarterly Meeting invites all to attend a workshop day on listening at Birmingham Meeting (PA). We will look at many aspects of listening -- from listening to ourselves, to listening in community, to using our listening skills to truly welcome newcomers with all their joys and challenges. There is no cost, but registration is required for planning purposes. Child care is available. You are welcome to come for all or part of the day as you are able. Information can be found here,

www.pym.org/concordquarter, or contact Coordinator Beth Lawn at concordquarter@verizon.net or 610.872.1522.

April 5 - Palm Sunday Breakfast - Come and enjoy a ham and eggs breakfast at 9 am in the Meetinghouse! There will be delicious food and wonderful fellowship at the beginning of this holiday and spring season. Please join us!

April 5-6 - Friends Committee on National Legislation's 2009 Lobby Weekend in Washington, DC. The weekend will include a training session on effective lobbying strategies and a visit to congressional offices. Financial support is available from PYM's FCNL Network. For more information contact Margaret Mansfield of Mount Holly Meeting at 609-261-8190 or mmansfield@verizon.net For information see www.fcnl.org/action/spring_lobby09.htm

April 18 -- Community Events at Fair Hill Burial Ground -- A Quaker and Community Day at Fair Hill Friends Burial Ground in North Philadelphia will run from 10 am to 1 pm. Hide Easter candy and help neighborhood children find it. Help with spring cleanup. Directions at www.fairhillburial.org

April 18 - Stephen G. Carey Memorial Lecture Focuses on Privacy - Paul Lacey, clerk of the American Friends Service Committee board will discuss "Privacy and Keeping Confidences: Some Moral Dilemmas" at 7:30 p.m. in the Barn at Pendle Hill. The lecture is free and open to the public. The Bookstore will be open at 7:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served prior to the lecture starting.

April 19 - Meeting for Remembrance -- Haddonfield Monthly Meeting will gather in support of those in our meeting family who have recently suffered the loss of someone close to them. The 7 pm meeting will be followed by a simple reception in the auditorium. There will

be a table provided for displaying photographs and/or memorabilia. Please join us.

April 24-26 Workcamp for Young Adult Friends - PYM Young Adult Friends will have a workcamp at Friends Neighborhood Guild in Philadelphia. The service project includes assisting local community land trust to clean abandoned lots in an effort to reclaim them for community use. Registration deadline is April 15. More information and registration forms are available on Young Adult Friends website:

www.pym.org/education/yaf
Contact PYM YAF Coordinator Sadie Forsythe at 215-241-7075 or sadief@pym.org

May 1 -- Primero de Mayo Celebration - Art Auction and more to benefit Haddonfield Friends School. The event will run from 7 to 11 pm at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield.

May 2 - PYM Meeting on Worship and Ministry -- From 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, PYM will convene at Willistown Meeting As minuted at its gathering on Dec. 8, 2007, Meeting on Worship and Ministry is composed of the clerks of the Worship and Ministry Committees of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, and is open "to all those with a leading or concern for the worship, ministry, and spiritual life of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting faith community." It gathers twice a year. *Faith and Practice* states that "the Meeting on Worship and Ministry of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is specifically charged with the responsibility of nurturing the quality of worship, ministry, and spiritual life throughout the yearly meeting." The May gathering will be the first one in 2009. Friends are asked to hold the meeting in the Light, and are warmly encouraged to attend. Additional information will be sent to Quarterly and Monthly Meetings and Friends in general as soon as it becomes available. For questions, please contact Jorge Aráuz, convener, at 215 421 5811 or WM@PYM.org

May 9 – Woolman Spring Fair – Come to the grounds of the historic John Woolman Memorial for a Spring Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The John Woolman Memorial is located at 99 Branch Street (Route 537) in Mount Holly. The fair features Mother's Day plants, herbs, bluegrass music, food, books, crafts, tours and children's activities. Proceeds benefit the John Woolman Memorial Association. (www.woolmancentral.com) Questions? Call Laura Blaetz-Price at 856-313-0240 or MaryAnn Bacon at 609-654-5388.

May 30 – Vocal Ministry Workshop – The Worship and Ministry Committee of HMM has invited Helene Pollock, the previous clerk of Religious Education for PYM, to give a workshop from 10 am to 2 pm that is designed to help Friends find their voice.



Meeting for Worship for Business- March 8

The 28 Friends in attendance began the meeting with a period of worship. In the absence of the Clerk, the Meeting for Business was led by the Alternate Clerk, Bob Turrin, who read from Faith & Practice, #57 by T. Edmund Harvey.

Connie Brookes gave a comprehensive report on Friends Fiduciary with a focus on Haddonfield Meeting's investments. Because of the Market downturn, the value of our stock has dropped temporarily for 2008. However, the total return payout process is buffering a sharp decline in our income distribution for 2009.

FYI note: PYM invests in a socially responsible manner – no armaments, alcohol, tobacco, etc.

Lou Tomassetti gave a Property Committee update:

The water pipe providing the radiant heat in the classroom wing of the Meeting House has broken. It's buried in sand and concrete. There's no heat in two of the classrooms. The classes have been moved temporarily to the main school building, which has caused a major disruption there. All of the teachers are hoping for a quick fix. Unfortunately, there is no quick, obvious

solution. The Meeting decided that Property Committee will explore several long-term solutions to determine what is most cost-effective. Suggestions included heat and cool window units (heat pumps), baseboard heat, electric or hot water radiators or repair of the radiant heat floor. Meanwhile, a short-term solution is needed to heat the rooms for the remainder of the season so the children can return to their classrooms. Oreck space heaters were suggested. This might require an electric system upgrade.

Friends approved that Property Committee has the authority to buy or rent two Oreck heaters if the electric system will support them. If the system needs to be upgraded, the Clerk will call a special Meeting for Business.

The job description for the caretaker is old and probably too long. It should be reviewed and updated to reflect that this is no longer a full-time job.

The Meeting needs a new vacuum cleaner. Friends approved the purchase of a new commercial cleaner for up to \$600.

Bob Brookes reported for Memorial and Graveyard Committee. Bob wanted to know what to do with a tax bill the Clerk had received for the graveyard in Camden. Last year, when we received a bill, Kevin Heizer did some research and determined that we do, indeed, own the property. However, since we are a non-profit corporation, we are tax exempt. The matter was referred to our Treasurer, John Donch.

The Memorial Service for Lillian Willoughby will be on Saturday, March 21st at 2:00pm. A large crowd is expected. Lillian and husband, George, are former members of Haddonfield Meeting. They have been deeply committed peace activists and military-tax resisters for many, many years. Lillian will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her, and who admire her courage and her loving spirit.

Judy Owens wishes to acknowledge Diane Werner and the many other Friends who made last weekend happen. Also, Bob Turrin read a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Meeting from the Clerk of the weekend retreat.

Bob also read a letter from (Baltimore) Stoney Run Meeting telling us that they had recently welcomed Bob and Johanna DeRose into membership.

Annual reports due for 5th Month:

- Preliminary Finance Committee Report
- Care Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Preliminary Monthly Meeting Budget
- Treasurer's Quarterly Report
- Peace & Social Concerns
- Property

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne R. Hoxie Heizer, Recording Clerk

Friends and regular Attenders may request copies of the complete minutes from the Recording Clerk at Joanne@synchcorp.com.

Clean and Green

It's spring, time to muck out the heifer barn and clean your house top to bottom. So which cleaning products should you use? Phosphate- and chlorine-free products are less damaging to the environment in their manufacture and their disposal. Those that can be used with cold water and come as to-be-diluted concentrates in reduced packing have less impact with respect to global warming. For many jobs, ordinary baking soda is a good choice. Since "green" cleaners are an active field of research for both small and large producers, new information and products are becoming more easily available. In the future, "green" cleaners are likely to be universally preferred for most applications. The more often "green" cleaners are chosen now, the sooner that future will arrive.

~ From the Greater Pennsylvania Climate Action Project of the PYM Earthcare Working Group

Religious Education Schedule

April 12 - Easter

April 19 - Program on Attentive Listening

presented by Worship & Ministry
Covered Dish

April 26 - Sarah Burgess and Alison Duncan will Discuss issues raised in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, which addresses racial equality within the Religious Society of Friends

May 3 - Meeting for Worship for Business

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 17 - Sarah Burgess and Alison Duncan Pt. 2
Covered Dish

May 24 - Memorial Day Weekend

May 31 - Final FDS Classes for All

June 7 - Final FDS Exercises and Picnic

Grant Application Deadline

May 1 is the deadline for applications from Young Adult Friends for the Friends Institute Grant, which supports the ministry, service, and witness of young adult Friends, ages 18-40, within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Friends Institute Grant application guidelines are available at <http://www.pym.org/friendsinstitute/figg/index.htm> Questions may be directed to PYM Young Adult Friends Coordinator Sadie Forsythe at 215-241-7075 or sadief@pym.org

Help New Visions & Friends Transition Support Services

Continued financial aid is needed to support Quarterly Meeting outreach to New Visions & Friends Transition Support Services. If you are led to help this vital network, you may bring donations of food to Haddonfield Monthly Meetinghouse or send checks to Priscilla Adams. For contact information, write: peacepc@aol.com

Thanks, Friends

The Library Committee would like to thank Henry Taylor and David Gallivan for their generous donations of books to the Library. Henry donated a number of titles, including

some children's books, from the estate of his parents, and David has contributed a number of books from his personal collection.

"Mary's Gone," A Remembrance

February 17, 2009

Mary Berger has died. I have met with her sons and am honored that I was red marked in her phone book as a person she wanted contacted at the time of her death.

How does it happen - death? Here we are all vital in our little writing groups, committees, charitable works. We're trying to fit people around the Thanksgiving table. We're worrying over ants in the peony bushes and when we're going to take our next trip. And then tomorrow, today, an hour from now - here we are not. The living of us know we've lost our sprightly feisty friend. We've lost the wise voice of reason at the other end of the phone line?

My mind flickers off and on to my lost friend. Do I selfishly keep her and refuse to let her go? The night I learned of her death I could not sleep. I wanted to reconstruct my whole friendship with her, as if my putting a frame around her would honor her and keep her in my heart.

Mary first appeared on the Haddonfield Friends Meeting scene with her friend Arlene. They wanted to dip their toes in new fresh waters. I suspect our dear Mary, mother of five, grandmother and great grandmother to so many, also appreciated the full rich silence which the Quaker meeting provided. At any rate, she became one of us.

There was a period of time when we all studied Faith and Practice together for spiritual enrichment and to learn more about Quakerism. How good to share together our forming thoughts. Mary became one of us, so much so, that she was one of the few I sought out when I felt a need to deepen my friendships within the meeting. From then on we shared our histories

through writing. I know of her Irish grandmother, the well loved top notch car and the family, the family, the family. Her sons have found her writings. Thank goodness! They have pictures too and their own memories.

But Mary....where is Mary?

Blessings upon her.

~ Deedy Roberts



Among Friends

Three members of the HMM community have lost loved ones in recent weeks, and we offer our condolences and hold these Friends and their families in the light:

Louise Heritage passed away after a long illness on March 17. As of publication time, arrangements for a memorial service had not been made.

Mary Noland's mother passed away in February.

Lois Hinski's uncle passed away in March.

Please update your telephone directories to correct Inspira Williams' telephone number, which is 609 877-3270.