

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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April - June 2014

QUERIES

Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?

Do our vocations provide constructive and beneficial service? Do we observe integrity in our business transactions? Do we avoid involving ourselves beyond our ability to manage? Are we careful to conduct our affairs punctually, justly, and honorably? Do we avoid participation in lotteries, betting, and gambling?

Faith and Practice, New York Yearly Meeting 2001

From *The Quakers or Our Neighbors, The Friends*

by William J. Whalen

Quakers do not win acceptance because they are numerous or because they are growing in numbers. What does distinguish Quakers from many other Christians is their personal commitment to God and humanity. The Quaker worships God by serving Him through society. Although decidedly mystical, Quakerism does not understand a purely interior religion. It believes that the Christian faith must express itself in action and service.....

If Quakerism has anything to say, it may be that personal commitment is central and essential to the Christian faith. The Quakers are mystics but they do not ignore humankind in cultivating their own spiritual lives. As William Penn wrote: "True godliness does not turn men out of the world but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavors to mend it." With few members and few converts, the Friends demonstrate what even such a small band of men and women can do to serve humanity throughout the world.

...It is safer to approach God through the Holy Spirit than through the door of theology. We can identify the Holy Spirit whenever it makes its presence felt. Whenever we see someone who is loving, compassionate, mindful, caring, and understanding, we know that the Holy Spirit is there.

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Our Meeting room floor was refreshed over the summer – sanded and coated with new polyurethane – a modern varnish and wax, which I’m sure has gone down on this floor many times before, or its predecessors – actual varnish and actual wax. The individual grains in the floor shine where before they were muted through the haze of years but not neglect.

Yes. It would be wrong to say the floor was neglected. Probably no floor in the meetinghouse is more loved than this floor even before it was refreshed. The floor holds the chairs in which we worship, and even before the floor was refreshed, we took care to avoid scratching it. Each chair, each leg of each chair, fit with a purposefully placed felt pad. Each chair stacked neatly to the side when the room is not in use. As floors go, this floor has always been loved.

Sitting in a chair during worship, I think about the grain in the wood – now visible – now for me to see. I remember Elliot, my first Clerk, the man who oversaw my marriage, and how he taught me about center-cut wood – how the grain is better for woodworking. And yes, I see some center-cut wood in the floor. There’s not a lot of center-cut flooring, but enough to remember Elliot, and to remind me to center myself.

Some boards are part of the same tree. They have the same grain – you just know they came from the same tree. Having laid floor, I know the sawn off piece from the prior board is sometimes the first board on the next row. Across the room, I can see the rest of the board. Yes. That is the same board. The grain does look the same. A possible story of how the floor was built can unfold if you listen.

I see a board with seven even lines of grain, and then, abruptly, there’s a twist, and the grain follows a new path. Perhaps the tree’s sister fell on him causing him to bend harder to reach for the light. A straight board from a bent tree would show that curve. Was this possible? Could I see something of the past documented in this

one thin board? An event, in a forest, perhaps 150 years ago?

I look outside at the sky, and I see clouds. Elliot comes to mind again. “Where you grew up in Vermont, there was probably never a day that was completely cloudless. Today,” he said, “that sometimes happens.” I don’t remember “completely cloudless”, but I do recall looking at a lot of clouds in the sky.

Perhaps if I knew as much about clouds as I do about wood, I could use a cloud like a map. I could look at a cloud that has a history of where it has been, and walking towards it, I would know what to expect.

I don’t know how to begin to read clouds even as well as a board, and certainly I cannot read a cloud like a book. I sometimes see shapes in clouds, and I can talk to people about those shapes. “Look! I see a bunny!” And more often than not, young or old, the other person can see that shape too. I can use clouds to communicate, but I cannot communicate what a cloud can tell.

I sit in meeting reading floorboards, and wishing I could read clouds and imagining how awesome that would be while listening to the still, small voice of God in me.

I sit in silence. Listening. I remember sitting with my baby on my lap with her making gentle, and sometimes, not so gentle, baby noises. I’d get uncomfortable and feel disruptive about those noises. I remember Elliot told me, “The traffic outside the window is noise. A baby is not noise.”

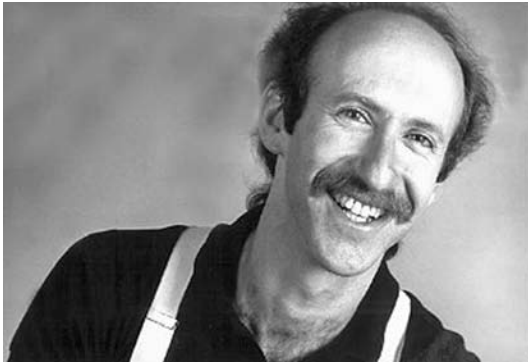
God made trees, and clouds, and baby gurgles. Maybe these are the pens he uses for his messages.

Many believe that we’ll meet God one day. Maybe one day I’ll meet God, and ask him about clouds or wood or baby gurgles. Or ask how Elliot’s doing. I miss Elliot. I can imagine him giving God a warm handshake or hug and then saying, “Let me tell you about this Pearly Gate.”

Love each other as I have loved you.. I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father.

Jesus in John 15: 12-15

Two memorable performances at the Meetinghouse!



Worcester Friends Meeting is pleased to host two performances by renowned storyteller, **Jackson Gillman**, in June. Jackson is a favored performer at the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee, and is featured at festivals and schools throughout the country.

Fondly known as the “Stand-Up Chameleon,” Jackson’s wit and versatility is seasoned with his warm-hearted honesty. His stories are based on a foundation of beneficence, hope, and a belief in the enduring power of the human spirit.

On Friday evening, June 13th at 7:30 PM, Jackson will perform ***The Man Who Planted Hope***. This is an inspiring tale

of environmental activism by Jean Giono, as interpreted by Pierre Giono with the assistance of Jackson Gillman.

The next morning, Saturday, June 14th at 11 AM, Jackson will delight us with his telling of Rudyard Kipling’s classic ***Just So Stories***. This family event will charm listeners of all ages.

Refreshments. Suggested donation \$5-15. Family of 3+ \$20+ Information: 978-464-5146

Market Day at the Meetinghouse!

A Great Opportunity to Spend the Day
Chatting and Working with Friends.

Market Day
9 AM – 3 PM Saturday, June 7

This year we are delighted to feature live music, provided by our Junior Young Friends.

We will have hot dogs, rhubarb pies, baked goods, lots of books, and plants.

Pie making festivities will begin at 4 PM, Friday, June 6th at the meetinghouse.

Friends will have a WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE this year. Your contributions are welcome, – but please, - nothing upholstered or electrical.

Thank you, in advance, Friends who pitch in to help with set-up, table staffing, cooking, and clean-up. Many hands make light work – fellowship and fun!



The Worcester Friends Meetinghouse benefits from an energy study suggested and overseen by Friends **Aaron Sakulich** (WPI professor) and **David Legg** (Energy Consultant). The following is taken from the 60+ page report submitted by the WPI students. The complete report is available at:

http://worcesterfriendsmeeting.org/Final_Report.pdf

Energy Efficiency of Historic Meetinghouse on Pleasant Street Interactive Qualifying Project Report submitted to the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science

Submitted by: John Adams, Matthew Foley, Matthew Janiga, and Yan Zhang

Project Advisors: Professors Leffi Cewe-Malloy and Aaron Sakulich

This project's purpose was to evaluate the current heating system, window condition and insulation system in the meetinghouse and give recommendations for improving the current house conditions and reducing energy use. Before doing analysis, research was done on the heating system, insulation materials, window types and thermostats to understand the building mechanical system. Extensive researches helped to broaden the project's scope and build the project's background on

the building mechanical systems. The meetinghouse currently has many energy issues including that the heating system is not efficient, some of the windows are in bad conditions and the original thermostat was broken. Not only was the energy condition of the meetinghouse analyzed, but also some work was done to improve the efficiency of the building and reduce leakage.

- A new WIFI-programmable thermostat was set up to replace the broken one and the temperature was set up according to the weekly event schedule.
- A 3M Home Solutions Window Insulator kit was installed in one of the basement windows.
- Updated floor plans were drawn to facilitate the understanding of the layout of the house.

Areas of leakage were identified by thermal camera. After analyzing the house from the heating, insulating, window, and thermostat, it is recommended to split the meetinghouse into three heating zones, use the WIFI-programmable thermostat to schedule the temperature, replace the windows in bad conditions and keep tracking of the gas bills and electricity bills which regularly update the fuel and electricity use in the meetinghouse. Following the completion of this project, a poster will be made to summarize all of the data, analysis and recommendations. The poster will be displayed near the entrance of the meetinghouse.

Faith & Practice Revision

NEYM's Ministry and Council Committee encourages Members to review the Faith & Practice Revision Committee's efforts. **Clarence Burley** has added his literary talents and Quakerly reflections to NEYM's attempts to update and revise the 1984 Edition of NEYM Faith and Practice. The Faith and Practice Revision Committee's newly revised Appendices Working Paper. This revision was mailed to monthly meeting clerks in December and the Committee seeks feedback on it by June 30, 2014. The Working Paper and other documents can be downloaded from the F&P website where queries concerning the appendices are also posted. Speak to Clarence. You can find the working paper here:

<http://www.neym.org/fandp/staticpages/index.php?page=appendices>

FAQ: When did Quakerism begin?

Quakerism originated in mid-17th century England, originally as a break-away branch of Puritanism. George Fox (1624-1691), an English preacher, founded the Society of Friends, whose open structure reflects his aversion to church hierarchy and titles. Fox held that the "Inner Light," the inspiring presence of God in each person, stands above Scripture and creed. This belief resonates through Quakerism despite a fairly wide variety of practices.

The revived Peace and Social Concerns Committee launched a Spring movie series. After receiving a number of suggestions, we decided to show four films: *Papers*, *The House I Live In*, *Room at the Table*, and *I Am*. Each of the films deals with a social issue of interest to Friends.

Papers is about the children of undocumented workers who came to the U.S. as young children. As they graduate from high school, their lack of a social security number prevents them from applying for financial aid, or attending college. It is estimated that about 200,000 young adults graduate in such circumstances each year. *Papers* is a story of hope as these young people, who call themselves Dreamers, organize and work together to seek changes in Federal immigration laws from lawmakers in Washington.

The House I Live In is about the failed War on Drugs. Launched by Pres. Richard Nixon, and promoted by Ronald Reagan, after 40 years more than 45 million Americans have been arrested for drug offenses. Civil forfeiture laws have given police departments across the country carte blanche authority and a financial incentive to seize assets even if the person is ultimately not committed of a crime. More than half a million people are now imprisoned in the Federal prison system for non-violent drug offenses, while mandatory sentencing requirements deny judges discretion to tailor a sentence to the severity of a crime, or take into account the individual's circumstances.

We followed the showing of this film with a discussion featuring **Benito Vega**, an ex-offender who is now the President of EPOCA in Worcester. Benito works regionally as a staff person for the St. Vincent DePaul Society to educate people about the barriers faced by ex-offenders after they are released from prison. Broad access to CORI records by employers and landlords results in discrimination even after they have served their time.

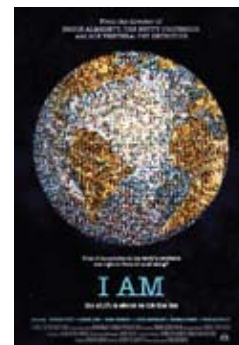
Previously incarcerated persons are barred from public housing, and therefore some may become homeless if they cannot live with their families. A previously incarcerated person cannot obtain a driver's license, which severely limits employment options.

The next film, *A Place at the Table*, which we will show on June 6th at 7:30 PM, is about hunger in America. 50 million Americans need assistance to put food on the table for themselves and their families.

We'll close out the film series with a showing of *I Am*, a film about climate change, actions being taken to educate people about the need for immediate action and changes in the way we live, and inspiring stories of peoples' visions for an environmentally friendly global energy policy.

The Committee recognizes that as a relatively small faith community, our desire for social and economic justice requires that we work together with other faith communities and grassroots organizations. Our hope is that the film series will provide a vehicle to network and develop relationships with the larger community of people who share Friends' concerns about these and other issues.

All films are followed by refreshments and discussion; check out the Meeting's web page for the schedule of events.



The Gardener by Geoff Knowlton

Your scent is not of chemical lilac or rose.
Yours is the fragrance of a spring wind filling clothes
Laden with the sea, plants and soil.

You do not move with the turns of a dancer in a show.
Yours is the purposeful grace that walks the rows
Seeking the tares and nurturing buds.

Like those who lived before the Fall
You kneel at the altar given
To plunge your fingers in the dirt
And so touch God's heaven.

From *Gathered Contemporary Quaker Poets* edited by Nick McRae and is available on Amazon.

The Meeting for Eating Recipe

Beef brisket with black pepper sauce

Adapted from *Savoring Spices and Herbs* by Julie Sahni. From Karen Sargent.

- 2 inch piece of ginger root, peeled
- 6 large cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 20 oz can of crushed tomatoes
- 3 to 4 pounds of boneless beef brisket, cut in large (2 inch) cubes
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 to 2 cups Vidalia onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- 1-2 cups golden raisins 1 cup brown sugar

A. Mince up ginger and garlic, combine in crock pot with tomatoes and brisket. Cook on low for 3 days or until the meat is quite tender.

B. Cook the olive oil, onion and pepper in a frying pan until the onion is clear to slightly browned, add to the crock pot, cook another hour or so.

C. Add 1 to 2 cups golden raisins and 1 cup of dark brown sugar, cook at least 3 more hours. Serve with rice and enjoy.

Childcare Launches Culinary Arts Program



Aaron Sakulich takes a break after assembling the new kitchen equipment for the toddlers who attend our meeting. Phil Stone and Fred Mikkelsen also helped put the kitchen together, and then made sure that everything worked properly!

It has been many years since a prisoner was executed in Massachusetts, but men continue to die in Massachusetts prisons. James Ridgeway recently published an article in *Mother Jones* which tells the stories of aging prisoners who will die in prison. He wrote: "Most of all, there is isolation. Prisons discourage inmates from forging friendships, and prison officials are suspicious of anything that smacks of organizing. So they switch inmates back and forth between prisons and deny them the right to communicate with anyone else who is incarcerated. Yet the group of lifers I've corresponded with have tried to make something of their lives, serving as jailhouse lawyers, organizing against abusive conditions, helping other inmates survive."

Ridgeway tells the story of one incarcerated man: "Joe Labriola, 66, is a former Marine war hero who served

two tours in Vietnam, receiving a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with V for valor. After returning home, Joe was convicted of killing a drug dealer, who was an FBI informant. He got life without parole. So far he has served 38 years, 18 of them in solitary confinement.

"Agent Orange exposure left Joe struggling to breathe. He can't walk more than 10 steps without help from an oxygen tank. He's in a wheelchair most of the time and lives in a ward called Assisted Daily Living, which he describes as a clutch of hospital beds in a corridor. "

Seniors in the outside world complain about health care. Health care in prison is minimal. Men in various stages of bad health or terminal illness lie in bed all day with nothing to do but watch television.

Massachusetts Ignores Signs of Times

About one in five Massachusetts inmates (19 percent) is 50-plus, more than the national average of one in six (16 percent), according to "At America's Expense: The Mass Incarceration of the Elderly," released in June, 2013 by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Nationally, says the ACLU report, inmates 50 or older cost \$68,270 to house and maintain. This is double the average for all prisoners of \$34,135. That's far lower than the Massachusetts overall per-prisoner cost of \$45,502.19 in 2011, according to the state's Department of Corrections (DOC).

For those at the end of life, Massachusetts prisons have no hospice programs to manage the care of terminally ill prisoners. In January, the state released its "Massachusetts Corrections Master Plan," which projects the long-term development of three new facilities to deal with medical problems.

Despite housing 2,212 older prisoners, the Massachusetts DOC said it does not "have a position on compassionate, geriatric or any other type of release. That's up to the Legislature."

In recent years, according to a 2010 report from the Vera Institute for Justice, by 2009 at least 15 states and the District of Columbia had programs allowing some form of "geriatric release," especially for imprisoned elders with terminal or serious illnesses or disabilities.

The Vera report notes, though, that jurisdictions rarely use these provisions because of political considerations, public opinion, narrow eligibility criteria, procedures discouraging inmates from applying for release, and complicated and lengthy referral and review processes.

Massachusetts has no type of medical, or geriatric release program.

You can read the full story at: <http://newamericamedia.org/2012/09/the-other-death-sentence-aging-and-dying-in-americas-prisons.php>

Rwandan Guest Speaker

by Matthew Shorten

On April 6th, Worcester Friends Meeting was pleased to host Theoneste Bizimana, 33, from Rwanda. Theo is the Coordinator of the HROC Program (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities), which addresses issues of personal and community trauma from wars, genocide and conflicts in the African Great Lakes region.

Speaking to a receptive audience from across the greater Worcester community, Theo movingly shared his experiences from the beginnings of the 3 day experiential workshops, bringing together victims and perpetrators based on the AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) model. Since 2002, the program has had remarkable results helping people dealing with issues of grief, trauma, anger and rebuilding trust.

One workshop participant is quoted, "I had been quarreling with my wife and many times I used violence over her. Thank God I have learned now I can manage my anger. I am ready to change and bring peace in my family."

HROC also sponsors work camp and volunteer opportunities, scholarship programs, mediation training, the Friends Women's Association, the Bugundu Vocational Institute of Uganda, and the Children's Peace Library. More info on these can be seen at www.aglionline.org.

Those interested in donating to the African Great Lakes Initiative can send checks to "Friends Peace Teams/AGLI", 1001 Park Avenue, St Louis, MO, 63104.



Set up for Pot Luck Lunch - Responsibilities

by Paul Gallegher

Before Meeting

- Bring milk for coffee and drinking (if needed!) – A whole gallon is best because it will usually be good for three weeks before expiration date –(If possible, check the week before, we may have enough on hand.)
- Turn on coffee maker (It needs to warm up. We turn it off for the week to prevent evaporation of water)

After Rise of Meeting

- Take initiative to put out the food that Friends have brought as well as making coffee, putting out beverage, butter etc.
- Others will help.
- Make coffee - Almost a full cup of coffee is used. Pour a full carafe of water into the coffee maker
- Heat up and serve the dishes that have been brought for lunch. Expect others to help.

- Note – After rise of meeting, several people can be counted on to help get the food on the table and do the last minute slicing, uncovering and serving

Find a Bellringer!

After lunch

Clean up after Meeting

- Help is needed from everyone
- Cleanup after meeting is relatively simple because there are still people around to help
- Leftover food that will not be fresh the next week should be sent home with someone if possible so it can be enjoyed instead of discarded later. -Encourage all diners to put their dishes into the dishwasher
- Tidy up and put away chairs and tables

June 1, 2013

It's Time To Register For NEYM Sessions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014

(Registration opens in early June)

For the first time in our 354 years, New England Yearly Meeting of Friends will gather for our Annual Sessions in Vermont! We hope you'll join us on the beautiful campus of Castleton State College in Castleton, VT.

This year's theme is: "You are my Witnesses"

Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one. Isaiah 44:8
NRSV

We invite you to weave these threads of witness, change, and opportunity into your spiritual and practical preparations for this gathering



of our faith community. Come to Castleton to worship with attention to business; come to see old friends and make new ones, to play, sing and pray together. Come to ask the hard questions, to love one another and to move deeper into personal witness and collective action.

Join us for this adventure – you never can tell what God has in store!

- Found on the NEYM website by Jackie Stillwell, Presiding Clerk and John Humphries, Clerk of Sessions Committee.

CHECK OUT the new NEYM website for more information:
<http://www.neym.org>

Friends General Conference

The theme this year is: *Let Love Be the First Motion*

The FGC Gathering will be at the California University of Pennsylvania (CAL U), south of Pittsburgh, PA, from June 29 through July 5, 2014.

The FGC Gathering is different from NEYM Sessions because it is a gathering of Friends from all over the United States. There are many workshops at various times of the day, and no business meetings. Workshops vary from finding Spirit through the Arts, to Quaker studies, dance, political issues, and more. Visit the website for a complete listing. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

OH! And please visit the FGC website. Click on the resources tab. There are quite a few neat videos of people talking about being Quaker. There's also a lengthy lecture by Pink Dandelion.

Under the new committee structure, the management of the meeting's library has a split personality. The Practical Committee has responsibility for the protection and day to day operations of the library (and budgeting for any books the Meeting wishes to buy.) The selection of books to go on the library shelves (and, implicitly, the removal of any books for one reason or another) is in the bailiwick of the Spiritual Committee. Any books not approved (or books removed) will be available for Market Day sale with right of first refusal going to members and attenders.

At this time the following titles are on the New Acquisitions shelf awaiting approval. The Practical Committee (or any one else) is encouraged to review them prior to consideration at their next meeting. These books should not be checked out prior to that time.

Early Quakers and the Kingdom of God. A large scholarly boring book chronicling the development of thought from changing the world to "the kingdom of God is within."

James Nayler, Revolutionary Prophet. Biography of an early, not without flaws, weighty Quaker.

Treason on Trial. The 1778 trial, conviction and hanging of a Quaker for "aiding?" the British occupation of Philadelphia.

A Quaker Cupboard. Bible verses, queries and voices of Friends about the testimonies.—David Madden, Westerly MM.

There is a Spirit. Kenneth Boulding's sonnets on each phrase of James Nayler's deathbed words.

The Language of God/A Scientist Presents Evidence of Belief Not Intelligent Design.

Of Infinite Beauty. A Quaker explores infinity through fractals.

Cassandra Southwick Whittier's poem of a New England colonial Quaker's threatened deportation. Privately printed by her descendant, Albert.

The Snake Fence. A Quaker colonial youth's story of his moral conflict about Indian Raids. (A novel)

People of the Earth/The New Pagans Speak Out. Equal opportunity for Native Americans, Wiccans, etc.

Integrity and Love. Timeless Quaker wisdom of John Woolman.

Gathered Contemporary Quaker Poets. One of them is Geoff Knowlton.

Pray Without Ceasing. Prayer manual by Candida Palmer, FUM.

Stephen C. Earle, Architect. "If you would see his work, look about you." Wren's London epitaph applies to our Friend. Worcester Heritage Society/Worcester Historical Museum.

The Art and Science of William Bartram. Quaker naturalist and artist in 1770's Southeastern states. Many illustrations.



Q. What do you get when you cross a Unitarian Universalist and a Jehovah's Witness?

A. Someone who knocks on your door to ask you to tell them about your faith.

Q. What do you get when you cross a Quaker with a Jehovah's Witness?

A. Someone who knocks on your door and is completely silent for an hour.

Did You Know?

Brian Badgley graduated from Suffolk Law School. He's living in New Hampshire, and attends Worcester Meeting for worship when he can.

Doreen Velnick's husband is ill. She hopes to return to meeting soon, when he is well.

Brian Sargent graduated from the University of New England, in Biddeford Maine. He majored in Environmental Science.

Shannon Palmer will be working at FCNL in Washington DC. We are pleased for her, and were delighted to see her and her parents at meeting recently.

Rachel Machunski is attending college in Wisconsin, and is home for the summer. She hopes to go to medical school after graduation.

Cat and James visited the Meeting when they returned to Worcester for Homecoming at Clark University. James Wilson graduated from Temple Medical School and plans to practice Rehabilitation Medicine. Katharine (Flynn) finished her MSW at Temple. They were married under the care of the Worcester Meeting.

Ed. – I am sure that there is lots more news about Friends. Please bring events/happenings to the attention of the editor!

"What Canst You Say?" - Wilmer A. Cooper, 1991

THE TESTIMONY OF INTEGRITY is grounded in the early Quaker understanding of "Truth" and "Children of the light," even before they were known as Friends or Quakers. Later Friends sometimes greeted one another by asking the question: "How is Truth prospering in thy parts?" which is to say, where you live. What a searching way to begin a conversation! It has the advantage of zeroing in on what is important. Friends were not given to idle talk. ... When Fox said he was to turn people to the "Truth in the heart," he intended to avoid at all costs second-hand knowledge of God. He wanted to confront his hearers with the penetrating question, "What canst you say?" Not what someone else says, or even what the Bible says. It must be the kind of truth that lays hold of us in a very personal way. It is truth which requires a response from us and will not let us rest until we have translated it into action.

Worcester Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business
April 13, 2014

Present: Katharine Barnard, Aaron Sakulich, Betty Jones, Clarence Burley, Barbara Sullivan, Kevin Walsh, Mathew Shorten, Jessica Seems, Virginia Swain, Mary Bennett, Katy Green, Karen Sargent, Fred Mikkelsen, Whitney Mikkelsen, Paul Gallagher, Daron Barnard, clerk.

04-13-2014-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice: Query 4: the meeting community.

04-13-2014-2 The Spiritual Life Committee presented the draft of the State of Society report after a brief explanation of the process used. There was a discussion with several changes suggested; the report was sent back to the committee to address these, requesting the revised draft be brought to the next business meeting.

04-13-2014-3 The Spiritual Life Committee reported starting to consider the meeting's relationship with the Quarterly Meeting, realizing this is also a concern in many areas of the Yearly Meeting and wider Quaker world.

04-13-2014-4 Outreach and care to several members continues. There is an interest in exploring the gifts that Friends have to offer to our community and deepen our spiritual connection.

04-13-2014-5 The Practical Committee has looked into ways to prevent icing of the front walkway. These include salting the walkway, not shoveling snow from the ramp into the bushes, but into the yard and trimming back the bushes in front so the water doesn't get diverted to the walkway.

04-13-2014-6 There have been some ice dams forming on the roof. There is a plan to look into better insulation of the attic.

04-13-2014-7 Peace & Social Concerns has made a list of movies and chosen four for the next movie series on Friday nights at 7:30 PM, starting April 25 and ending June 26. There will also be a storytelling event. April 25-Papers; May 16-The House I Live IN; June 6- I Am; June 27-A Place at the Table.

04-13-2014-8 Theoneste Bizimana visited the meeting last week from Rwanda, the HROC program who works with conflict resolution in the Great Lakes Initiative. There was a good attendance including a number of visitors.

04-13-2014-9 A suggestion was made that the meeting collect and donate books to the children's peace library in Rwanda. Friends are interested and the committee is asked to bring a proposal to the business meeting.

04-13-2014-10 The clerk reported on the meeting with NEYM Structural Committee members on last month, fifth first day. The meeting was structured around several questions they posed. There is also an on-line survey which all are encouraged to complete to share their thoughts with the Committee.

04-13-2014-11 Quarterly Meeting is April 27 at Providence MM.

04-13-2014-12 Scott Marshall who does the newsletter has agreed to do the work for \$50 a month. The meeting thanks him for his work.

04-13-2014-13 The PeaceMakers concert was well received; the meeting received \$170 for selling tickets.

04-13-2014-14 On May 17 there will be a workshop, Friends and the Internet Day at Moses Brown School in Providence.

04-13-2014-15 There are business cards if members are representing the meeting and wish to leave contact information. These will be available from the clerk.

04-13-2014-16 The Nashua River Green Rainbow group wishes to use the meeting house on Saturday, May 17. Meeting approves.

04-13-2014-17 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again fifth month, eleventh, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

May 11, 2014

Present: Katharine Barnard, Mary Bennett, Karen Sargent, Betty Jones, Paul Gallagher, Mary Chenaille, Katie Green, Phil Stone, Mark Sullivan, Aaron Sakulich, Fred Mikkelson, Clarence Burley, Barbara Sullivan, Virginia Swain, Jane Cutting, Daron Barnard, clerk.

05-11-2014-01 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice, Query #5, Outreach.

05-11-2014-02 The proposed revisions to the State of Society report were presented by the Spiritual Committee. The meeting accepted the document with a minor change and thanks to the committee for their work.

05-11-2014-03 Friends agree to use the State of Society as a part of a fund raising appeal. There was a discussion regarding a need to transition from traditional forms of communication to electronic contacts, in this case for fund raising. These matters are referred to the Practical Committee for consideration.

05-11-2014-04 The treasurer is happy to report increased donations from members and attenders. Income is about \$2,000 over what was expected; this has helped decrease the deficit to \$2000 at present. Friends are mindful that there have been no large expenses for the meeting-house so far this year. The treasurer reviewed current assets and liabilities. There was a discussion about the decision to replace funds used from savings in past years. The treasurer noted the meeting decided several years ago to reinvest interest earned to the NEYM Pooled trust, which has been done. In addition, the meeting agreed to replace the amount used from the interest in the past. The treasurer is asked to try to determine this amount and bring it to the next business meeting. It's noted that as the meeting has not had a surplus since this was minuted, no money has been replaced. Friends ask that there be a third Sunday discussion on how the meeting uses its finances.

05-11-2014-05 The practical committee met and continues to address several previously discussed concerns. On Saturday, July 12th there will be a volunteer day to start at 9 Am to paint the porch and ramp.

05-11-2014-06 The committee is considering the report from the WPI student group who evaluated the meeting house for energy efficiency.

05-11-2014-07 The spiritual committee is holding several Friends in the Light.

05-11-2014-08 There was a report from Quarterly meeting last week. The state of the Quarterly meeting(s) has been a discussion at the meeting, but also at the Quarterly and yearly meeting level. Friends expressed concerns, and also questions regarding the role of Quarterly meeting. It is noted that NEYM Ministry & Counsel has this as a concern and is meeting next on May 31.

05-11-2014-09 Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach is sponsoring the movie The House I live In Friday, May 16 at the meetinghouse.

05-11-2014-010 Jackson Gillman, internationally renowned storyteller from Maine will perform The Man Who Planted Hope on Friday, June 13, at 7:30 PM at the meetinghouse; and a family program requested by our First Day children, Kipling's Just So Stories, on Saturday, June 14 at 11 AM, also at the meetinghouse. Both are open to the public, and donations are encouraged.

05-11-2014-011 There was a discussion regarding the difficulty of scheduling the 3 committees and business meeting so that all members could attend. This will be revisited at a future business meeting.

05-11-2014-012 Market Day will be June 7, Saturday. There will be pie baking the evening before at the meetinghouse. Friends will be needed to set up and work that day, and are asked to donate books, plants, white elephants and baked goods.

05-11-2014-013 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence purposing to meet again sixth month, eighth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk.

Scheduled Meetings

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	Second Sunday, 9 AM
Spiritual Life Committee, convener Matthew Shorten	Fourth Sunday 9:30 AM
Practical Committee, convener Aaron Sakulich	First Sunday, 9:30 AM
Peace/Social Concerns/Outreach, convener Phil Stone.	as called
Mid-week Meeting for Worship, convener Aaron Sakulich.	Wednesdays, 7 PM
Worship at Briarwood Community, convener Betty Jones	Third Friday, 3:30 PM
Clerk of Worcester Friends Monthly Meeting	Daron Barnard
Recording Clerk	Barbara Sullivan
Treasurer.	Mark Sullivan
Recording Clerk/Corresponding Secretary	Clarence Burley
First Day School	Katie Green and Katherine Barnard
Newsletter Editor.	Katie Green

Deadline for the next newsletter is flexible. Friends interested in editing, please contact Katie at info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org

Voluntary Set-up before Meeting for Pot Luck Lunch If you are unable to set-up on your scheduled day, make arrangements or tell one of the committee members. Thank you for your understanding and your help.

06/08/14	Barbara Sullivan	07/13/14	Doreen Velnich	08/17/14	Karen Sargent
06/15/14	Aaron Sakulich	07/20/14	Ellen Perry	08/24/14	Katharine Barnard
06/22/14	Carol Goodenow	07/27/14	Fred Mikkelsen	08/31/14	Katie Green
06/29/14	Daron Barnard	08/03/14	Jessica Seem	09/07/14	Kevin Walsh
07/6/14	David Legg	08/10/14	Jill Tetreault	09/14/14	Mark Sullivan

This is a voluntary responsibility. If you would like to be added to or removed from the list, please tell a committee member. If you have suggestions to add or remove anyone, your input is needed. Please contact Paul - 508-981-7285 - paulgallagherG@gmail.com