

# Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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[www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org](http://www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org)



October/November, 2008

## Queries

Stewardship: Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

*Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, adopted 1985, p. 213*

## Clerk's Corner

*In my computer there is an epistle of George Fox's. Each time I come across this writing, Fox's words pull me in, and I must pause to reflect. How do these admonitions fit into my daily life? What do these words mean for me? I also wonder what specific events led Fox to write these thoughts down. The last sentence especially calls out to me to include this epistle of Fox's in this newsletter. Fox concludes: "Let this be read in your Meetings." It may not be read in our Meeting, but I hope that it will be read in our homes.*

**FRIENDS** every where, dwell in the power of the Lord God, which is without end, in which ye may all have unity. And take heed of striving about earthly things, which is the unredeemed part, that is out of the paradise and the garden of God; but that with the wisdom of God ye may come to be ordered, and order the creatures by that by which they were made and created, that by it ye may know yourselves to be governed.

...So keep your meetings, both particular and in the general,

*Continued on Page 2*

## Peaceable Kingdom

by Sandy Kocher

***When we enter our Meetinghouse we are now greeted by a framed reproduction of the Edward Hicks painting "The Peaceable Kingdom".***

Hicks, who was born in 1780 and died in 1849, was a popular Quaker preacher from Pennsylvania. Since the time he was quite young Hicks earned a living by painting signs and images on carriages, taverns and other objects as well as on canvas. Yet he thought very little of his role as an artist believing the preaching of Christianity to be much more important. When he died, over three thousand people, mostly from the countryside, attended his funeral mourning the loss of the preacher.

Today Edward Hicks is best known as the artist of *The Peaceable Kingdom*. He is said to have painted over a hundred versions of the subject, many of which are in museums and private collections. Our print is of the painting in the Worcester Art Museum dated about 1833.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Clerk's Corner (from page 1)

in the power of the Lord God, and dwell in the life, and power, and wisdom of the Lord God, that all uncleanness whatsoever may by the power of the Lord be brought down and rooted out; and that such have no rule nor authority amongst you, though they be never so fair or excellent of speech: but let all such be brought under by the power of the Lord God, who is to reign over it; that in the sweetness and unity ye all may be brought to a sweet savour to the Lord God, and in the hearts of one another, and let no uncleanness be amongst you.

All Friends every where, take heed of printing any thing more than ye are required of the Lord God.

And all Friends every where, take heed of wandering up and down about needless occasions, for there is danger of getting into the careless words, out of seriousness, weightiness, and savouriness.

And all Friends every where, take heed of wronging the world, or any one, in bargains, or overreaching them; but dwell in the cool, sweet, and holy power of the Lord God, and in righteousness, that it may run down amongst you; and that will keep you low.

And all Friends every where, take heed of slothfulness and sleeping in your meetings; for in so doing ye will be bad examples to others, and hurt yourselves and them.

And all take heed of going up and down to minister, but as ye are moved of the Lord God, or to speak in meetings, or any other places; for traveling to such is dangerous to lift them up, going amongst settled meetings, that are settled. For there is difference betwixt Friends going into the world, and of coming among them that are come to silent meetings, and to feed there; for that which may be seasonable to the world may not be to them.

Therefore let all live in the seed, and wisdom, and fear, and consider, before they utter, that the light be up, whereby all may be settled, and they themselves be washed. And dwell in the seed, that ye all may know Christ come to reign in you; so that all may be done and spoken by and in the power of the Lord God, that is done and spoken, and not out of it: and in that ye will all have unity in the record of life, whereby the power of God and the seed of God may come up, which is heir of the blessing and of the promise; that ye may come to know the place where there is no curse, and the Lamb's power, throne, life, and dominion. And in the wisdom of God all dwell, that to him ye may be a sweet savour, and a blessing in the hearts of all people; that nothing may rule nor reign amongst you, but the seed itself, and the life of God.

Let this be read in your meetings. -- G. F.

Epistle CXXXI, written in late 1656/early 1657, by George Fox for the early Quakers (later the Religious Society of Friends). Excerpted from pages 126-29 of: **A Collection of Many Select and Christian Epistles,**

Letters and Testimonies, Written on Sundry Occasions, by that Ancient, eminent, faithful Friend, and minister of Christ Jesus, George Fox, In two volumes.----Vol. I.----

(Philadelphia: Marcus T. C. Gould, 1831. Reprint edition, New York: AMS, 1975.)

## Peaceable Kingdom (from page 1)

Hicks drew inspiration for *The Peaceable Kingdom* from different sources: engravings of the time, Bible illustrations, and paintings by other artists. The familiar chapter 11 of Isaiah was of course a prime inspiration: "The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." In many but not all versions of the painting Hicks included a vignette of William Penn's treaty with the Indians adapted from a painting by Benjamin West. It was Penn who introduced Quakerism into Pennsylvania.

The gold frame of our print is in the Federalist style, which coordinates with the historical period of the painting. *Framed in Tatnuck* did the framing.

May all who enter our Meetinghouse be inspired – and re-inspired – by their ongoing efforts toward peace.

## Clarence in the Library

*Levi Coffin, Quaker, by Mary Ann Yanessa*

What a great little (62 pp. + appendices and bibliography) book. It details the anti-slavery life of Coffin (1798-1877) from his youth in North Carolina, where the seven-year-old Levi first saw and was repulsed by a slave traders' coffle, to his post-Civil War work ameliorating the frequently horrid condition of the newly freed blacks.

As unelected, but acknowledged, President of the Underground Railroad, Coffin helped an average of 100 slaves per year find safety in Canada. His principal work was done on his farm in Indiana where he moved in 1826, and in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was the proprietor of a "Free Store," selling only goods that had no slave labor in their production or transportation, for ten years starting in 1847. The meager profits of the store were largely used to help the "passengers," so his personal life was truly marked by Quaker simplicity from his mercantile experiment and his personal trading after 1857. No former slaves in his care were ever recaptured by the hunters who had the benefit of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1851 to aid them in their searches.

Coffin's wartime work with The Freeman's Aid Commission led him on a fund-raising trip to England and the Continent where this diffident farmer raised over \$100,000.00 to aid their work. With the war's end, this work was taken over by the Missionary Association that he served for the remainder of his days. The 1870 adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution gave former slaves the right to vote and prompted Coffin to announce his "resignation" as President of the Underground Railroad and to "declare its operations at an end".

## The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Half a dozen Friends from the Worcester Friends Meeting attended the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast held at the Beechwood Hotel on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. There were fewer Friends this year, and the room had fewer tables. I was glad that I went. I like to "hang out" with Friends from the Meeting, and it is always a pleasure to run into other people that I don't see often enough. Mayor Connie Lukas was pleasant, speaking clearly and simply to the point: our community will benefit from talking and listening to each other.

I learned that the National Prayer Breakfast was started in 1952 when Eisenhower was President. He believed that it was time for people to come together for common prayer. Worcester first held a prayer breakfast around 1997, and it was adapted for purpose of honoring the Mayor when Jordan Levy was the mayor. It can only be a good thing when people gather in an attitude of hopeful prayer with the intention of improving our community.

We were given queries to ponder at our table. They centered on how we feel how we act when we meet someone who does not share our religious beliefs. The queries provided good sharing, but several of us remarked that the discussion could have been more fruitful if we were not discussing the questions at a table of Quakers. Therein lies a difficulty: how to acknowledge the presence of various religious groups without grouping them? How can we have an Inter-religious discussion if we only talk to ourselves?

I hope next year more people will attend the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast next year.

*Katie Green*

*Clarence Burley* writes:

The featured speaker, Dr. William Shea, is just finishing a stint as Director of the Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture at Holy Cross. He gave a history of ecumenism from its start in the late forties, as a reaction from the horrors of World War II, to its status today which he described as strong, somewhat to my surprise. I have been thinking that we live in a post-ecumenical age marked by a polarity reflecting the political and economic divisions.

Dr. Shea cheered me. I am also grateful to him for introducing me to Rabbi Jacob Nussner, friend of Gregory XVI, and author of *A Rabbi Talks with Jesus*.

We were then invited to a table discussion of ways that we have experienced and dealt with people of other religious traditions. This was very provocative for our Quaker table, but how much better it could have been had there been time and opportunity to share our talk with other tables. There was a lot of Interreligious but not much Forum in Worcester that morning.

Hillside School Chorus's rendition of *Joyful Joyful* was indeed joyful joyful when sung by a rapper with a strong backup. Beethoven, an innovator himself, would have been as delighted as the audience.

## *Third Sunday discussion on November 16*

will be led by Frances Crowe of Mt. Toby Meeting. Frances is well known and respected for her work with the American Friends Service Committee in Western Massachusetts. During the Vietnam War, Frances started a draft counseling service. She faithfully worked to bring about a more just society, and create a peaceful world in the decades that followed.

*Third Sunday discussion will begin at 9:30 AM. Friends are encouraged to make every effort to attend.*

## **AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH**

The Worcester Friends Meeting (Quaker) is pleased to invite the public to view six of Robert Shetterly's portraits from the traveling exhibit "*Americans Who Tell the Truth.*"

Shetterly's portraits will be on display at the Worcester Friends Meetinghouse, 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester from November 10 until November 17. ***The portraits may be viewed from noon until 2:00 PM and from 5:00 until 7:00 PM during that time.*** Thank you to the Members and Attenders who have volunteered to be present during those hours.

These paintings are part of a non-partisan series of portraits by artist Rob Shetterly of Brooksville, Maine. His portraits of past and current Americans form exhibits that are hosted by schools, universities, churches, and various community groups around the country. Clark University is currently exhibiting some of Shetterly's paintings.

The Shetterly art exhibit is highlighted by the unveiling of his newest portrait: that of Friend Frances Crowe, a long time Peace Activist and AFSC Staffer from Western Massachusetts.

We are pleased that Frances Crowe will be present on *Saturday, November 15th* for an evening of spoken word that will culminate the art exhibit.: **Truth Tellers at Worcester Friends Meeting.** The Meetinghouse will open at 7:00 PM to allow viewing of the paintings. **A poetry reading will begin at 8:00 PM.** Poets Mike True, David Williams, and Connie Riley will read selections of their poetry. Other Friends will share a poem that speaks to the topic of truth. Coffee, tea, and sweets will be available. Donations will be accepted.

This exciting event was brought to our attention by Friend Clarence Burley, and it enthusiastically sponsored by the Peace/Social Concerns & Outreach Committee.

## Spirit of America

On September 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>, "Spirit of America" returned to Worcester's DCU Center. Once again students were bused to this extravagant recruiting effort at the taxpayers' expense.

The good news is that there were fewer buses, and only one or two Worcester buses were sighted. Worcester Peace Works and concerned Worcester Friends wrote and telephoned the schools to asking that no children should be sent to this show during school time.

There were demonstrations outside the DCU event on Friday, morning Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and again on Saturday afternoon. Worcester Friends had a presence both days. Those Friends who were present to greet students as they entered the DCU Center encouraged them to consider alternatives to the military. Students heard people say things like *No More War* and *Negotiation - Not Bombing*, and even *Love Your Enemies*. (Now, that's a big request!) I took my dog, Louie, a friendly 30 pound white cocker-poo. Louie wore his colorful Peace Pooch vest, and I suspect that his message reached a lot of the children. He was certainly easy for them to interact with, with exclamations of, "Oh look at the Peace Pooch! Isn't he adorable?"

As I stood on the sidewalk, I was touched by the large number of vets and their families entering the DCU. I realized that the Spirit of America was, for them, a way to honor their service time and their losses. For these people, this extravaganza was a welcome recognition of the military life and a celebration of what is often seen as "the Spirit of America".

As a Quaker and a person who is concerned with non-violence and equality, I am deeply disturbed to see so many of our youth join the military. I pray that there will come a day when *all* young adults give two years in service before they choose a career or go to college. This service would begin with workshops teaching communication skills and how to talk with people who may not agree with you: finding the common ground among people and openly speaking about different ideas and tolerating differences.

I imagine our youth building roads, creating alternatives to cars, serving in nursing homes, assisting in classrooms, caring for the environment. The list of possibilities is huge: needle work, quilting, childcare, gardening, fostering local farms. Clearly, my vision does *not* include training them to kill people, but rather

learning about alternatives to violence.

Then *Spirit of America* would be a glitzy extravaganza full of dancing, love songs, poetry, arts. An intergenerational celebration of the wonder of life and a celebration of a world where everyone is valued and our environment is treasured.

Support Non-violence. Speak out for more equitable ways of resolving conflicts.

Katie Green



This is what you should do:  
Love the earth and sun and animals,  
despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks,  
stand up for the stupid and crazy,  
devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants,  
argue not concerning God,  
have patience and indulgence toward the people...  
reexamine all you have been told in school or church  
or in any book,  
dismiss what insults your very soul,  
and your flesh shall become a great poem.

~ Walt Whitman ~

Preface to the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass*

*Worcester Meeting's Peace & Social  
Concerns /Outreach Committee's  
Response to "Spirit of America" Event*

Towns and cities sending students to see the Spirit of America were identified by the names on the buses. We identified nineteen towns that bused students to the event. No Worcester buses were observed, indicating that our phone calls to administrators and the school committee were effective.

Most of the students were instructed not to talk to the demonstrators. They did appear to *listen* when demonstrators told them not to give anyone their name or email unless they *wanted* to join the military. The students were encouraged to consider careers that can lead to a more peaceful world. "Violence begets violence" was a strong slogan. The few teachers that spoke loudly to their students (for our benefit) told the children that they were there to learn about American history.

The organization Worcester Peaceworks has received permission from some of the schools that bused students to the Spirit of America to present an alternative viewpoint. Friends were asked if they were interested in presenting the slideshow that Peaceworks created four years ago in response to students being bused to this event. Members of Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach (PSCO) declined the offer as it did not reflect a Quaker viewpoint on the subject.

PSCO will be sending a book to the schools that sent students to Spirit of America this September. **It's My Life: A Guide to Alternatives After High School** is a 91 page book published by the American Friends Service Committee. The book will include a letter from the Worcester Friends Meeting PSCO with an offer to arrange a speaker from Veterans for Peace (VFP) to present an alternative point of view to the students. It is serendipitous that the local chapter of VFP is the Smedley D. Butler Brigade. The art exhibit that Worcester Friends is showing from November 10 until November 16 includes a portrait of Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler.

## **Are Friends Peacebuilders?**

A Letter from Nancy Shippen, Co-Chair of the Alternatives to Violence Project – Mass. (AVP)

(AVP meets at the Worcester Friends Meetinghouse)

**Greetings All** ... I'd like to follow up on the amazing experiences I have been privileged to have in the last three months and find ways to invite, encourage and inspire you all to join in this work of Friends.

As the New England Yearly Meeting representative to Friends Peace Teams (FPT) and the Co-chair of the Alternatives to Violence Project Massachusetts, I have been able to witness and join in the efforts of Friends and fellow travelers from the whole world.

This summer, Theoneste Bizimana, the coordinator of the FPT trauma healing work in Rwanda, was able to come to NEYM sessions. His presentation of the work inspired many. USFW asked me to be on a panel of women peacebuilders. I was honored to be part of this panel.

Since Yearly Meeting, most of my energy has been devoted to coordinating the International Gathering of the Alternatives to Violence Project in cooperation with the FPT African Great Lakes Initiative and AVP-Kenya. These partners have been largely responsible for Kenyans' Friends enormous response to the post-election violence. We were able to showcase this work at the conference in workshops, plenaries and interest groups.

Now I am home and very interested in pursuing the following activities:

- \* Encourage all to come into prison and experience the power of the Alternatives to Violence Project weekend. I believe this is about the most powerful gift Friends have given the world. We had 23 countries represented by 120 attenders who are doing AVP with victims and perpetrators of genocide, ex combatants, prisoners, and communities in need of strength.

- \*Helping the Meetings of New England Yearly Meeting become more aware of the work of Friend's Peace Teams and the many ways to be involved.

- \*Speaking to Meetings about the many ways to be with our neighbors in prison and to be a voice for truly rehabilitative programs in our state prisons.

Please think how I can help your Meeting engage in this work locally and internationally. I cannot travel every weekend but would love to talk with your Quarterly Meetings or any time you think you can assemble a good sized crowd. Outreach to other Meetings? Other churches and/or peace groups?

Please let me know how I can be of assistance.  
Sincerely, Nancy Shippen – NEYM Representative to the Friend's Peace Teams – Director; Our Prison Neighbors

Business Meeting Sept 14, 2008

Worcester Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Business  
September 14, 2008

Present: Brian Poynton, Betty Poynton, Michael True, Brenda Woodside, Josie Brown, Clarence Burley, Betty Jones, Phil Stone, Whitney Mikkelsen, Mary Ann Walker, Connie Riley, Karen Sargent, Fred Mikkelsen, Matthew Shorten, Mary Bennett, Katie Green, clerk.

- 01-09-14-08 Meeting began with a moment of silence and a reading from *NEYM Faith and Practice*, Quakers Can Talk to All Comers, by Geoffrey Hubbard.
- 02-09-14-08 Matthew Shorten reported that Ministry and Counsel met in Sturbridge Village, at the old Bolton meeting house. There are a number of clearness committees currently for those who would like to be members, are requesting clearness around issues and one couple who wish to be married under the care of the meeting. There has been outreach to members who have been ill, as well as continued outreach to those who are unable to get out.
- 03-09-14-08 Mary Lord will lead a discussion on "Claiming our Peace Testimony", at 9:30 am Sunday, Sept 28. M&C will reschedule their meeting for that day.
- 04-09-14-08 Ministry and Counsel would like to recommend Josie Brown for membership. Friends heartily approve!
- 05-09-14-08 Trustees met. Karen Sargent reported that forms will go out this month for those who wish to use direct deposit for donations. Work continues on the basement office. A computer has been acquired for use at the meetinghouse. Phil Stone reports that options to improve security at the meetinghouse were explored with Purinten Security. He presented the lock company's recommendations, and after discussion, Friends ask that these be presented to NEYM staff to determine what meets their concerns.
- 06-09-14-08 Mary Ann Walker reports that work has begun on front porch repairs. The rear stairs will be repaired in the next month. Mary Ann states that she must resign as clerk of Building and Grounds due to the distance to travel to the meetinghouse several times weekly. Nominating committee will take up finding additional members.
- 07-09-14-08 Friends noted that the handicapped ramp is slippery and needs to be treated. Mary Ann will take care of this.
- 08-09-14-08 Mary Bennett states that Peace and Social Concerns will have their first meeting today after the summer break.
- 09-09-14-08 There are demonstrations on Friday, Sept 19 at 9:30 am and Saturday Sept. 20 at 1:30 PM at the DCU Center against "The Spirit of America" presentation. Friends are encouraged to participate and carry the Worcester Friends banner. P&SC/Outreach are asked to discuss other actions to take.
- 10-09-14-08 Michael True has sent out advertising for Market Day, Sept. 27, and the sign is in front of the meetinghouse. Betty Poynton states there are only 2 vendors signed up; many of the regulars are retiring. Friends are needed to help bake, set up and bring in donations of books and quality 'white elephants'.
- 11-09-14-08 Rainer Reichel has transplanted two trees and turned over the compost pile in the back yard. Friends ask that Mr. Reichel be thanked and updated on the planned expansion of the meetinghouse. We will pay him to move at least the maple when we know where we would like it to be located.
- 12-09-14-08 Quarterly meeting retreat will be Oct 18-19, coordinated by Smithfield MM at Clara Barton Camp in Oxford. Katie Green read the flyer. First Day will be held at the old Bolton Meetinghouse at Sturbridge Village on that Sunday. Our meeting will be responsible for one meal, not specified.
- 13-09-14-08 Barbara Sullivan asks that the numbering of minutes for business meeting be changed from minute number, followed by the date, to the date, followed by the minute number for easier use with Microsoft Word. Friends approve of this change.
- 14-09-14-08 Phil states that he has updated the mailing list with all those who have indicated they wish to receive the newsletter. There is overlap of this duty with the recorder. Nominating committee is asked to consider the recorder's responsibilities, they should be familiar with EXCEL program.
- 15-09-14-08 Brenda Woodside reports that the library committee is generating a new checkout and catalog system that is computerized. A number of binders from committees were found in the library; she asks that the committees look through them and decide where they need to be kept (they should not be thrown out and could be kept in the office).
- 16-09-14-08 Mary Ann Walker notes that it might be possible to submit a request for persons required to do community service to paint the meeting house.
- 17-09-14-08 Betty Poynton notes that a worship group will be starting at Overlook Lifecare Community in Charlton as a result of the enthusiasm from NEYM sessions and the worship session at the old Bolton meeting house at Sturbridge Village.
- 18-09-14-08 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again tenth month, twelfth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,  
Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Business  
October 12, 2008

Present: Mark Sullivan, Brian Poynton, Betty Poynton, Karen Sargent, Heidi Blocher, Connie Riley, Phil Stone, Clarence Burley, Michael True, Paul Galagher, Fred Mikkelsen, Whitney Mikkelsen, Mary Chenaille, Betty Jones, Barbara Sullivan, Katie Green, clerk.

- 10-12-08-01 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from *NEYM Faith and Practice*, "When Friends Attend to Business", by Thomas S. Brown.
- 10-12-08-02 Betty Poynton reported for Ministry and Counsel visits continue to Kathy Hartnet and Herman Patt.
- 10-12-08-03 The treasurer's report was given by Mark Sullivan. Fall Market Day will make about \$1000, after being delayed a week by rain. Part of the kitchen renovations have been paid. The rest of the kitchen and repair of the back stairs need to be paid. In addition, there are other, outstanding repairs that need to be completed and may necessitate going into our savings.
- 10-12-08-04 Karen Sargent gave the Trustees report, noting that there has not been a response to the letter sent to NEYM and Permanent Board. An appeal will be going out next week for direct deposit donations. A committee will prepare a brochure explaining legacy donations. A concern was heard that the meeting is not making donations to worthy organizations; it was also noted that the meeting is having difficulty meeting its expenses. It's suggested that priorities be set for expenditures, including repairs and donations, and that the latter be requested from P&SC/Outreach committee. Specific projects may have separate appeals.
- 10-12-08-05 Katie Green reported for Peace and Social Concern/Outreach. Addresses are being collected for local papers to run ads. Mark Sullivan said there was no line item budgeted for additional advertising for this committee; it did have a budget of \$1000. Other, existing advertising has line items. Katie notes that the advertising is needed in order to proceed with 'Quaker Quest'. She hopes to have a speaker from the program in Philadelphia come to do a program for all of the meeting, which requires approval of the business meeting. Expenses would involve covering travel expenses. This would also be an on-going commitment, pushing Friends to articulate their beliefs, and invite outsiders in for these discussions. The program would be under the care of the entire meeting, not one committee. Friends approve up to \$1000 for expenses for this program.
- 10-12-08-06 Clarence Burley reported that the P&SC/Outreach would like to display portraits of peacemakers by Bob Shetterly over the week of Armistice Day at the meetinghouse. The cost of the honorarium and easels for display has been provided outside of the budget. It is suggested these be celebrated with an evening of spoken word showcasing peacemakers, including Francis Crowe, and that she be invited and honored. A concern was heard regarding being able to get adequate publicity out; several Friends offered to help contact the media. Friends approve moving forward; five portraits will be selected during potluck today.
- 10-12-08-07 October 18<sup>th</sup> is the annual Quarterly Meeting retreat. It starts on Saturday, and this meeting will be providing lunch that day. After breakfast on Sunday, the meeting will move to Old Sturbridge Village and meeting will be held in the old Bolton meetinghouse. Karen Sargent will be going and Friends will help provide lunch.
- 10-12-08-08 Mary Ann Walker reported the repairs are close to completion-front and back porch, back stairs, and kitchen. The painter will be in next week. The meeting thanks all the work Mary Ann Walker and Karen Sargent have done to make these repairs take place.
- 10-12-08-09 Brian Poynton reported he has been in touch with the police chief in Leicester regarding suggestions for improving the signage at the cemetery. The Leicester Historical Society has notified the meeting that every year they do a historical presentation on the life of one or more persons buried in a local cemetery. This year they have selected the Friends Cemetery. The program will be at the Leicester Senior Center, October 25, at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$5.00.
- 10-12-08-10 Michael True presented a proposal to house a peace center, to be called The Center for Non-Violent Solutions, at the meetinghouse as a clearinghouse for peace and justice issues in central Massachusetts at some time in the future. This comes out of meetings of a committee that has been meeting for a number of months with representatives from many peace and justice groups in the community. They have a mission statement and are looking for office space. Martha Yager, the staff person of the Southeastern AFSC office has offered her support and assistance. Friends support this endeavor and will find space when needed.
- 10-12-08-11 Mark Sullivan reminds Friends that the Mayor's Prayer breakfast is Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting has purchased a table for 10. Mark would like anyone interested in attending to contact him. Friends are asked to donate the \$25 cost to the meeting, but that should not prevent Friends from going as there has been a donation to help cover some who might not go due to the cost.
- 10-12-08-12 Betty Poynton notes that the new worship group at Overlook Community met with 9 attenders.
- 10-12-08-13 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again, eleventh month, ninth, or at the call of the clerk.