



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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February 2008 NEWSLETTER

“After Thoughts” A friendly reminder: afterthoughts immediately following worship is a time reserved for those caught up in the spirit of comments during worship; where one may make his/her own postscript remarks from the heart. Comments relating more appropriately to the joys & concerns of Friends or announcements are best held until those two segments of the Meeting follow in their own time.

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 1st Month, 13th, 2008

Attending: Marsie Hawkinson, John Hawkinson, Tatiana Harrison, Ralph Young, Irene Williams, Sumner Parker, Deborah Cox, Candace Shattuck, Paige Bethke, Dee Rein, Bob Marshall, Jim Paul, Meredith Watters, Connie Sellars, Mark Beck, Cynthia Browne, Doreen Getsinger, Leigh Ann Dodge, Robert Wieland, Ann Williams, Lorraine Claggett, Joyce Zeigler, Frank Zeigler, Winslow Womack, Susan Claggett, Norval Thompson, Cathy Thompson, Molly Burgoyne, John Schreiner-clerk.

The Clerk of the Meeting, John Schreiner, presided over the business meeting. He opened the meeting after a brief period of silent worship at 11:40am.

Query: The 1st Query, “Meeting for Worship” was read during meeting for worship. There were no additional afterthoughts during business meeting. One friend remarked the importance of reading the query early in worship before the children leave for First Day School.

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting approved the minutes of the business meeting from the 12th month.

Clerk’s Overview: John Schreiner spoke of the recent clerks’ meeting on 1/09/08. Each standing committee had the opportunity to discuss goals for 2008. Concerns were expressed in the meeting regarding the use of afterthoughts. Some felt there was confusion over the purpose of afterthoughts and the time spent on it was not as meaningful as it could be. The decision was made for those on the facing bench to explain the purpose of afterthoughts before they are given. Our clerks will revisit the relevance of afterthoughts after we follow these guidelines for several months. The clerks also discussed meeting participation and ways to address increasing the numbers of people who attend business meeting and become involved in committee work. The

Clerk welcomes any ideas to help improve involvement from changing the way we structure the business meeting and committees or other brainstorming ideas.

The Clerk announced his intention to improve the format of the agenda for business meeting by placing the “meatiest” items first. We will be trying to limit the business meeting to 75 minutes and a time line will be placed beside items to help us all stay on schedule. Items not addressed on the agenda will be forwarded to the following month or dealt with in a called meeting if necessary. In closing, the Clerk recognizes that our “job of mutual caring, community action, and acting in unity is a tough one” with the “payoff of closeness, rewarding teamwork, and spirit-led worship” being worth the effort.

Overseers: Dee Rein, clerk of committee gave the Annual Report (full report included). This committee was charged with keeping touch with all members in various ways. They were also in charge of the inclement weather policy, clearness committees, new members and attenders’ lunch, “friendly eights”, and declaration of intention forms. Overseers helps the Recorder with updated changes.

Three items not on the annual report were discussed by the clerk. The first item involved a change to the form sent out to those requesting marriages at the Meeting. The form will add that a “friendly presence” attend the gathering and that a \$100 deposit fee be mailed with the form and the balance of the fee be given two weeks prior to the event. This request was Approved by the Meeting. There was discussion regarding consideration of a fee increase in the future.

The second item was a request to provide new members with a one year subscription to Friends Journal. The cost is \$39/yr. The Meeting Approved Overseers adding enough money to cover at least 6 new members to their budget request in 2008.

The third item was to request that March 16th be placed on the calendar for the New Members and Attenders Luncheon. This was Approved.

Worship and Ministry: Meredith Watters, acting clerk of committee gave the Annual Report (full report included). Quakerism 101 was successful and there was consensus that the course be offered again in 2008. One member requested that Tom Corl’s name be added to the report as an intervening clerk. Concern was expressed that all members should actively participate in their committees as this is how we learn from each other and define ourselves. With a couple of small changes, the Meeting Approved this annual report.

Treasurer’s Report: Rob Wieland gave the report and a full copy is included here. Of note, on page 1, the checking account balance at Talbot Bank is large but this month we have received many contributions and there was a transfer from the CitiGroup Money Market account to gather money into a higher interest checking account. Secondly, as a result of the Budget & Finance meeting this week, monies from the Prison Action Fund have been transferred to the Carriage Shed Sale Fund. The Treasurer found that the funds from the Prison Action Fund were non-restricted and came predominantly from the proceeds of previous carriage sales. These funds could be used as seen fit. These changes are not reflected on this report. One friend reminded us that the Prison Action is still ongoing and that group will need some monies this year. They had previously requested between \$200-250. It was suggested that these appropriations be discussed by B & F.

The next two pages of the report show that the Meeting is in good shape. We have received 62% of what we expected half way through the year and spent 44.3% of what we budgeted. This is comparing favorably to where we were this time last year.

First Day School: Three announcements were made in addition to discussing a spring event. First, the family of Jessica Wright has moved to New Zealand. Susan Claggett has an email

address for them. Secondly, the Crump family is expecting a baby any time now! Lastly, several Middle School Friends will be participating in a gathering in Burlington, NJ on “Bullying”. Susan Claggett will be traveling with these friends as a friendly presence. The Meeting Approved the date of April 6th for a spring event called the “Hunger Banquet”. This will take place at the rise of meeting for worship and more info will follow later. Website: Postcards were handed to help members better utilize the excellent and updated website John Hawkinson and Ralph Young have worked on. A friend from Southern Quarterly Meeting is on our email address list but we don’t have information on whether our site is utilized by others outside of Meeting.

Clerk’s Mail: A newsletter from FCNL regarding the Indian Report was partially read and will be available to all in the common room. This letter generated some discussion of care and concern on several levels. Friends should pursue their interest on this topic if so led.

Other Business: A friend read a letter from PEACE requesting donations to a “Gang Prevention Training” program which takes place next month. PEACE is also seeking funds for the multi-cultural festival taking place in May. The Clerk requested these items to be discussed more fully as a prepared agenda item of concern or brought to business meeting by T & C.

A friend suggested that we should encourage attenders and visitors to check out Faith and Practice from the library or purchase the book for \$10. There are several copies available on the back table.

A friend remarked on the beauty of the memorial service for Bill Lane. The meeting house was full and it was indeed a religious service in great part directed by his sons.

After a brief period of silent worship, the Clerk adjourned the meeting at 1pm.

submitted by Molly Burgoyne, recorder

Worship and Ministry Committee 2007 Annual Report

The Worship and Ministry Committee met regularly throughout the year with active participation of its members: Bob Marshall (clerk), Paige Bethke, Tom Corl, Tatiana Harrison, Jim Paul, Jim Rouse, Cathy Thompson and Meredith Watters.

The Committee continued its work and discernment on: 1) the quality and character of the meeting for worship, and 2) the religious education of the adult members at Third Haven Friends Meeting. In this connection the Committee continued to reflect on its role and responsibilities with respect to these two matters. Consistent with the guidance in Faith and Practice, the Committee seeks to nurture the corporate spiritual life of the Meeting and the spiritual journeys of its members and attenders.

The Committee developed and communicated a proposed list of readings for Friends. The Committee organized and offered Quakerism 101, a religious education course supported by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and taught by Thomas Macaluso and his wife. Attendance was good, ranging from 6 to 36, averaging about 20, with the fewest attending the Friday night session and many more at the rise of meeting on First Day. The Committee evaluated Quakersim101 course and found it to be very successful, with a thoughtful survey of the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends and good participation among Third Haven

Friends. The Committee revisited and reviewed its own 1998 “Advice on Worship and Ministry” and finding it still useful will continue to make copies available to those attending meeting for worship at Third Haven.

Throughout the year, the Committee spent a good deal of time assessing and discussing the quality and character of the meeting for worship. Overall the Committee finds that the vocal ministry and the spiritual character of the meeting for worship have been spirit led over the last year. Seasoned Friends and seekers newer to the meeting for worship have contributed to inspiring vocal ministry and led to gathered meetings for worship. During the late autumn meetings for worship addressed the theme of gratitude with additional inspiration and power. Several meetings for worship passed entirely in expectant silence. The Meeting continues to be well served by the invitation to offer afterthoughts and news of Friends.

While the Committee does not keep an accurate count, attendance of adults ranged between 40-75 most of the year, with fewer attending in the summer months and stronger attendance toward the end of this calendar year. The Committee notes with sadness that some members have been long absent from the meeting for worship and happily notes that a few have returned recently. The presence of all adds immeasurably to the quality of the meeting for worship. The historic Third Haven site and the Quaker meeting for worship attract many traveling Friends and visitors. The Meeting is always grateful for such visitors and welcomes them warmly.

The Committee reminds Friends that the meeting for worship is the heart on the life of Third Haven and the Religious Society of Friends, and encourages all Friends to attend as often as possible, with heart and mind prepared, in expectant silence, open to the leadings of the Spirit, and open to offering and appreciating vocal ministry. The Worship and Ministry Committee also encourages Friends to seek spiritual nourishment continually throughout the week, through reading and reflection preparations, not just in the minutes immediately preceding the meeting for worship.

*Respectfully submitted,
2007 Worship and Ministry Committee
Bob Marshall 2007 Clerk, Tom Corl interim Clerk from 10/07 to 12/07*

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Overseers Annual Report Calendar Year 2007

During the year 2007 Overseers, consisting of members Dee Rein, Doreen Getsinger, Norval Thompson, Betty Jean Wheeler, Ann Williams, Nancy Mullen, Helen Womack, Katherine Johnson, Marsie Hawkinson, Irene Williams and Candace Shattuck, attended to pastoral care, keeping in touch with members via a calling tree by dividing the membership directory alphabetically and also responding to answering machine and website messages. Should inclement weather take place it was agreed that the clerk of meeting and communications clerk will e-mail closing information to the meeting and Overseers will contact local computer free members and attenders.

Bereavement and burial processes were reviewed and Declarations of Intentions solicited from all members and filed by Nancy Mullen. We were saddened by the death of William Lane on December 26, 2007.

The clearness process as detailed in Faith and Practice was reviewed by the committee and used in membership requests and marriages under the care of the meeting. Clearness committees may also be used to resolve issues between members in conflict.

Happy events included the weddings of Kelly Beakley and Matt Lane, Katherine Stromson and James Goss, and Susan Dabney and Stephen Gerni who were under the care of the meeting, and welcoming with joy new members Peter Howell, Leigh Ann Dodge, Rob Weiland, John Todd, and Mark Beck.

Pending is the use of building for the wedding of Stephen Escher, son of Jane Escher, and Patricia Haefeli, already approved by the meeting for June, 2008.

A new members and attenders luncheon was well attended in March. Friendly Eights created three groups for January-June 2007. Members were contacted intermittently throughout the year in an effort to keep in touch as well as update the directory and encourage participation in the aforementioned events.

All members and attenders are encouraged to allow Overseers to be of service in times of need. We stand at the ready to help and welcome your ideas for future efforts on behalf of the meeting. We thank all Friends who minister to each other as that is the essence of the Religious Society of Friends, which eschews a hired minister and ministers to each other.

Respectfully submitted, Dee Rein, Clerk, Overseers with the able support and dependable attendance of Doreen Getsinger.



Use of Third Haven Building and Grounds

The following is a sample letter sent by Overseers to applicants for weddings at Third Haven.

Dear _____,

Attached please find a Use of Building form sent to you at your request. Should you wish to be married at Third Haven Friend's Meeting, please write a letter making that request and indicating clearly whether or not the wedding is to be "under the care of

the meeting". The customary fee for non-members, not under the care of the meeting is \$500 of which \$100 deposit accompanies the initial request. The balance is due two weeks prior to the event. Fill out the form and send letter, form and deposit to "Clerk, Third Haven Friends Meeting, 405 S. Washington Street, Easton, Md. 21601." The meeting will notify you within a month of the disposition of your request and return the deposit should it not be possible to accommodate your event. Feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail for further discussion as needed.

All the best,

Clerk, Overseers

The following is a compressed version of the form sent by Overseers to applicants for usage of Third Haven. The full page form is available upon request.

**THIRD HAVEN MONTHLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
405 South Washington Street, Easton, Md. 21601
USE OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS REQUEST**

Name of Applicants: _____ Requested Date: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Time of event: Begin _____ End _____
Number of people attending: _____
Description of event (use back of form if necessary): (The real form has 1/2 page of space)
Please check areas requested for use:
_____ Old Meeting House _____ Brick Meeting House with restroom
_____ Common Room with Kitchen _____ Outdoor area
and Restrooms

In order to protect this historic property I/we agree to the following rules:
There will be no alcohol, smoking, candles, lamps, fires, rice or confetti used on the grounds.
Pets are not allowed in the buildings.
Parking is limited to the graveled areas of the grounds.
If the kitchen is used, the group is expected to provide all supplies and leave the area clean and tidy.
Those using the Common Room may not charge an admission fee to anyone present.
Unusual damage (rug stains, breakage) will be charged to the user.
Should the user not be a member, a member of Third Haven Meeting will be an unobtrusive
"Friendly Presence" during the entire event. Friendly Presence name: _____

Payment of fee: \$500 for non-members not under the care of meeting
Fee for this event: _____
Deposit received _____
Balance received _____

Applicants' Signatures
(Please send to Clerk, Third Haven Meeting at the above address.)

Announcements

Third Haven Meetings For Worship First Days 10am Fourth Days 5:30pm
January 23

January 27 January 30
February 3 February 6
February 10 February 13
February 17 February 20

January 31 (fifth day) There will be a meeting of the Testimonies and Concerns committee
Thursday the 31st at 5pm in the common room.

March 16 (first day) Meeting for worship followed by luncheon for new members and attenders.

April 6 (first day) Meeting for worship followed by the Hunger Banquet presented by the first day school.

Each Thursday evening from 5 to 5:30, a Silent Peace Vigil is held in front of the courthouse on Washington St. Weather conditions has never interfered with the vigil. Many signs are available or bring your own. Join this protest to support the cause of non-violence in the world.

"War is not the answer" - We now have yard signs to publicly proclaim our desire for alternative solutions to world problems. The signs are 24" x 18", weatherproof, printed on both sides and come with sturdy holders that easily slip into the ground. A donation of \$5 is requested for each sign, and these donations are forwarded to the FCNL Education Fund. Contact Ralph Young, 410-819-0050."

PYM's new website for Children's Religious Education & Spiritual Life is easy-to-use, pretty, and chock full of resources for everyone who has a hand in nurturing our children. It includes the basics you would expect, such as two pages listing the services and resources offered by the Education and Religious Education Department of PYM. It also has pages and pages of inspiration, concrete support, links, resources and ideas. The website www.pym.org/education/children is designed to be a support to First Day School teachers and religious education committees, of course, but it also seeks to be a resource for parents and for Meetings as a whole. After all, nurturing the seeds of Quaker faith, practice and witness in our children is a more comprehensive job than can be handled in a 45-minute First Day class!

Reminders:

- Please wear your nametag - if you need a new one please contact Candace Shattuck.

- Attention Stewards of the Environment! For those who are tired of receiving tons of catalogs in their mailbox, go to www.catalogchoice.org to register and select the ones you would like to eliminate. It's easy and free.

- Send a contribution payable to: Third Haven Monthly Meeting
Mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

- Send a contribution payable to PYM Annual Fund (mention Third Haven)
Mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

- If you have an announcement, a website entry or a newsletter article, please submit it to hawkjm@goeaston.net Please forward e-mail and other address changes to this address. The directory on the Third Haven Website is updated every week. Please let us know if you have moved.

- Notices of committee meetings should be posted on the common room calendar.

- <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> is our website. It has been revised to make it easier to use. Please review it from your perspective: what would you like to see on our website that is not there. If you are involved with a committee, do you have a message that should be included?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Please review the newly updated index of coming events listed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other major Quaker organizations. Full accounts of these events may be found on the Third Haven Website, <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> by clicking on Complete Text Material on the home page.

INDEX OF EVENTS FOR 2008 Updated December 7, 2007

GENERAL (undated)

Spiritual Life Programs at Gwynedd Meeting

Make Your Holidays Greener

New Religious Education Website Is For Everybody

Think Globally — Eat Locally

Prayer Vigils for Peace at Independence Mall:

Quaker Parenting Website Updated

Quaker Worship Group Forming near Pottstown

Concerned about the War on Drugs?

Using PYM Library materials

Join the PYM Library Services Group

Quaker Parenting Project offers Discussion Series

Friends Counseling Service

Dear First Day School,

We would like to thank one and all for our lovely Christmas wreath. Every time we entered our house it reminded us of you. It was a source of great pleasure.

Friendly wishes,

Sam and Vickie Webster

A note from the treasurer, Robert Weiland

" I will soon be sending out contribution statements for members and attenders who have made donations to THFM in calendar 2007. If any member who has made a donation does not receive a statement or if the statement anyone receives does not accurately reflect their giving, please let me know so that we can get the accounts straight."

Two new books of interest in the Testimonies and Concerns reference file on the library shelf.

Race Matters by Cornel West.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. writes of West that he is one of the few cultural critics in this country equally concerned with matters spiritual and material.

West dedicates this book " to my wonderful son Clifton Louis West who combats daily the hidden injuries of race with the most potent of weapons - love of self and others". His 2001

preface begins "...Black people in the United States differ from all other modern people owing to the unprecedented levels of unregulated and unrestrained violence directed at them. No other people have been taught systematically to hate themselves....for the primary purpose of controlling their minds and exploiting their labor for nearly four hundred years". West speaks candidly, even harshly, of the black people and their unrecognized complicity in this exploitation, but his message ultimately is that in his dedication to his son. Because race matters to us and our society, read this book.

Plan B. Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble by Lester R. Brown.

This book follows a previous book by Brown, entitled *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth*, which argues that the environment is not part of the economy, as many believe, but instead, the economy is part of the environment.

Plan B asserts that the economy must be restructured at wartime speed because whereas we previously lived on the interest generated by earth's natural capital assets, we are now spending those assets themselves. He describes it as an environmental bubble economy inflated by overconsumption of natural assets that is in need of immediate deflation before it bursts. Limited in scope and a quick read, the book does not go into often-discussed ecological issues - biodiversity, pollution and such - nor attempts environmental education; but concentrates on the basic problem of the future need for food and the responses required to meet the need. Water, soil, climate change, population pressure all get their hearing along with social differences in a divided world. It is an important view of the future for a populace preoccupied with present problems. In offering concrete solutions and specific steps, Brown gives the lay reader hope for progress in a place where the landscape otherwise might seem too vast and bleak for help.

Religious Vitality and Connections

Our Yearly Meeting's General Secretary, Arthur Larrabee, is encouraging us to think of ourselves as "vital" and "growing." One of the best ways of seeing this vitality is at sessions of Yearly Meeting.

Many Friends discover a Monthly Meeting and become delighted in many aspects of its community life. The Meeting offers good worship, caring people, friends to work with on mutual interests or concerns, and a rich social/fellowship life that supports us as individuals and as families. Many Friends are happy to keep things that way. Quakerism is not about finding comfortable ways of living, but about nurturing a life of change and understanding. Quakers are about continual spiritual growth – minding the Light.

Often Friends are astonished and pleasantly surprised that beyond the life of their own Monthly Meeting is a rich source for spiritual growth that happens when attending sessions of Yearly Meeting. It happens with joy, aliveness and vitality.

At Yearly Meeting sessions we find that there are other people much like ourselves who have found ways to relate to the Light – the trusted source of renewal for all of us. When we attend sessions at Arch Street Meeting House in March or at DeSales University in the summer, we are more likely to be and to feel "connected." This naturally grows from our fellowship and we feel strengthened and empowered to continue our Quaker work. This is God's power. Everything we

do needs Divine energy! God's energy is able to overcome injustice and poverty; it is able to help us be clear how to respond to homelessness; it enables endurance to stay with committee work; it leads us in teaching First Day School; it lifts us to overcome evil. We worship to hear where God's energy needs to flow.

The next Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions will be March 28-29 at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. While plans are still being developed, it is the hope of the Clerk that we will hear from many sources about our work for peace. This could include hearing from Quaker agencies like the American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation. Reports won't make this vital. We will find that in our hearts and in connecting with one other through love. All of us are a part of this connection; all of us belong; all of us are promised vitality in our lives.

Thomas Swain, Clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Report from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Peace and Concerns Standing Committee

Our consideration of U.N. Convention on of the Rights of the Child is postponed, because it continues to be seasoned by Bucks Quarterly Meeting and the Standing Committee.

Concern for Ending Torture – Barbara Quintiliano of Schuylkill MM, brought us a minute, which condemns the use of torture for any purpose. The minute originated in Schuylkill Monthly and was approved by Caln Quarter before being brought to IM.

After much discussion and suggestions for changes in wording (underlined), Friends approved the following minute:

Torture is widely recognized as a human rights violation, and is well defined by such organizations as the United Nations and Amnesty International. Recognizing that of God in every person, we condemn the use of torture for any purpose. Torture by any means-whether direct or by proxy – is immoral. Torture demeans the humanity of the tortured, their torturer, and those who have knowledge of it.

We agree with William Penn, Quaker founder of Pennsylvania, who wrote, “A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it.” Let the United States abolish its use of torture now.

Specifically, We call upon PYM to petition the President and Congress to abolish torture and the heinous practice of extraordinary rendition, and to conform to the international human rights guidelines.

We encourage Monthly Meetings to support this minute, and encourage them to contact members of Congress and those in the Executive Branch about this concern, and to make strong statements in their respective local media.

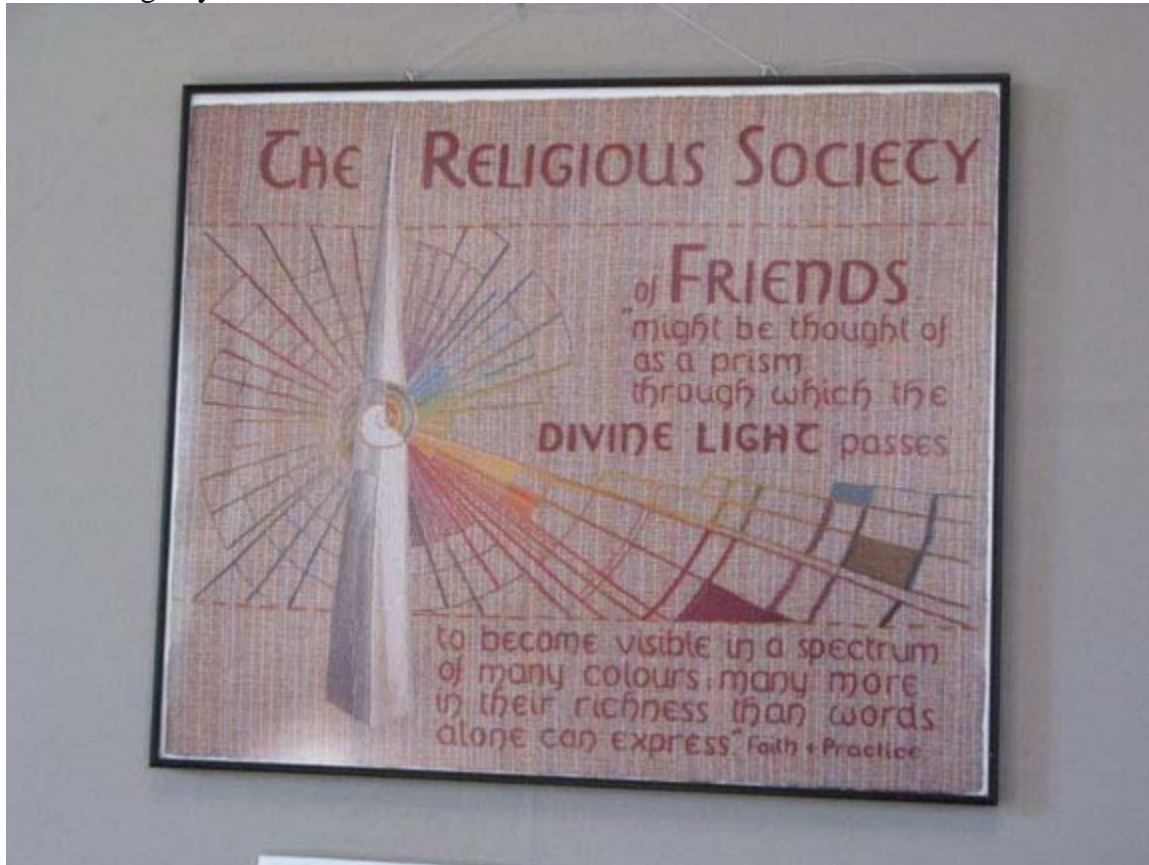
We ask PYM's Friends Committee on National Legislation Network to develop materials for Monthly Meetings (or share materials developed by others) for both study and action in order to work toward the elimination of torture.

One Friend suggested that Schuylkill Meeting, under the weight of this concern, be involved in personally petitioning (visiting) the President and members of Congress.

- Clerk, Pat Finley

Quaker Peace Testimony in Times of Terrorism by Robert Griswold (Friends Bulletin 2003)

“Friends who would oppose the counter-terrorist ideology must realize that they are opposing a deeply held belief defended with all the force of a fearful and threatened ego. The only counter to that belief must be a deeper spiritual experience and knowledge. As an ideology, pacifism may be an obstacle Friends need to overcome on the way to their peace testimony. The question isn’t ‘what do you think about peace?’ but rather ‘what do you know about peace that you are manifesting in your life?’



“The Friends peace testimony is based on the Truth discovered within. The Truth is that beneath the fears and lusts and notions of our lives is a reality that can be trusted as the authority by which we can live and want to live. This is a sacred reality that we have called the Light Within, Christ Within, the ‘still, small voice,’ or God.”

Contributed by Frank Zeigler

FRIENDLY EIGHTS

February-May 2008

Here for your edification are the Friendly Eights groups. Usual procedure is the host household provides an entrée, a place to meet (which could be a prior reservation to use the Common Room), and decides on the presence of children. Other members of the group bring dishes. Single individuals may want to team up to host a dinner. Worship and Ministry will provide some possible topics for discussion, but the choice to use them or not is up to the group. It's never too late! If you missed out on signing up, sign up now on the sheet in the Common Room and join others to organize a group yourself. Enjoy our wonderful Friends!

Conveners: Leigh Ann Dodge and Rob Weiland, Janie and Bob Tenanty, Pinny and Lorraine Claggett, Lila Line, Candace and Bob Shattuck

Conveners: Pete Howell and Carla Cronin, Paige and Brandt Bethke, Gwen Beegle and Bob Day, Susan Leibman, Nancy Mullen

Conveners: Helen and Winslow Womack, Connie Lewis, Irene Williams, Marsie and John Hawkinson, Beth and Neil Mufson

Conveners: Susan Claggett, Craig Smith, Katie and Evan, Joyce Macijeski, Ann Womack, Doreen Getsinger, Jamie duHoffman and family

from the Quaker Tapestry exhibit

