

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—March 15, 2015

Sixteen in attendance. Clerk Jim Matlack called the meeting to order and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. The agenda was reviewed and approved without amendment. The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastoral Care—Jean Crawford reported. Due to snow, the **Listening Workshop is now set for Saturday, April 18**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., though you do not need to stay for the whole period to participate. (*See p. 3 for details.*) The **Emergency Fund** has fallen below \$1,000 so this is reported to the Finance Committee and Meeting for Business for consideration of an appropriate response. Members and attenders are reminded that two copies of emergency contact forms are kept by the Meeting, one in a binder at the meetinghouse and one with the clerk of Pastoral Care. Guy Marsden pointed out that blank contact form are available on the web site so if you have not prepared one or wish to update it you can get a copy there.

Library—Rachel McGinness reported. The number of meetings was limited due to snow, but when they did meet they made a good deal of progress. They have a number of **duplicate books** and request input on which duplicates should be maintained in the collection (if rare, out of print, most used, etc.) or stored, and which might be donated or sold to make room. Karen Cadbury has asked to have a list of the duplicates so she could check against a list of valuable books. Sue Rockwood pointed out with new members joining that some books on Quakerism may be more in demand, and she will check if some duplicates are out of print.

Finance—Martin Imm distributed a a copy of the current **finance report** and went over it, discussing the budget planning process, and the "special finance assistance fund" request that was in the recent newsletter (aimed at helping replenish the Emergency Fund as reported by Pastoral Care). Sue Rockwood pointed out that some Ministry & Counsel and First Day School expenditures that she'd made did not seem to be reflected in their accounts. Currently the Emergency Fund balance is zero, and the Finance Committee will propose alternatives to replenishing it after discussion at their next meeting, which is set for April 7, so that it can report back with the draft budget for the new fiscal year at the next (April) Meeting for Business. **Committees are asked to submit suggestions for their budgets for the next fiscal year** and to indicate how much that remains unspent in their budgets for this current fiscal year will probably be spent between now and the end of May. For example, outstanding bills for snow plowing, or expenditures expected for Meetinghouse & Grounds after the snow melts. Bill Hallett asked where the snow bills are in the finance report and Martin indicated line 42 under operating expenses. Sue Rockwood indicated a plowing bill had come in recently and was given to Deb Haviland. This information will help us sort out how to plan for the future. Tom Hagan has offered to help with gathering and formatting this information to help us plan for the long term and is planning to talk to each committee's clerk to ask them what their plans and expected expenditures are. The next fiscal year will run from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016.

Ministry & Counsel—Sue Hallett reported as clerk. They met on March 27. Sue Rockwood then reported that there was an article in the *Boothbay Register* (March 12, 2015, Section II, p. 7) about Patty Seybold's receiving an award as a "woman of distinction" for her work in Uganda since 2006 in support of the African Rural University for Women and the Uganda Rural Development and Training Program. A copy of this article will be kept in our archives. Patty Seybold is also involved locally in planning housing for the elderly.

Midcoast Outreach & Peace Committee (MOPC)--Sue Rockwood reported. The program committee met recently and is developing a schedule for speakers and events. Anne Burt is working on a film *Maine's New Abolitionists* about local climate-change/environmental activists, which will be shown at the meetinghouse. A program on "Drawing and Centering" is being planned. (*See items p. 5 about the film and the drawing program.*)

The program committee asks the Meeting for Business to consider two proposals now: (a.) Local churches, hospitals, pediatricians and the food bank are coordinating a proposal to provide a disposable **Diaper Bank** for local families who are eligible for Mainecare. Small children use a lot of these and they are such an expense some are left in the same diaper for a long period and are showing up at daycare or doctors' appointments with diaper rash. Local laundromats do not permit

washing cloth diapers. Sue Rockwood attended the planning meeting as part of MOPC outreach, and would like the Meeting for Business to indicate its support for this program in principle. Polly Ulin stated this was an important collaborative effort, and cited an instance from her work with Restorative Justice where a young father was arrested for stealing money to buy diapers. The project will be run like the Food Bank and avoid conflict with its existing programs. This would not be a budget item for our Meeting, but members would be encouraged to make voluntary contributions, and this could be noted in the newsletter. Carmen Lavertu pointed out we do have a budget item for the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and that community needs are more urgent than ever. Guy Marsden indicated this request for support could also be noted on the Website, along with the e-mail to our members and attenders about this being our month to lend support to the food bank. There was a consensus that the Meeting for Business agreed to have the Midcoast Friends Meeting included in the list of local groups supporting the Diaper Bank. (b.) Sue Rockwood then noted that 2015 is the **20th Anniversary of the opening of the meetinghouse**, which opened with two weddings. MOPC's Program Committee suggested that the Meeting consider a program this spring/summer to honor the founders responsible for building and opening this facility. Suggestions were made including doing video interviews with those who were involved at the time and are still with us; a program for sprucing up the building and grounds; and a plan for a picnic or other program in the summer. Please think about this and bring your ideas to the April Meeting for Business. Rachel McGinness and Sue Rockwood volunteered to be on a planning committee. It was agreed to put this request for ideas in the newsletter.

Meetinghouse & Grounds—Bill Hallett reported. Bill thanked Sue Rockwood for the suggestions for fixing up the building for the anniversary. The committee has met and feels the structure is in pretty good condition, that painting the interior might be a goal for the spring, and is something we could probably do ourselves to keep the costs down. Carmen Lavertu suggested restoring **room-darkening curtains or opaque shades to the social room** to facilitate when videos are shown there. Suzy Hallett offered to investigate window treatments and paint color ideas and to help coordinate with plans for **sprucing up the meetinghouse for the 20th anniversary**. Martin Imm suggested this could help attract new members. Suggestions should be given to Meetinghouse & Grounds, and thanks were given to the volunteers who cleared the brush at the front circle of the meetinghouse last year and to Guy Marsden for cutting branches to improve the line of sight and driving safety at our entrance.

Special Concerns—Uganda and the "New Underground Railway," Carmen Lavertu reported. There is a person from Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting who has been visiting meetings in VQM with a "traveling minute" in support of the needs of LGBTQ persons in Uganda who are threatened with violence and death there. (*See Minute p. 6.*) Efforts are being made to provide funding and support to enable individuals to escape the threat there, and VQM has twice met with her and approved a minute in support of her ministry. Carmen asked that the Meeting invite this person to speak to us after the rise of meeting sometime this month or next, depending on her speaking schedule. The Meeting approved inviting this person to speak and asked Carmen to coordinate the speaker's schedule with Ministry & Council and the program calendar.

Other Concerns—Martin Imm reported that a **lock has been placed on the contribution box**, and there was discussion as to how the joint meeting of MOPC and Finance Committee last month agreed that it was to be handled. Martin's recollections differed from those of others at the meeting, and Jim Matlack will attempt to resolve this. Jim Matlack reported on the first meeting of the **revived Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP)**, of which he is now clerk. The second meeting will be held at the meetinghouse on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and all are welcome to attend. Some of the issues under consideration are the failure of the state to fully honor tribal rights under Federal law, and criminal justice and prison reform.

Respectfully submitted,

—Jim Matlack, Clerk; Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk

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