

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,
ME 04543

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April

Sunday April 29 Rise of Meeting **Faith & Practice* Study Session

May

Saturday May 5 8:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Vassalboro QM, Orono [*see April newsletter for details*]

Sunday May 6 Rise of Meeting Potluck Lunch—followed by
*Work Group

Sunday May 13 Rise of Meeting Simplicity Discussion Group

Sunday May 20 Rise of Meeting Meeting for Business

Sunday May 27 Rise of Meeting **Faith & Practice* Study Session

June

Sunday June 3 Rise of Meeting Potluck Lunch—followed by
*Work Group

Sunday June 10 Rise of Meeting Simplicity Discussion Group

Sunday June 17 Rise of Meeting Meeting for Business

Sunday June 24 Rise of Meeting **Faith & Practice* Study Session

For New, Revised, and Updated Calendar Items, please see our online calendar at:
<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>

*Look inside for more information regarding these items.

~**Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted.**~

Sunday Meeting for Worship is at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta, 10:00
a.m.

Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757.

Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Rd. (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north—Miles Home Health Care building on the corner). The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, .2 mile from the corner.

Moving? Changing your e-mail address? *Don't forget to let us know. Please remember that when you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you save the Meeting money and you lighten our workload. To receive the newsletter by e-mail, kindly send Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com a request. Thanks!*

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

DRAFT MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—April 15, 2012

After a period of silent worship, Co-Clerk David Cadbury opened the meeting with twenty-one Friends present. The Minutes of the March meeting for business were approved.

News was shared that Mary Plum—an attender at Meeting—has been accepted to attend Haverford College. Friends agreed to provide Mary with a copy of *Faith and Practice* with the best wishes of the Meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Bill Spock reported on a recent meeting of the Finance Committee with the assistance of Treasurer Martin Imm. Looking to the next budget cycle, it was emphasized that enlarged contributions will be needed to replace the rental income from Coastal Kids Daycare in this year's budget. Martin Imm reviewed in detail the current budget numbers and the proposed budget for 2012-2013. At present the Meeting is under-spending, and contribution levels remain steady but as noted, additional resources will be needed in the coming year. Members will be urged to increase their regular donations, and other revenue sources will be explored. The possibility of shifting funds from the Reserve Fund will also be considered. All areas of discretionary spending should be carefully assessed. The projected budget for 2012-13 anticipates an income shortfall of \$2,440. The detailed budget is to be approved at the May Meeting for Business. The Meeting's annual **contribution to New England Yearly Meeting** was queried. It was suggested that some Friends might donate to NEYM through the Meeting, thus helping to cover the annual assessment of roughly \$100 per member. Concern was expressed that Midcoast Meeting should maintain full payment of the funds due to NEYM so as to support their programs and outreach and to remain in good standing with the larger body of Friends. Further discussion followed on the possibility of creating an **endowment fund** for the Meeting. Finance Committee gave extended consideration to this option and prepared background documents on the proposal. It became clear that any such endowment fund would be modest at the start, would be supervised by a committee of volunteers rather than a management company, and might well be held in the common funds administered by New England Yearly Meeting. A draw of 3% or 4% per year on such a fund would be possible while still growing the principal in the fund. Friends were urged to read the background materials and ponder this issue in preparation for the May meeting for business.

MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS: On behalf of the committee, George Waldman asked whether Friends might agree to seek the services of a part-time gardener to assist in the maintenance of the grounds and plantings. Volunteer workdays have not been adequate to cover all the relevant tasks. After discussion, it was agreed that George would explore whether the man who is contracted to do the mowing might add some regular hours for "gardening" endeavors at a relatively modest cost. A report is expected at the May meeting for business.

PEACE CENTER: Brewster Grace summarized recent discussions in the Steering Committee. Three areas are currently under consideration for program development: 1) a film series on "Women, War, and Peace," 2) ongoing attention to current examples of nonviolent resistance as embodied in the Occupy Movement and the "Arab Spring," 3) a project on environment and food which would make clear the links between climate change and food production and food/water shortages. Brewster and Andy Burt will visit several Maine-based experts to discuss these issues and to assess how best to set up a seminar series devoted to these concerns. A larger planning group will be necessary if this project goes forward. Additional funds will also be sought through grants and other sources. Karen Cadbury raised the longstanding concern for Meeting **outreach to the local community**. Some Peace Center events have been co-sponsored by CONA with augmented attendance. Many Friends share the wish that the work of Quakers be better known and that younger attenders be drawn to the Meeting. Yet the dispersion of our membership and the rural location of the meetinghouse make outreach more challenging. Karen asked whether hiring a part-time outreach coordinator would be a feasible and worthwhile endeavor. Could such a person (if found) make the Meeting more visible and attractive to local residents and generate more use of the meetinghouse? A small committee for oversight of this proposal was needed beyond the attention given by the Peace Center Steering Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS: A query was raised about making small changes and corrections on the Meeting website. It was agreed that Guy Marsden be trusted to exercise his best judgment about such small changes. Guy will consult and seek clearance only when he judges the proposed change to be a substantial one or directly involving a policy position of the Meeting.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship. The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Meeting for Worship-- Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are you faithful and punctual in attendance? Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do all other activities of your meeting find their inspiration in worship, and do they, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?

A Request from New England Yearly Meeting

Yearly Meeting secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, has announced that he is leaving that position at the end of this year. A search committee has been formed by Permanent Board to facilitate the process of advertising, accepting applications, doing interviews, and recommending a new candidate for this position.

The committee is asking for candidates to present themselves and for us consider members of our Meeting: Is there someone who might have the skills and experience to for this job? If someone comes to mind, please let that person know, and encourage him or her to consider applying. (Sometimes Friends need the encouragement of others recognizing their gifts.)

More information about the process and the full job description are available on the NEYM website, the direct URL is www.neym.org/jobs/ym-sec. If you have questions or thoughts, you can correspond with any member of the committee (see list below), or the committee as a whole at searchcomm@neym.org.

Bruce Neumann, Fresh Pond MM, clerk
Deana Chase, Westport MM
James Grumbach, Portland MM
Dwight Lopes, New Haven MM
Wendy Schlotterbeck, Durham MM
Jackie Stillwell, Monadnock MM, NEYM presiding clerk
Donn Weinholtz, Hartford MM
Hannah Zwirner, Beacon Hill MM

The *Faith & Practice* study group will meet the last Sunday of every month-- April 29, May 27, and June 24--at the rise of meeting. Please join us for a review of Quaker thinking and traditions.



Our traditional **WORK DAY** on the grounds will continue after the potluck the first Sunday of each month. We will begin with weeding in May and continue each month through the summer.

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

Carmen Lavertu has advised us of some address changes:

Tavares Family
P.O. Box 502
Newcastle, ME 04553

John Lacy
188 Main Street, Apt. 3
Freeport, ME 04632



Friends Camp--New England Yearly Meeting of Friends 2012 SUMMER SESSIONS

Jones June 24 - July 7 Age 7-12
Week one June 24 - June 30
Week two July 1 - July 7

Dyer July 8 - July 21 Age 10-13

Fox July 22 - August 4 Age 12-17

Fell August 5 - August 18 Age 12-17

For further details and registration materials, visit www.friendscamp.org.



Let us leave a little room for reflection in our lives, room too for silence. Let us look within ourselves and see whether there is some delightful hidden place inside where we can be free of noise and argument. Let us hear the Word of God in stillness and perhaps we will then come to understand it.

—Augustine of Hippo



The Meeting for Worship

The meeting for worship is the heart of every Friends' Meeting. It is based on faith that men and women can enter into direct communion with God.

In the excitement of their discovery that Christ was alive and had “come to teach His people Himself”, early Friends gathered for worship fully expecting the Spirit to be present, and out of their hushed expectancy they entered into a fellowship with God that changed their lives. In the course of such worship came new revelations of Truth and a force that drove Friends out into the world to spread the news and to serve humanity.

Friends in New England try in their meetings for worship to capture the same spirit, a sense of God's presence in the midst, and to be open to new revelation. Some New England Friends gather in silent waiting upon God without designated leadership or program. Some are led in worship by a pastor whose function is to encourage and cultivate the ministry of each individual. In either case, for the meeting to be successful, all must share and respond.

Preparation for worship is essential. Preparation is a continual process of prayer, of reading the Bible and other religious literature, of learning from human experiences, and of daily practicing the presence of God. Some come on Sunday morning expecting to receive God's revelation with no previous effort on their part. For the cup to overflow on Sunday, however, it must be filled up all through the week. Early Friends came to worship with their cup overflowing, and it was then that the power was given to go out and to share the Truth that had come to them.

In the unprogrammed meeting, as the worship proceeds, out of communion with God a message may come to one of the worshipping individuals. Sometimes the message is purely personal; at other times it seems to belong to the meeting. The worshipper is then under divine compulsion to share it with fellow seekers, to contribute to the vocal service of the meeting, however haltingly.

In the meetings with pastoral leadership, the pastor may prepare a message and an order of service during the week, but the pastor is only a worshipper among worshippers, and the life of the pastoral worship depends on the response of the group. Ideally the prepared message arises not just from the pastor's own spiritual resources, but from the worship of the group.

Not all meetings, whether pastoral or based on silence, achieve a high level. Yet God does break through the crust of apathy, of worldly preoccupations or lack of preparation. We are humble learners in the school of Christ, and our weaknesses and failures should not deter us. When a meeting for worship gathers in active expectancy of God's presence with complete openness of heart and mind, the power to change lives will arise.

from Faith & Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, 1985, p. 95

ADVICES

Meeting for Worship-- Consider with care how God reaches us in meeting for worship. To every Friend is given a share of responsibility for the meeting. Friends are advised, therefore, to be diligent in attendance at meetings and in inward preparation for them. Let us be concerned to enter reverently into communion with God and with one another, to yield ourselves to the influence of the divine presence. Then what is evil in us may be weakened and the good raised up. God calls each one to the service of the meeting; let us be obedient and faithful, whether by word, by song, or by silent waiting, and let us receive the messages of others in a tender spirit.

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