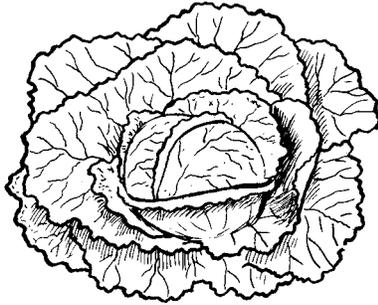


MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
 OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 Damariscotta, Maine
NEWSLETTER



There are walls too close to see, too painful for us to confront...
 Between men and women, within families, among friends and
 companions in the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity
 of creation...but if walls have been built by people, people can also
 pull them down...by creating enough breaches, enough openings."

—Jean Zaru, (*Ramallah Monthly Meeting/Middle East Yearly Meeting*)
From the Reading (Pennsylvania) Meeting newsletter,
contributed by Barbara Foust

October

Sunday	October 3	following worship *	Landscape Workday Food Pantry Day, please bring items for the basket in the meetinghouse
Wednesday	October 6	5:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Thursday	October 7	4:00 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Sunday	October 10	noon	* Jim Matlack speaking on Mideast situation
Friday	October 15	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper Monthly Meeting for Business
Saturday	October 16	asap TBA	Call for November newsletter items "No Draft for Me," AFSC workshop, Bangor Friends Committee for Maine Public Policy meeting, Waterville, ask Ernie Foust for details
Wednesday	October 20	7:00 p.m.	P&SC program: Presence of Peace
Thursday	October 21		AFSC meeting, ask Ernie Foust for details
Sunday	October 24	11:30 a.m.	* M&C "Second Hour" discussion
~ Advance Notice ~			
Friday	November 5		Special concern meeting for Eggemoggin & Orono mtgs.
Saturday	November 6		* Quarterly Meeting at Midcoast
Saturday	December 4		Friends Committee for Maine Public Policy meeting, Waterville, ask Ernie Foust for details

* Look inside for more information regarding these items
 ~ Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted ~

Sunday Meeting for Worship is held at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Road, Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m.
 Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757. Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere
 Road (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north. The Miles Home Health Care building is on the
 corner.) The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 9th month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Bill Spock, Alternate Recording Clerk

Co-Clerk Ernie Foust opened the meeting at 7:00 with a reading from William Penn discussing the "rules" that are in the scriptures. This was followed by a period of silence. At the start there were 19 attendees, but only 11 stayed to the end, indicating the problem of attempting to cover all the issues within two hours or less. Minutes of the previous meeting (July) were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Diamond distributed financial reports for the first three months of this year, plus the final report for last fiscal year. The most significant item was the receipt of \$20,000 from the bequest of Pat Geiringer. The funds are held for the time being in a revolving six-month CD.

Finance Committee

Bill Spock stated that the Finance Committee will meet this fall and needs to initiate a discussion of bequests, to make available information encouraging and enabling members to include the Meeting in their wills. Also, the Meeting should discuss future objectives, the "Visioning" project of M&C, as the presence of extra funds should not drive the decisions, but their use should follow the desires and objectives of the Meeting.

Ministry & Counsel Committee

Jean Crawford read a memorial minute for William H. Bowers, who died on August 3, 2003. It was approved with minor changes, and Jean will follow up to make sure his date of birth is correct.

The Meeting approved the M&C recommendation that a discussion be held after Meeting for Worship on October 24. The topic will be "What makes vocal ministry truly good?"

The Meeting also approved a request by Holly Baldwin that she have support for her application to be one of the two representatives of NEYM to the summer 2005 Gathering of Young Adult Friends in London.

Query #7

Home & Family

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustments? Should conflict or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your Meeting and from the larger community?

This will involve some financial support from the Meeting, if she is selected. If she is not chosen, she may apply to attend independently.

Peace & Social Concerns

Holly Baldwin distributed notes from the September 2 P&SC meeting. Highlights follow:

- A letter was sent to senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins prior to the September 11 memorials to express the concerns of the P&SC Committee. The letter will be printed in a future newsletter.
- The tentative date of Wednesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., was set for a program at the meetinghouse on "Presence for Peace—How We Live Peace in Our Lives." It will be open to the public.
- As a follow-up to the subject of Ramallah, Paul Diamond suggested that his friend Jim Matlack, head of the AFSC office in Washington, D.C., be asked to talk on the Mideast on October 10, when he will be available. He has visited the area and written a book on the problems. He will be invited to speak at 12:00, and the public will be invited.
- A lengthy discussion on draft counseling included a report from Ernie Foust of a committee associated with the AFSC which meets monthly on Thursdays at the meeting house. Todd Garth discussed his experience and training, and he and Peter Haviland volunteered to become involved in any future activities involving counseling or discussions of the issues. It was noted that formally indicating one's status as a conscientious objector ahead of any draft may be wise, in order to provide a record, in case it may be needed.
- The P&SC Committee has ordered 50 copies of "At the Crossroad: Disarmament or Re-Nuclearization" from FCNL for distribution at the Meeting.
- The committee also spent \$100 for FCMPP to assist in updating the Wabanaki History.

Landscape Committee

Claire Darrow reported that the weeds in the driveway had been sprayed with Finale, but perhaps it should be done earlier in the season in the future. A discussion of the need to improve the looks of the grounds included questions of more attractive plantings, the need for more volunteer efforts, and the option of hiring assistance. The conclusion was that the size of the plantings should be kept small enough to be manageable, but that in July and August we may still need hired help. Spring and fall workdays bring good volunteer turnouts but require phone calls to make sure everyone is aware. Volunteers offered to help on calling for the 10/3 workday. The landscape committee will make a proposal for the future.

continued on next page

Monthly Meeting Notescont'd from p. 2

Meetinghouse

There is confusion about how routine maintenance is handled now. The person who was hired to do periodic cleaning is unable to continue and has recommended someone else, but it is unclear whether the members are again required to handle the weekly clean up. Ernie Foust will follow up.

New Business

It was noted that time during monthly meeting does not allow for reports from all committees each month and also that not all committees are represented at all meetings. In addition, some committees are not keeping current with their responsibilities. It was approved to establish formal quarterly reports from each committee on a rotating basis. The M&C and P&SC committees will continue to report monthly and others more frequently, as needed, and a schedule will be established to implement quarterly reports from other committees.

Quarterly Meeting, November 6

Deb Haviland reported on the arrangements for housing and the use of the DRA house for the kids' morning activities. Mary Myers is responsible for coordinating the food planning and preparation. Barbara Foust will set up the program and make sure information is sent to the Quarterly Newsletter by September 27. She presented several options, and the decision was made to pursue the offer to hear about the Friends Triennial Gathering in New Zealand. This program may not need the entire available time. It was suggested that an additional subject for discussion could be how meetings with small memberships manage to get all their work done.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, October 15, at 7 p.m., following a potluck supper at 6 p.m. All welcome.

Middle East Briefing

Sunday, October 10, 12 noon, Jim Matlack, former Director of the Washington, D.C., office of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak at the meetinghouse about "When the Rain Returns: Toward Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel," the report of an international Quaker working party of which he was a member. The group recently visited Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries, interviewing more than 90 people representing a range of personal histories and political views. Their report brings to life the reality of the current situation in a way few documents do and will enliven understanding of the suffering, injustices, and fears associated with predicaments that hold both Israelis and Palestinians in their grip. For further information, please call Paul Diamond at 236-0283.

Quarterly Meeting at Midcoast, 11/06/04

Midcoast Meeting will be hosting Vasalboro Quarterly Meeting at our meetinghouse on Saturday, November 6. The program will feature a talk by Denise Hart, who attended the 2004 Triennial of the Friends World Committee on Consultation in New Zealand last January. There will be a concurrent program for children, led by Friends from the Quarter, at the Damariscotta River Association building a short distance up the road from the meetinghouse. All children are encouraged to attend.

We will be providing the main course for lunch and Midcoast Friends are asked to bring a vegetable lasagne or a salad. Visiting Friends should bring fruit or a dessert. There is a signup sheet for setup and cleanup posted on the bulletin board in the meetinghouse. For more information about food preparation, please call Mary Myers, 832-8122 (leave a message if no answer).



AFSC in Maine

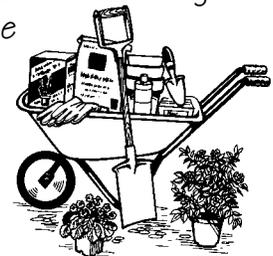
Offering Alternatives to Military Service

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Maine, an all-volunteer body which meets at Midcoast meetinghouse on the 3rd Thursday of each month, is focussing on developing and implementing means to present information on alternatives to military service to high school students. The selective service has an aggressive program of recruiting in place in many schools, and there has been little or no information about non-violent alternatives available to high school students. The committee welcomes anyone interested in this issue to join them for the next meeting, Thursday, October 21, 6 to 8 p.m., at the meetinghouse. For more information, call Ernie Foust, 582-8615.

Fall Landscape Workday

Sunday, October 3rd

Please plan to stay after worship and help to weed the garden beds. Bring a rake and help clear the dead weeds from the parking area. If we all work at least a little, no one will have to work a lot!



FUM's African Ministries

Friends United Meeting (FUM), based in Richmond, Indiana, is one of the largest Quaker organizations worldwide, with about half its membership in East Africa. In response to requests from Friends in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania for more relevant programming from and participation in the meeting's governance, FUM has created a new African Ministries Office in Kisumu, Kenya, to be headed by Eden and James Grace. According to a brochure from Friends United Meeting, "the [African Ministries] Office will bring the FUM-member Yearly Meetings in Africa together for collaborative programming on topics of common concern and will provide a more equitable voice for African Friends in the worldwide fellowship of FUM."

Both Eden and James Grace have been active in New England Yearly Meeting, and they bring a diversity of gifts to the new positions in Kenya. Eden has a Master of Divinity Degree from Episcopal Divinity School and has served as FUM's representative to the World Council of Churches for the last six years. James has experience in business, has studied Quakerism at Earlham, and has been involved in NEYM's working party on racism. The Graces will be undertaking their new commitment with their sons, Isaiah, 8, and Jesse, 6.

For more information about the Graces or FUM's African Ministries Office or to support this undertaking, please contact Friends United Meeting at 101 Quaker Hill Dr., Richmond, IN 47374, or on the Web at www.fum.org.

FYI

Earlham School of Religion, a "Meetingplace" for Friends

Earlham School of Religion is a Christian graduate theological school in the Quaker tradition. It is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and North Central Association through affiliation with Earlham College. As stated in a recent letter to Midcoast Meeting from Jay Marshall, dean of the school, "Earlham School of Religion was started in 1960 by Friends who believed that if Quakers were going to have a distinctive approach to life and ministry rooted in a religious belief system, it would be useful to have a graduate theological school whose program was rooted in the manner of Friends." The current student body draws from all branches of Friends and from other Christian traditions as well.

The school also see itself as a resource for monthly meetings and offers various avenues of access, such as an extensive Web site, various publications, and workshops and conferences offered in Richmond and around the country. One feature of the ESR Web site, possibly of most immediate interest to Midcoast Friends, is a list of links to early Quaker texts and writings, which could prove useful to those wishing to research Quaker history and thought. The list can be found at <http://esr.earlham.edu/dqc/links.html>. The Web site for Earlham School of Religion is www.esr.earlham.edu.

The Advices

Let your lives benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect.

Friends are advised to seek divine guidance when considering marriage and to enter marriage with a commitment to cherish each other for life. In marriage, treasure the joys of intimacy, share the sorrows of losses, and mediate differences with patience. Be ready to seek the counsel of your own parents or of other experienced persons as it is needed. Consider together the responsibilities of parenthood.

Let us trust in the Light and witness to it in our daily living. We and our families are children of God with a rich accessible record of God's dealings with humanity. In dress, in furnishings, in manners, in diet, and in entertainment, let us choose the simple, the wholesome, and the beautiful. Let us be cooperative and creative in family recreation so that it encourages mutual activity and sharing.

Let us dwell with thankfulness on the blessings and happiness that life has brought us. Friends are advised to try throughout life to discern the appropriate moment to relinquish responsibilities to others. Let us face with courage the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for those dear to us, realizing that even as our outward activity lessens, our seasoned thought and prayer may liberate love and power in others.

Friends are advised to make provision for the settlement of their affairs while in health so that others may not be burdened. Such provision may include maintaining an up-to-date will and discussing with family and doctors our wishes in the event of serious illness or death.

Friendly Reminders

Moving or changing your E-mail address? Don't forget to notify the newsletter of your changes.

Electronic subscriptions via E-mail are environmentally friendly and cost the Meeting nothing. To receive your newsletter via the Web, E-mail a request to Nancy Terrell Hall at moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com

Future Visioning

by Jean Crawford

At our July Meeting for Business we decided to have a discussion of our ideas for the future of the Meeting once summer had passed. Now the time has come, and we have an opportunity to think over long-range plans for the Meeting. What do we cherish about our Meeting? What do we dream about for its future?

Envisioning the Meeting's future is always a good idea, but it is especially timely now. We have received a sizeable financial gift from one Friend's estate, and we may receive another one soon. Some Friends have already mentioned the idea of an addition to the meetinghouse for our First Day School. Ministry & Counsel has recommended that this idea be considered within the broad scope of envisioning the future of the Meeting.

You will be hearing soon about a date for this discussion. Now is the time to begin thinking and perhaps even to jot down some thoughts.

Minute of Recommendation

The following minute has been approved for Holly Baldwin who is applying to attend a Young Friends Conference in London in the summer of 2005.

Upon recommendation of a Clearness Committee from this Meeting and with enthusiastic approval, Midcoast Monthly Meeting in Damariscotta, Maine, U.S.A., recommends its member Holly Baldwin for acceptance at the World Gathering of Young Friends in England in summer 2005.

Holly has thought about this very carefully. Her desire to experience wider fellowship with young Friends of deep faith is strong and true. Her faith in the Quaker way has grown strong so that she would make a positive contribution to the Gathering and benefit others when she returns. Her experiences with Young Adult Friends and New England Yearly Meeting Friends in recent years further qualify her. We discovered no obstacles in her personal arrangements.

We intend to provide financial support for Holly's attendance when she is accepted.

Other Items

The committee completed a minute in memory of Bill Bowers which was approved by Monthly Meeting and appears elsewhere in this newsletter. It has also been posted on our Web site.

A "Second Hour" discussion titled "What Makes Vocal Ministry Really Good?" will be held on Sunday, October 24, following meeting for worship.

Visit
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

William H. Bowers

June 14, 1918 – August 3, 2003

Bill Bowers was received into membership of Midcoast Meeting on March 9, 1995, after fifty years of association with Friends.

His first wife, Winifred Cope Sharpless, was a birthright Friend who transferred her membership from Doylestown (PA) Meeting to Midcoast Meeting in 1987 after the family moved to Maine. Both Bill and Winifred were active participants in the Meeting. Winifred died in 1991. Bill continued to participate in the life of the Meeting and was strong in support of our building the meetinghouse.

Bill's thoughtful letter of application for membership was a moving statement of the depth of his assimilation of Friends' beliefs and values. He wrote, "I find difficulty in understanding my years of indecision in joining. At times, I felt I was lacking in total agreement with all of Friends' professions.... I have come to realize that there are as many beliefs among Friends as there are members. I feel very comfortable in Friends' company."

After marrying Avis Ilene Colpritt on December 2, 1995, in the meetinghouse, Bill continued to attend with her. Eventually they gravitated to her church, where his memorial service was held following his death.

In his last year, while Bill was living in a nursing home in Damariscotta, he enjoyed frequent visits from Friends. Bill died on August 3, 2003.



September Wedding

Former Midcoast attender Aimee Phillippi recently wrote to invite Friends to her wedding. On September 25, one day after she defended her doctoral dissertation, she and Michael ("Mick") Womersly were married under the care of Belfast Area Friends Meeting in a traditional Quaker wedding service in the Quaker Hill church in Unity. She says, "I've unfortunately not been able to see much of you all since my move further north...you were all so welcoming to me and became my first Maine family. For those of you who might be interested in how the rest of my life has been going, we are still surviving well in our straw-bale house and continuously making improvements..." Her E-mail address is aimeep@midcoast.com.

Simple Churches: 21st C. Answer to 17th C. Quakerism?

from "News" at www.fum.org, the Web site of Friends United Meeting, contributed by Diane Kirkman

Forty-eight Friends from eight yearly meetings came to Richmond, Indiana, June 9-10, to discuss a process of starting relational, small churches. Starting in Minnesota many years ago, Harold and Wendy Behr have founded many small churches inspired by the writings of Friend Elton Trueblood. Most recently they have been released by Northwest Yearly Meeting and now Evangelical Friends Church-Southwest to inspire and coordinate networks of small churches.

In his presentations, Harold stressed the importance of small group, relational ministry in contrast to "traditional church," which he criticized for focusing on institutional concerns and maintenance rather than relational ministry. Harold painted a picture in stories of church life built around a few families joining together over a meal with time for personal sharing followed by reflective reading of an extended Bible passage with time for silent reflection and feedback from the group, the sharing of personal concerns and prayer, and discussion of ministry opportunities. Harold also described his experience using "Life Transformation Groups," a format for personal discipleship where two or three agree to answer a series of searching discipleship questions, read 20-25 chapters of scripture each week, and pray together. The home

churches that make up the simple-churches network are intentionally limited to 12-15 participants, and as they grow, they hive off new groups. This results in networks of related small churches that are connected in Monthly and Quarterly gatherings. People like Harold function as traveling ministers supporting the networks. Harold and Wendy reported that the relational, non-institutional emphasis of simple churches has been particularly attractive to young adults, who often feel alienated from traditional church. They told stories that demonstrated simple churches have the flexibility to include children and grandparents in intergenerational worship.

The presentation during the Richmond conference stimulated lots of discussion and questions. Friends from the unprogrammed tradition exclaimed over parallels between simple churches and early Quaker practice. Pastors of programmed Friends meetings discussed how simple churches might or might not complement their ministry and how their Meetings could expand outreach by encouraging members of their congregations to start simple churches.

The Simple Churches Conference was sponsored by the North American Ministries committee of Friends United Meeting.

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
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Damariscotta, ME 04543

Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends • Co-Clerks: Earnest & Barbara Foust, 582-8615 • Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, 236-9551 • Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283 • The Newsletter • October 2004 • Volume 16 • Number 9 • The Newsletter is published every month except August. Editor/design/production: Nancy Terrell Hall, phone/fax 529-5771, E-mail: moonlite@incoln.midcoast.com. Address changes to: Pat Spock, 729-0826, wspock@gwi.net, 10 Curtis Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.