

# Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



## MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:  
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### October

Sunday	October 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Wed.	October 9	9:30-11:30 a.m.	*The Challenge of Change
Sunday	October 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	October 23	9:30-11:30 a.m.	*The Challenge of Change

### November

Sunday	November 3	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Wed.	November 6	9:30-11:30 a.m.	*The Challenge of Change
Sunday	November 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	November 20	9:30-11:30 a.m.	*The Challenge of Change

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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com) a request. Thanks!*

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**For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:**  
[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)

## MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—September 15, 2013

12 Friends in attendance. The Meeting opened with worship. The minutes of the last Business Meeting were approved.

**Ministry & Counsel**—Deb Haviland reported on the Ministry & Counsel Committee and Pastoral Care Committee. Quarterly Meeting received minutes on the lives of Alice and John Lacy. The minutes are on the MMM website. Bob Snyder, who was a regular attender at Meeting, died on August 20, 2013. Carmen sent a note to Kristina, Bob's wife. The Meeting also approved sending a letter from the Meeting to his family. There will be a memorial service at Cambridge Meeting on October 26. Deb has the address. *[See item p. 4.]*

Willow Rowntree said that since there is not an ad hoc committee for nominating the clerks of committees, she thought that the committee of Ministry & Counsel that will be selecting the Meeting's clerk and officers needs to have broad participation. She said that she wished to change the current wording from saying that people may be added "as needed" to "should include others, if they wish to participate." Mallory suggested that if people are interested in being part of this committee, they should contact Ministry & Counsel. Mallory also noted that there will be a sign-up sheet at Meeting next week.

Mallory reported that the Meeting has received a request from a couple from Tallahassee, Florida, to be married under the care of our Meeting. She read the letter. The couple—Petra and Elizabeth—are life-long Friends and have attended our Meeting for Worship. They are well known to several of our members. They have been in a committed relationship for 10 years. They have requested a clearness process and are working with a clearness committee in Tallahassee. The Meeting approved Ministry & Counsel's moving forward to marry this couple under the care of our Meeting.

**Buildings & Grounds**—Susan Hallett reported on the Building & Grounds Committee for Bill Hallett. Bill also submitted a written report. To summarize the report, Bill said that this summer "scraping, repair and painting of all exterior trim and doors" was completed by Mr. Ater, whose bid of \$6,200 was \$1,400 lower than a second bid. Ater found several major roof problems and rot along the drip line and rafters. He did not charge more to repair this damage, finished on time and the "quality and thoroughness of the work is impressive." The committee recommended that the annual budget include a special line item for future major repairs on this aging building, and noted that a roof replacement might be needed in about 10 years or less. Bill indicated in his report that the roof and exterior need inspection on a regular basis and he recommended establishing a set-aside fund.

Martin reported that in regard to the Meeting's last maintenance expenditure of \$6,500, the funds—which were "borrowed" from investments—will be returned to the investments over a period of 8.3 years. Bill Spock suggested that we establish a capital budget in addition to an operating budget. Bruce Rockwood suggested that if we increase the \$650 per year (now a line item in our operating budgets) by \$200 per year, we could regard this as a maintenance fund. He pointed out that the time period estimated for replacement of the roof is 10 years. If we maintain a "repayment" schedule of \$650 per year after the funds are repaid to the investments, with the additional \$200 per year, we could build a reasonable maintenance fund. Bruce also suggested reevaluating the heating system and considering the installation of a heat pump in the future, when the heating system is in need of replacement. The clerk asked the Finance Committee to look into Bruce's suggestion of increasing the \$650 repayment by \$200 annually to establish a maintenance fund.

**Finance Committee**--Martin reported that last year's budget (FY2012-13)—after adding in \$2,000 from the Meeting's investments—concluded with a surplus of \$391. In creating this year's budget (FY 2013-14), the committee conservatively estimated \$12,000 in contributions. To date, \$9,060 in pledges has been received. In addition, pledges of approximately \$3,500 that were received last year have not been pledged yet this year. Since we are early in the fiscal year, the committee anticipates that these contributions will be forthcoming. (If an additional \$3,500 is pledged or received, the contributions can be anticipated to total \$12,635 this year.) Caroline noted that there is \$50 in Gifts and Leadings, but that we no longer have this committee. She recommended deleting line #16 in the budget and reallocating the \$50 to the Ministry & Counsel Committee, since they will be sending out the mailing about committee membership. The Meeting agreed.

*[continued next page]*

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The Expense Budget includes funding at NEYM for 34 members, a reduction of \$300 in Community Contributions, and a reduction of \$960 in Friends Contributions. Martin suggested that the Meeting consider doing some special events or projects to raise additional funds for CHIP, AFSC and FCNL. Jean Crawford volunteered to help with fund-raising events. In regard to the budgeting process—as was mentioned earlier—the Meeting agreed that in addition to the \$650 repayment of funds annually (to investments from the operating budget), \$200 will also be set aside annually for maintenance expenses. In this way, the meeting can replenish the borrowed funds, build some reserve funds and then borrow against those funds in the future, if repairs are needed. The Meeting agreed that the Building & Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee should develop a plan for the funds reserved for maintenance that fits with the budgeting process. The Meeting approved the FY 2013-14 budget with the change of moving the \$50 out of Gifts & Leadings into Ministry and Counsel.

**Outreach Program**—Karen Cadbury reported for the Development Committee of the Outreach Program (DCOP). Andy Burt, David Cadbury, Brewster Grace, Carmen Lavertu, Sue Rockwood and Karen Cadbury met as a Development Committee, as requested by the Meeting, to develop a budget for an outreach program that would include hiring a part-time coordinator. (Suzy Hallett is also on the committee.) The DCOP presented a report to the Business Meeting that outlined the expenses and revenue anticipated for two years. (See attached report. The report is also available by email: [kcadbury@roadrunner.com](mailto:kcadbury@roadrunner.com).) The DCOP reported that they agreed to raise the funds to meet two years' of expenses before starting the program, so that they would have a good financial base from which to begin. Two years' of expenses totals \$11,320. This includes \$1,400 for WiFi for the meetinghouse, a part-time salary and taxes for a two-half-day-a-week coordinator of \$7,680, plus \$740 in contingency funds, plus travel and office expenses. The DCOP is committed to raising \$11,700 from the following sources: the Peace Center (one year of \$600), the Vassalboro QM, New England YM, individual donations, foundation grants and increased funds from rentals and on-site donations. The DCOP also requested \$1,500 per year for two years from the Midcoast Monthly Meeting. After discussion, the Meeting shifted some revenue from individual gifts to the amount requested from the Monthly Meeting and approved \$2,000 per year for two years, for a total of \$4,000. The DCOP will not access these funds until the entire \$11,320 is raised. The members of DCOP have taken on assigned responsibilities for raising different parts of the funding. A foundation request has been submitted already to the Obadiah Brown Fund for \$1,000.

**Hospitality**—Sue reported that we did a large shopping and that members are helping to set up and clean up after social hour. She wanted to remind the greeters that they are responsible for starting the coffee and tea and, if possible, putting out cookies, crackers, etc.

**Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting**--Suzy and Carmen attended VQM. The Q is planning a major change and hopes to have much more involvement from the monthly meetings. [See "Open Letter," p. 5.] Midcoast will be hosting VQM on February 14, 2014, and the Farmington Monthly Meeting will be hosting VQM in November 2013. Carmen has requested that we name two people from our Meeting to participate in a coordinating team that will be working on QM issues. Suzy will check with Carmen to clarify this issue and determine what we should do. No one volunteered.

No further business coming before the Meeting, it was adjourned following moments of silence. The next Business Meeting will be October 20. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Cadbury, Acting Recording Clerk

### **QUERIES**

**Outreach**—Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

## How Might YOU Be Called to Serve the Meeting?

It is that glorious time of the year when we get to sign up for committees in 2014. You can sign up for the committees you're already on or totally new ones. There is a sign-up sheet in the meetinghouse w/contact names & phone numbers if you have questions. There are also descriptions of committee activities. The committees are:

- Meetinghouse & Grounds: Bill Hallett: 563-6084
- Peace Center: Bewster Grace 594-8082
- Finance: Deb Haviland: 593-7823
- Library: also Deb
- Archives: Pat Spock 644-8683
- Hospitality: Suzy Hallett 563-6084 or Karen Cadbury 230-0436
- Communications: Guy Marsden (website and e-mail chain) 443-8942, Diane Kirkman 236-9078 (newsletter)
- Pastoral Care: Carmen Lavertu 354-9556
- Ministry & Counsel: Mallory Waldman 233-1482



**The Ecumenical Food Pantry** is a service provided for people in need of food and other basic necessities in this part of Lincoln County. Every Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 people in need can come to the Congregational Church in Newcastle to get donated food and other items. Each month a different area church provides volunteers to help check people in and hand out food.

During September, Pat and Bill Spock, Rachel McGinness, Virginia Betts, and Wendel Stephenson represented Friends for Quaker month. Not everyone is able to do the in person volunteer work required to get the food passed. Some people donate food and others donate money. After talking to MaryAnn Look, the director of the Food Pantry, I discovered that, while food is always welcome, the bulk of the food that is handed comes from financial donations. MaryAnn can purchase from the Good Shepherd Food Bank all kinds of food and household supplies for 16 cents per lb. and other food is purchased from local

supermarkets in bulk at a substantial savings. That is about 50% more than what an individual could get from the grocery store. If you would like to make a donation send a check to Ecumenical Food Pantry, P.O. 46, Newcastle, ME 04553.

—Rachel McGinness

## "The Challenge of Change"—A Discussion Group at the Meetinghouse

Invitation by Wendell Myers, convenor: We know that on every level, personally, nationally, globally, humans are facing enormous economic, ecological, and cultural changes. This informal dialogue-group will meet to share solutions and leverage points of change in a positive and respectful conversation. Many of our institutions are diluted by short-term self-interest, dysfunctional, or often unable to address the real challenges we face as individuals, town residents, and U.S. citizens. But our own thinking, our own attitude, our reluctance to plumb the depths of our own possible creativity, is also part of the difficulty. Change is a huge subject that includes individual inner work, seeking more connection and community, and looking for better alternatives on the local, regional, national and international levels.

Midcoast Friends are earnestly invited to participate in this dialogue group. Leadership of the meetings is shared by participants. Meetings are held in the Meetinghouse on alternate Wednesdays, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., the next meeting on October 9. Please contact Carmen ( [clavertu@gmail.com](mailto:clavertu@gmail.com) or 354-9556) for further information.

## OPEN LETTER to VQM—September 23, 2013

Greetings Friends of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting,

I bring news about Fall Gathering, reporting to you as your newly appointed VQM Ministry and Counsel co-clerk, along with co-clerk Janet Hough from Cobscook MM. Fall Gathering at Friends Camp the weekend of September 6-8 was a time of playful fellowship, worship, challenging discernment, and great food. New England Yearly Meeting Friends Debbie Humphries (Hartford MM) and Honor Woodrow (Beacon Hill MM) led us with sensitivity, depth, and a spirit of play in the program that spanned all 3-days: Exploring the Unwritten Rules of Meeting for Worship. Friends expressed deep appreciation for the skill of the facilitators, and the open-hearted sharing that resulted. At Fall Gathering the Quarter also gratefully celebrated Mark Rains' eight years of service as VQM Clerk. We have all benefited from his steady dedication and leadership.

At Saturday's Fall Gathering meeting for business, the Quarter largely endorsed the recommendations, brought by the Group of Concern for VQM Leadership and Ministry and Counsel (L-M&C), for an interim process for VQM's coming year. While formally approved minutes will be forth-coming, a brief synopsis of what Friends approved at Fall Gathering appears here and, in more detail, on the next page. Because VQM has not had a formal Gifts and Leadings (aka nominating) Committee the Quarter has not named a Clerk for 2013-2014. In brief, at Fall Gathering Friends approved re-establishing VQM Committee for Ministry and Counsel, appointed M&C co-clerks (Susan Davies, Vassalboro MM and Janet Hough, Cobscook MM), and established and appointed a VQM Coordinating Team to assist monthly meetings in planning QM days (Diane Dicranian, Farmington MM and Ann Dodd-Collins, Winthrop Center FC, at-large members who will serve throughout the year). Instead of an appointed VQM Clerk and Recording Clerk, accountability for communication, coordination and oversight of the Quarter during 2013-2014 will reside with M&C, the Coordinating Team, the Finance Committee, and the Treasurer. M&C co-clerks will hold ultimate accountability for ensuring that Quarterly Meeting decisions are implemented and communications are maintained.

The L-M&C group of concern also brought the recommendation to hold VQM meeting for business in September and May, and to leave open the possibility that a formally scheduled meeting for business might not be needed in November and February. Some Friends were not easy with this recommendation so Friends approved discernment of meeting for business agenda for November 2013 by M&C, Finance Committee, and the Coordinating Team.

In bringing these recommendations the intent of the L-M&C group of concern, also carried forward by M&C, is to restore the traditional emphasis of the Quarter on sharing of joys and concerns of monthly meetings, in order to draw support, encouragement and inspiration from each other in the fellowship and life of the Spirit. We ask that monthly meetings appoint one or two named representatives to attend M&C meetings. Hearing about one another's condition, in a setting that is conducive to shared reflection and worship, helps to strengthen our bonds of community and our identity as members of a spiritual body that extends not only across Maine, but throughout the world. Quarterly and Yearly Meetings are reservoirs of the individual and collective wisdom and faithfulness of Friends from beyond our own meetings, and these resources are available to all for the care and nurture of meetings. The Quarter is our traditional link to New England Yearly Meeting, where our concerns, leadings and initiatives can be amplified through this larger body of Friends that has distinguished itself by its leadership in the wider world of Friends.

A further goal during this non-traditional year of transition is to encourage and cultivate new involvement in committees and clerking in the Quarter. Through the Coordinating Team and the use of "Clerks of the Day," this year will hold many opportunities for Friends to learn more about the Vassalboro Quarter, and to exercise the unique gifts, skills, and interests that the Divine Spark may be asking you to share. Debbie Humphries shared an image of an experience that may be familiar to many of us as we "try on" our identities as Friends. She commented that the Society of Friends is rich with those who flock to the "Quaker Tree" and initially spend time sitting on the branches, enjoying being with Friends. But for some the real journey of awakening and engagement begins when they realize that they have become engrafted into the Tree itself, where the taproot of the Spirit, that has sustained Friends throughout the ages, is now nourishing their own tender shoots of new life, and a new sense of self. Such a threshold of identity and invigorated involvement is cause for excitement and celebration. May we all stay wide awake and watchful to recognize that moment when we are called, and to what purpose!

Blessings until we meet again on November 2, 2013 at Farmington,  
Susan Davies, Vassalboro MM; Janet Hough, Cobscook MM—VQM Ministry and Counsel co-clerks

***\*\*Carmen Lavertu is representative from our Meeting to VQM, and she would like to hear from Friends who would like to join her in this newly formed direction and process: 207-354-9556 or [clavertu@gmail.com](mailto:clavertu@gmail.com)\*\****

**A Passing Noted: Robert Snyder**, a dear Friend and summer attender at our Meeting for many years, died—unexpectedly, peacefully, and painlessly—in his North Whitefield home a few days after attending Meeting for Worship with his wife, Kristina, on August 18. A memorial service will be held at Cambridge Meeting on Saturday, October 26. Addresses for writing to his family are: Kristina Snyder, 8 Wright St., Cambridge, MA 02138; and daughters Abigail and Corinna Snyder, 407 Dean Street, #3, Brooklyn, NY 11217. (Abigail and Corinna have two children each.)

(Pastoral Care is thankful to Lee Junker for notifying us and providing the contact information. Carmen would like to hear from anyone in our Meeting who had conversations with Robert.)

### ***ADVICES***

**Outreach**—The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth; therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, let us seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.

Friends are advised to witness to the power of Truth and justice and to foster growth of the divine community at home and abroad. While remaining faithful to our Quaker insights, and ready to share them with others, let us seek to understand the contributions made by the people of God everywhere. Whenever possible, let us seek to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith.

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