



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Fifth Month, 2002

2755 Providence Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33916

Clerk:	Larry Butler	(941) 337-3743
Recording Clerk:	Nancy Fennell	(863) 699-1276
Treasurer:	Albert Webber	(941) 945-2673

- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month.
 - If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please write to:
quakerswfla@earthlink.net
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QUERIES FOR THE FIFTH MONTH

How do Friends Care for one another?
Education

- Do your children receive the loving care of the meeting?
 - Does the influence of the meeting promote their religious life and encourage their desire for service to others?
 - What efforts are you making to educate all your members in the knowledge of the Bible, especially the teachings of Jesus and their relevance to the principles and practices of Friends?
 - Do those of you who are parents seek to share your deepest beliefs with your children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit of God may lead them?
 - Do you encourage members to consider the advantages of educations in Friends' schools and colleges for their children and do you give such financial aid as may be necessary?
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Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Fourth Month, 2002
Not Available at time of Publication

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting
24th Day 3rd Month 2002

Members Present: Ann DeNevers, Jeannette Botha, Marilyn & Al Webber, Nancy & Tom Fennell.

Ann reported that there is no inmate counseling services at the Lee County Juvenile Detention Center.

Katherine Dew's resignation as Clerk of P&S Concerns was read and accepted. Tom Fennell agreed to serve as temporary Clerk while Nominating Committee found a permanent clerk

Marilyn reported on her trip to Nicaragua. She reported a special concern for the street children's attempt to sell their hammocks for hard currency. She and others will research possible local outlets. She also reported a concern for several libraries. She will research ways that FMMM might support these organizations.

Marilyn also inquired as to the overall role of the P&S Concerns Committee in the FMMM. This was discussed in some detail but unity was not reached, and Nancy suggested that we have a special meeting of P&S Concerns to address only this issue. A luncheon meeting was set at Ann's house for Thursday, April 11, 2002.

The meeting was adjourned with a moment of silence.

Tom Dudley Fennell, Temporary Clerk

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting
11th Day 4th Month 2002

Present were: Nancy and Tom Fennell, Marilyn and Al Webber, Phyllis and Dan Stanley, Ann DeNevers, Theron White and Erica Lynne.

Tom displayed the new Iona House stationery which will be used for Friendly correspondence by Ministry and Council. The pen and ink drawing of Iona House was drawn by Joe Beebe. He gave us permission to use the drawing for Meeting purposes. There has been discussion about selling the stationery to Friends and/or in the Nature Center. If we want to sell it, we have to contact Joe for permission and to arrange a suitable commission to him.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the role of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee in the life of the Meeting. After some discussion, the committee was led to the decision that PSC should serve the Meeting by guiding/leading/coordinating the Meeting's response to issue of peace and social concerns. After much discussion, it was decided that the committee wants to keep and maintain service to our ongoing projects and disaster relief, but also find one or several long term projects to which the entire Meeting could be committed and involved. The committee recognized that determining such a project have to rely on Quaker process of discernment, which requires involving the entire Meeting.

After more discussion, it was decided that we would begin with a survey of all members and attenders, and Erica would compose a first draft, email it to committee members for their comments. The survey could then be handed out at rise of Meeting and included in the newsletter. It was recognized that in order to accomplish the larger goals of a larger project, this committee would have to meet more often than once a month. Because many members live quite a distance from Ft. Myers, we decided to try communication by email. Erica will also set up an egroup through which committee members can make their comments.

The need for a new clerk was address and it was decided that Nancy Fennell would be the clerk. Erica Lynne, Recording Secretary.

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING – 2002

My thoughts and feelings about SEYM are so intense that it is hard for me to put them into words, however, here are some random thoughts:

The feeling of being surrounded by love began at Fenny Bosc even before arriving at the Retreat. I loved being with Tom and Nancy and this beautiful start set my mood for the Meeting.

During early morning worship meetings by the lake, I was overcome by the Presence of the Lord. The singing of the birds was a delightful accompaniment to the palpable sensations of Peace and Love. These early morning worship sessions seemed to be covered by an aura of Light.

One of the things I enjoyed about Worship Sharing was how all sharing seemed to come directly from the heart, enabling me to feel a bond with the sharer.

“An Earth Restored” was the theme of the Meeting and Lisa Gould, a biologist and Clerk of Westerly, Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, gave several workshops on this topic, as well as the lecture. She was very inspiring, making one realize how important is our stewardship of this beautiful earth given to us by the Lord

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting was very active with Nancy Fennell serving as Clerk of the Gathering Committee; Tom Fennell serving “Simple Meals” with the able assistance from Al Webber and lots of help from Marilyn Webber, George & Bonnie Cummings, (these were very successful); and myself organizing the afternoon activities which Friends seemed to enjoy. It felt good to be a part of this gathering.

I feel that this experience has planted spiritual seeds in me which will inspire me as I enter back into the stream of everyday life.

This month I move to North Carolina. I am so grateful to you all at Fort Myers Monthly for the gifts of love and support I have received from you all.

Jeannette Botha

“Whatever we call it, the practice of sharing our spiritual journeys with each other, in an atmosphere of trust, encouragement, challenge and adventure, is surely an aspiration which, in theory, we share. Yet, as we have seen, practicing our faith involves us in living our testimonies; and testimony inescapably implies twin approaches to embodying our values in the concrete realities of our world, through lifestyle and politics. It also implies corporate action by Friends on both these aspects of life, both locally and centrally. Yet Friends, for whom testimony is a fundamental inheritance, are still paradoxically diffident or uneasy about both politics and lifestyle. If that is the case we clearly have a great deal of essential work to do.”

Jonathan Dale, *Faith in Action: Quaker Social Testimony*

Peace and Social Witness – From British Yearly Meeting Website

Quaker Peace & Social Witness is the Yearly Meeting level central committee which focuses on translating Quaker Testimonies to peace and social justice into work in the UK and elsewhere in the world. Many other Friends across the Yearly Meeting are also working towards these ends, at a local and regional level, but this committee and the staff team that works with it concentrate on work being done from our offices in London, or around the world, and in the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness is pooling together of work previously undertaken under two separate committees; Quaker Peace & Service working for peace and against violence and Quaker Social Responsibility & Education working to promote economic and social justice. Quakers now recognise that one of the major roots of conflict in the 21st century is the imbalance of economic benefits and human rights, and the new department will better address the relationship between violent conflict and its causes, as well as striving for peace and social justice across the world.

THE QUAKER TESTIMONIES

Testimonies are expressions of key principles which underpin the activities of Quakers in their daily lives, and form the basis in which the central work of Britain Yearly Meeting is rooted. They are not fixed written statements of belief. They are the expressions of attitudes by which Quakers try to live their lives:

- Peace
- Equality and Community
- Simplicity
- Integrity and Truth

CURRENT WORK

Descriptions of programmes in Quaker Peace & Social Witness can be found by exploring the links from this section.

- [Peacebuilding projects and placements around the world](#)
- [Support for local organisations in their peacemaking work](#)
- [Working with decision makers in the United Nations and other international and national institutions to promote nonviolent resolution of conflicts](#)
- [Working in schools to promote the teaching of peace studies, and the use of conflict resolution techniques on countering bullying](#)
- [Training in active nonviolence as way of bringing about significant social change](#)
- [Promoting human rights and lobbying for changes in national and international law to prevent human rights abuses](#)
- [Working for the Freedom of Information, and greater accountability in the government and other institutions](#)
- [Supporting Quaker Prison Ministers](#)
- [Campaigning for greater use of restorative rather than punitive justice](#)
- [Working with groups concerned with housing and social inclusion, and campaigning for adequate housing for all in the UK](#)
- [Researching the effects of multinational companies on the environment and working with such companies on fair labour and trade standards](#)

Fifth Month Calendar

5/5/02	Discussion Group	9:15 a.m.
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Pot Luck	After rise of Meeting
5/12/02	Education Committee	9:30 a.m.
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 a.m.
	Meeting for Business	After rise of Meeting
5/19/02	Discussion Group	9:15 a.m.
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 a.m.
5/26/02	Peace & Social Concerns	9:15 a.m.
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 a.m.

Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
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