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# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Newsletter, Sixth Month, 2002

2755 Providence Street  
Fort Myers, Florida 33916

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<b>Clerk:</b>	Larry Butler	(239) 337-3743
<b>Recording Clerk:</b>	Nancy Fennell	(863) 699-1276
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Albert Webber	(239) 945-2673

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- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month.
  - Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is sixth month, 9, 2002
  - If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please write to:  
[quakerswfla@earthlink.net](mailto:quakerswfla@earthlink.net)
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## QUERIES FOR THE SIXTH MONTH

*How do Friends Care for one another?*  
Oversight of Members

- **What is being done to draw members together in a spirit of fellowship?**
  - **Does the meeting keep in contact, either by visits or personal letters, with all its members?**
  - **Are Friends in need assisted as their circumstances require?**
  - **Do you counsel with those whose conduct or manner of living gives ground for concern?**
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"Are there not different states, different degrees, different growths, different places?.. What wisdom and spirit is that, which doth not acknowledge this, but would make all equal?.. Therefore, watch every one to feel and know his own place and service in the body, and to be sensible of the gifts, places, and services of others."

- Isaac Penington 1667

Isaac Penington (1616-1679) was the son of a wealthy Puritan magistrate. It is believed that he had a university education, but the particulars are not known. He married the widow Mary Springett and with her had five children; his stepdaughter, Gulielma Springett, became the wife of William Penn. Penington was a spiritual seeker from early years, but found his desire for a lasting sense of fellowship with God frustrated until in 1658 he became convinced that the Quaker movement was a work of God, and joined Friends. A prolific writer who had already published several books, he became one of the chief advocates, through the printed word, of the Quaker faith. He was imprisoned six times, for refusing to swear, or for attending Friends' meetings, and sometimes on no charge at all; he spent about five years thus confined, which he was said to endure very patiently, though

sometimes in danger of his life from illness. He lost his home and much of his estate when relatives brought lawsuits against his family which they could not defend because of their testimony against oath-taking.

## Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Fifth Month 12, 2002

Meeting for Worship with a concern for business, attended by 12, opened with consideration and comments on the query addressing Quaker education.

Ministry and Counsel reported on their current projects, thanking Hank Fay and Tom Fennell for their work with the United Campus Ministries.

**02MM13.** Friends authorized the purchase of reading materials recommended by Ministry and Counsel.

**02MM14.** The transfer of membership for Barbara Frey was joyfully accepted and will be celebrated at a potluck.

In the absence of the Treasurer, George Cummings gave the Meeting financial report, which was accepted by Friends.

The Clerk read a letter from EPEC, thanking the Meeting for our recent contribution.

**02MM15.** Friends approved the purchase of a book on grant writing for religious and educational organizations.

George Cummings, reporting for the Properties Committee, gave a summary of the issues and projects under consideration involving, primarily, Iona House.

Peace and Social Concerns is preparing information regarding how to contact our Congressmen and women, etc., and will have it available next First Day. In addition, Friends were asked to return the questionnaire regarding Meeting concerns of peace and justice.

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Fennell,  
Recording Clerk

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***"Quakers respect the creative power of God in every human being and in the world around us. We work through quiet processes for a world where peaceful means bring about just settlements."***

Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Fourth Month 14, 2002

The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a consideration and discussion on Unity Within the Meeting. Seventeen Friends were in attendance.

Ministry and Counsel reported on the potluck discussion on Vocal Ministry. The letter from Lancaster Monthly Meeting for Barbara Frey's transfer of membership to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting was read and given to Ministry and Counsel.

The treasurer's report was presented and approved. The way Yearly Meeting decides apportionment was reviewed.

Tom Fennell reported for Peace and Social Concerns. The committee has reached an agreement on the function of the committee. That would be to encourage and guide the Monthly Meeting to do its social concerns. Nancy Fennell is the clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Erica Lynne is the recording clerk. The main focus is to see what the Meeting is led to do.

Tom Fennell reported on the new advertisement that is running in the Gulf Coast University student newspaper, The Eagle.

Tom Fennell reported on the Yearly Meeting Gathering. Seven members of Fort Myers MM attended (see attached report). Discussion has ensued in Yearly Meeting to separate Pro-Nica from the Yearly Meeting business structure.

The question was raised concerning advertising and outreach for new members. Ministry and Counsel was given the charge to bring the issue back to the MM.

Recording Clerk, ProTem  
Larry S. Butler

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Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting

Fourth Month 28, 2002

At the last committee meeting the survey was accepted and is to be handed out at rise of meeting for the next several weeks. It is also suggested that it be printed in the next newsletter, so that everyone has a chance to offer ideas.

In an effort to begin planning our shorter, monthly efforts for PSC, those in attendance were asked to think about the projects we can do for the next 6 months or so. Further discussion is planned for our next meeting.

It was decided that the third First Day in May we will have information available about how to contact our senators and legislators, as things have changed since September 11. In addition, recommendations on how to say what we wish to, how to make our opinions heard, and current issues of concern will be presented. This information will be available during snack time.

Hank Fay reminded us that PSC, if in agreement as a committee, may present and recommend minutes to the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, for possible endorsement by the entire Meeting.

Reports were given about FCNL and farm worker concerns.

## Barclay's Propositions

1. "The height of true happiness is knowledge and experience first hand of God at work in our lives."
2. "...it is only through the testimony of the Spirit that the true knowledge of the God has been, is, and can be revealed."
3. "...the Scriptures are only a declaration of the Source and not the Source itself."
4. "We reject...errors which exalted a natural light. We also reject the errors... (that) maintain the true grace of God is not necessary for a man (sic) to become a true minister of the gospel." Born neutral, we are joined to the evil seed by our own transgressions until we have "been disjoined from this evil seed and had been united to the Divine Light."
5. "There is and evangelical and saving light and grace in everyone, and the love and mercy of God toward mankind (sic) were universal, both in the death of his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the manifestation of the light in the heart."

### Proposition Six: The Saving and Spiritual Light by Which Every Man (sic) is Enlightened.

I do not believe that there are many Friends of any theological bent (except perhaps Pentecostal) that would have a difficult time with this proposition. The major discussion would be the source of the Light and Barclay was clear. A person became joined to the Light; it was not a natural part of the person. It was available to all (it shineth in everyone), but it was necessary to join to it. It obviously involved both grace and will. Like most people, I suppose, there have been times that I consciously did not join to the Light, but joined to the evil seed. Like any other part of our life turning to the Light takes practice, and daily thought. I try not to fall into a rut and be upset with evil whatever the form. When I can understand the process I ask the Lord for help in joining to the Light, "yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me, they rod and thy staff they comfort me, thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies, my cup runneth over...." It is daily, it is constant, and it is why we are here. Friends must join to the Light in their own lives before we ever preach to others.

Larry Butler

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### ROBERT BARCLAY TO SARAH FELL, 27<sup>TH</sup> OF 8<sup>TH</sup> MONTH 1678.

Dear S.F.--Some days ago I received both thy letters, by Will. Taylor. I return thee this answer, chiefly to try an expedient, whether letters put in at the the post office in Edinburgh, will come safe to your hands; for whench end I order this that way, and if it hit, let me have by the first post and answer, directing it for me to be left with David Falconer, merchant, in Edinbro'. I will not enlarge by this, because uncertain of its safe conveyance.

I have been a prisoner since I left thy sister, but was kept only two nights. P.L. [Patrick Livingstone] has been out and in again. G.K. [George Keith] and Thos. Mercer were taken this day week.

From Holland I had last night a letter that gave me much satisfaction, in which was one enclosed from Herwarden from Anna Van Horne to Lil. Skeine, very loving; and a short postscript from Elizabeth [the princess?] in these words: "Dear friend, I love your upright intention to travail in spirit for your friends, though unknown to you; and doubt not but it will prove efficacious to them, in the Lord's due time; which is the wais of your loving friend, Elizabethh."--I refer other matters to a future occasion.

My entire love to thy father and mother, to Isabel my dear fellow-traveller, to Su. [Susan Fell,] and

Rachael, as also thy bother and sister Lower, with Leo. [Leonard Fell] and others my acquaintaince.  
Thou wilt excuse this briefness at this time to thy very afections friends

R. BARCLAY.

**\*\*\*ALL FRIENDS – PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY\*\*\***

Dear Friends,

The Peace and Social Concerns committee has been led to explore new ways to involve the entire Meeting in activities and/or projects to which the Meeting as a whole feels led. PCS feels it can better serve the Meeting and specific concerns if the entire meeting is involved. New involvement may well include information sharing of issues at rise of Meeting, articles in the newsletter, and a Peace and Social Concerns egroup. Expect to hear more from us!

After spirit-led meditation and a meeting, we felt the best beginning would consist of asking Friends to fill out a survey. The purposes of the survey are to introduce Friends to ongoing concerns of this committee, and solicit input on what Ft. Myers Friends would like to participate as a Meeting.

Currently, our Meeting is involved in ongoing projects such as the Books for Coleman Prison Women, the Immokalee Farmworkers, Pro-Nica, FCNL, CDCA and also responds to emergency needs in the event of disasters. A major project could include one of these concerns.

Other ideas, which are by no means inclusive, include supporting the street children Nicaragua who make hammocks for sale, the Cuban Quaker Project, support of Childcare of Southwest Florida, an email alert list of people willing to write and call legislatures on specific issues of concern, provide needed materials to area school children, vigils against the death penalty, or work in concert with other religious organizations on issues of common concern.

We ask that you look inward and ask yourself, “In what direction should this Meeting take our commitment to issues of peace and social concern.” And then write in your idea(s) in the space below. But don’t consider for too long. We would like these surveys back in 10 days.

Major Project Suggestions	Ongoing Support Suggestions

**\*\*\*\*Keep in mind this is NOT voting.\*\*\*\***

**All issues will be considered, researched, and brought before Meeting for Business.**

Please return your survey to Nancy Fennell: at meeting for worship, or by email [nancyf@strato.net](mailto:nancyf@strato.net), or mail Nancy Fennell, 52 Fenny Bosk Trail, Venus, FL 33960

**Fifth Month Calendar**

<b>6/2/02</b>	<b>Discussion Group</b>	<b>9:15 a.m.</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
	<b>Pot Luck</b>	<b>After rise of Meeting</b>
<b>6/9/02</b>	<b>Education Committee</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
	<b>Meeting for Business</b>	<b>After rise of Meeting</b>
<b>6/16/02</b>	<b>Discussion Group</b>	<b>9:15 a.m.</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>6/23/02</b>	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>	<b>9:15 a.m.</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>6/30/02</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>

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**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers**  
**Religious Society of Friends**  
c/o Erica Lynne, Editor  
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