



2003 Home  
2003 Nautilus Center

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# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Newsletter, First Month, 2004

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) 466-3890
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Erica Lynne	(239) 514-5060

- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month.
  - Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is First Month 14, 2004
  - If you want to save postage and get your newsletter by email, please email: [ericalynne@earthlink.net](mailto:ericalynne@earthlink.net)
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## WELCOME POTLUCK FOR

Mary McHenry  
Gwen Vanda  
Monica Haggard

January 10th at 1 pm

AT THE HOME OF BONNIE AND GEORGE CUMMINGS, 5337 SW 11th Ave, Cape Coral, FL 33914. Call for directions: **(239) 549-1910**

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### QUERIES FOR THE FIRST MONTH

*What is the state of your Meetings for Worship and Business?*

#### Religious Meetings

- Are your meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance?
  - Is there a living silence in which you feel drawn together by the presence of God in your midst?
  - Do your meetings give evidence that Friends come to them with hearts and minds prepared for communion with God?
  - Are they a source of strength and guidance for daily living?
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### DECEMBER 31st IS THE LAST DATE...

...for you to give your tax-deductible donation to the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Our treasurer, Al Webber, will provide you with a letter acknowledging your generosity that meets the IRS guidelines. Our income for 2003 remains below that of previous years. Please send your contribution to Al Webber, 335 Nautilus Ct., Ft. Myers, FL 33908.

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Twelfth Month 14, 2003

The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, and the annual meeting of the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc., was attended by 19 F/friends. The meeting opened with a consideration of the twelfth query on the peace testimony. Friends shared how this testimony has affected them personally.

Ministry and Counsel reviewed the committee's synopsis of changes recommended in the proposed Faith and Practice section on Marriage and Ceremony of Commitment. The committee suggested we hold a threshing session with all interested Friends [*ed note: to review the suggested revisions to the SEYM queries*]. We will meet January 4<sup>th</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am for a thorough review of this important material.

**03MM16.** Friends approved the forms proposed by Southeastern Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Committee that cover Dying, Death, and Bereavement.

**03MM17.** Friends wish to minute their deep appreciation to Erica Lynne, Marilyn Webber, and Barbara Frey for their excellent, timely, and consistent work on our newsletter. We are grateful for the efficient work they do, month after month, on behalf of the Meeting.

The Clerk advised us that we are to pray for the Wabash, Indiana meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004, as part of our participation in the 2004 Chain of Prayer.

Friends General Conference's Travelling Ministries Program will be visiting St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting in January, 2004. Our meeting has received a letter of invitation for us to participate.

**03MM18.** Friends will send a \$200 donation to St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting to help support the Travelling Ministries Program visit. We are respectful of the important, traditional, and meaningful work of this program.

The Treasurer's report was given and approved.

The Clerk shared the Treasurer's finding that if all members were able to contribute financially to our meeting on an equal basis, each member would need to give \$35 per month to maintain our current budget. As not all our members have equal ability to contribute, others need to offset funds. This figure is for information and guideline purposes only, as many Friends ask what is a reasonable amount to give.

The Properties Committee reported that we are about \$300 short in our rent to the Calusa Nature Center this year. Rent is usually paid in volunteer hours to the Center. This committee will continue to work with the Nature Center administration. Conveners and clerks of committees meeting on First Day before worship should see George Cummings for a key to Iona House. Arrangements are being made to acquire an additional bookcase for our library.

The Education Committee is going to work to develop a brochure for non-Quaker clergy explaining, briefly, the main Quaker ideas and tenets. Working drafts will be shared with Ministry and Counsel before coming to meeting for approval. The committee has asked Larry Butler to offer a course in Quakerism 101 and 102 next year. Larry has agreed and classes will begin in Third Month. Classes meet on the first and third First Days at 9:15am.

**03MM19.** The Meeting is very grateful to Larry Butler for his recent course on the biblical basis of Barclay's Apology. We appreciate the planning, organization, knowledge, and care with which Larry presented this class. We look forward to future instruction and guidance.

A potluck is scheduled on Fourth Month 24, 2004, 12:30pm, at Ann de Nevers home. A discussion on the topic of War and Quakerism is planned.

Peace and Social Concerns asked the meeting to support an ongoing, monthly donation to the Interfaith Action Committee of Southwest Florida, who fund a full-time organizer for the Coalition of Immokalee Farm Workers. As the meeting is in support of this concern, the committee will meet

with the Finance Committee to work out possible ways to raise financial support. The suggestions will be brought back to Meeting for Business.

Ann de Nevers contacted Porter Goss' office, as suggested by Friends Committee on National Legislation, but was told that no meeting or interview is possible at this time.

The Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of officers and committee members for 2004. Friends accepted the report with one addition. (See attached report.)

The minutes were read and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Fennell, Recording Clerk

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### **Nominating Committee Report for 2004**

**Clerk:** Larry Butler

**Recording Clerk:** Nancy Fennell

**Treasurer:** Al Webber

**Ministry and Counsel:**

12/04 Phyllis Stanley, Marilyn Webber

12/05 Betty DeWitt, Barbara French

12/06 Tom Fennell, Erica Lynne

**Trustees:** Betty DeWitt, Phyllis Stanley, Theron White

**Registered Agent:** Al Webber

**Auditor:** Theron White

**Historian:** Trudy Ellyson

**Librarian:** Nancy Fennell

**Web Site Management:** Hank Fay

**Yearly Meeting Representatives:**

Tom Fennell, Al Webber

**Education Committee:**

Ann de Nevers (convener)

Nancy Fennell

Phyllis Stanley

Marilyn Webber

**Hospitality Committee:**

Mary McHenry (convener)

Bonnie Cummings

Wandson De Oliveira

Tom Fennell

Gwen Vanda

**Finance Committee:**

Al Webber (convener)

George Cummings

Tom Fennell

Dave French

Theron White

**Nominating Committee:**

Barbara French (convener)

Bonnie Cummings

Nancy Fennell

Marilyn Webber

**Properties Committee:**

George Cummings (convener)

Hank Fay

Tom Fennell

Al Webber

**Newsletter Committee:**

Erica Lynne (convener)

Barbara Frey

Marilyn Webber

Barbara French

David French

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee:** Stan

Andrews, Erica Lynne, Bonnie Cummings,

Mary McHenry, Ann de Nevers, Nancy

Murveen, Wandson De Oliveira, Phyllis

Stanley, Hank Fay, Gwen Vanda. Barbara

Frey, Al Webber, Monica Haggard, Marilyn

Webber, Bill Wells

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Hank Fay has a new phone number: 239-298-6006

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**First Month Calendar**

<b>1/4/04</b>	<b>SEYM Queries Threshing Session</b>	<b>9:15 am</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
	<b>Potluck</b>	<b>After rise of Meeting</b>
<b>1/11/04</b>	<b>Education Committee</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
	<b>Meeting for Business</b>	<b>After rise of Meeting</b>
	<b>Last Chance Book Club</b>	<b>After rise of Meeting</b>
<b>1/18/04</b>	<b>SEYM Queries Threshing Session</b>	<b>9:15 am</b>
	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
<b>1/25/04</b>	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>	<b>9:15 am</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  
676 110<sup>th</sup> Ave. N  
Naples, FL 34108