



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Sixth Month 2006

52 Fenny Bosk Trail
Venus, Florida 33960

Clerk:	Nancy Fennell	(863) 699-1276
Recording Clerk:	Nancy Howell	(239) 652-9901
Treasurer:	Dave French	(239) 543-9556
Newsletter Editor:	Jeannette Botha	(239) 368-7229
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▪ Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month. All are welcome.

**“For as in one body we have many members,
And not all members have the same function,
so we who are many are one body in Christ,
And individually we are members one of another.”**

-Romans 12:4-5 (NRSV)

Queries for the Sixth Month

How do Friends Care for One Another? Oversight of the 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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Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business
Held Sixth Month 11, 2006
Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The meeting opened from silent worship with 11 F/friends in attendance.

The clerk read the Query on oversight of the members:

In discussion, a friend responded that the meeting keeps in contact with many members and attenders by letters, phone and conversation at potlucks and other occasions. Ministry and Counsel committee takes the lead in this work. The meeting tries to take care of members in need, but may not always know of particular problems.

Reports of Committees:

Ministry and Counsel: In the absence of Barbara French, Erica Lynn reported that M&C met. A query on Meeting for Worship for Business was read, 'Do I listen thoughtfully and respectfully to opinions offered? Do I listen, not to dispute, but to weigh rather than react?'

06MM12 We will have a farewell potluck for Ann deNevers on August 12, 2006 at the home of the French's at Heron's Glen.

Nancy Fennell read a letter she wrote thanking the meeting for their support during the time she was in the spiritual nurturers program at the School of the Spirit. She has now completed the two year course.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Dave French, Tom Fennell read the report of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. Net assets of the meeting are about \$29,000. The Finance Committee intends to sell the Domini stock and reinvest the proceeds into the Friends Meetinghouse Fund (for restricted funds) and Friends' Fiduciary Fund (for unrestricted funds) to simplify our bookkeeping and to increase our rate of return. We plan to pay the apportionment to SEYM by sending half in July or August and the other half in February of next year.

06MM13. The meeting increases the budget allocation for SEYM for the 2006 budget to \$3,180 for fiscal year 2006-07 to cover our current apportionment.

The Clerk pointed out that the gift to the Gainesville meeting was taken from our SEYM apportionment, which was not the Meeting's intent. We ask the Finance Committee to consider adding a line in our annual budget to cover unanticipated gifts.

The Education Committee: In the absence of Ann de Nevers, Erica Lynn made the report. Erica will serve as Clerk of the Education Committee when Ann has left. The adult discussion of the pamphlet on Membership in the Meeting will be continuing on the 1st and 3rd First Day. First Day School (for children) will also be meeting at 9:15 on the first and third First Day.

The Hospitality Committee: A report was given by Jeannette Botha, who told us that new members are needed on this committee. The Nominating Committee will be working on adding members. The newsletter will continue to have the Queries printed on the first page and the recording clerk will take them out of the minutes of the meeting. The Clerk thanked Jeannette Botha for her good work on editing the newsletter.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Marilyn Webber reported that Peace and Social Concerns wants to organize meetings with our congressman (Connie Mack) on a regular basis to inform him and his staff of our concerns, especially those of FCNL.

The Property Committee: Warren Bender reported that the committee has not met this month, but the sealant has been applied on the roof and it is curing for two months before the final coat is put on. The siding and termite treatment for Iona House was discussed.

Warren reports that relatively little money has been spent of the \$4,500 that has been allocated. The question of whether the committee has consensus on what should be done about Iona House was discussed.

Other Business: None

The minutes were read and approved. The meeting closed with silent worship.

Submitted by Recording Clerk Nancy Howell, Fifth Month, 2006.



June 10, 2006

Dear Fort Myers Friends,

I have recently completed the School of the Spirit two-year program of spiritual development. The program had two goals: to develop spiritual nurturers for our meetings and to deepen the student's relationship with God. For me, participating in this program has been one of the most important experiences of my spiritual life. It has strengthened my commitment to serve Spirit in every way I am able for as long as I live. I have been stretched and, at times, sorely tested in the program. My spiritual practices have grown. I have made friendships in which my deepest spiritual concerns were shared, and continue to be shared. Though I was challenged by some aspects of the program, I always felt held in love and care.

Meeting was supportive and generous throughout my experience. My oversight committee, Barbara French, Nancy Howell, and Trudy Ellyson, were faithful in meeting with me monthly, reading my reports and papers, and giving me tender guidance. I also owe thanks to Ann DeNevers and Erica Lynne for their willingness to serve and support me. And, I'll not forget all the other Friends who often showed interest by asking how I was doing and what was it like. I am deeply grateful to the entire meeting for making the large financial commitment to pay my tuition.

I know it's impossible to pay everyone back for the gifts given to me, but I will certainly endeavor to pay it forward. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in the Light,

Nancy Fennell

Note new address for Jeannette Botha:

2135 Oxford Ridge Circle
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Phone has stayed the same: (239) 368-7229

First Day School Of the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting

When: At 9:15 (to 10:15) on the First and Third First Days of each month.

Where: We gather at Iona House, at the Calusa Nature Center, and go next door to the classroom at the Calusa Nature Center for our time together. At 10:15 or so, we clean up the classroom and return to Iona House, to join our families for worship.

Why: First Day School is for children 3-12, who would like to meet with a teacher and other children to explore Quaker life and beliefs. Older children are welcome to come in the role of assistant teacher. Parents do not have to be members of the Meeting for their children to attend First Day School. We welcome attenders and visitors. No reservation is needed, and no excuse is needed when children do not come.

We share and explore the following beliefs in First Day School

There is something sacred in all people.

All people are equal before God.

Religion is about the whole of life.

We meet in stillness to discover a deeper sense of God's presence.

Each person is unique, precious, a child of God.

Our religion leads to respect for the earth and all life upon it.

Activities at First Day School consist of talk, and stories, and drawing pictures and making objects and crafts. Sometimes we go for a walk on the way back to Iona House, to visit the animals and butterflies that live at the Nature Center.

Who: First Day School is under the care of the Education Committee, of the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting. The main teacher is Nancy Howell, a retired university professor, who was an attender at the Toronto Meeting for six years before becoming a member of the Fort Myers meeting two years ago. Phone her (239-652-9901) to discuss any questions you may have about First Day School at the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

6/25/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Peace and Social Concerns	9:15
7/2/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	First Day School	9:15 am
	Adult Discussion Group	9:15 am
	Potluck – All Are Welcome!	After rise of Meeting
7/9/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Business	At Rise of Meeting
	Education Committee	9:15 am
	Last Chance Book Club	At Rise of Meeting
7/16/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	First Day School	9:15 am
	Adult Discussion Group	9:15 am
7/23/06	Peace and Social Concerns	9:15 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
7/30/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am

Committees wanting their meetings to be listed in the calendar should provide their schedules to the editor.

Note from the Editor:

Please send articles, favorite passages, items of interest to Friends.

- Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, etc., as it is not possible for me to attend all Meetings.
- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact me.
- Suggestions?

My email address is: jeannettebotha@earthlink.net

**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Jeannette Botha, Editor
2135 Oxford Ridge Circle
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971**

Address Correction Requested

Sixth Month 2006