

Middlebury Friends Meeting



April
2010

APRIL 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Mon. April 5 7:00 PM Women's Group at Grace McGrath's, 388-6576
- Tues. April 6 11:00 AM Fellowship Committee meeting at Carol's Hungry Mind
- Sun. April 11 8:30 AM Worship & Study Committee at Havurah House
- Mon. April 12 4:00 PM Committee on Outreach and Social Action, COSA, meeting at Stewart Kirkaldy's, 388-3388
- Wed. April 14 7:00 PM Men's Group at Bob Clagett's, 938 West St. Cornwall.
- Sun. April 18 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Fri. April 23 6:00 PM potluck & game night on campus
- Sat. April 24 State-wide Migrant Workers conference at Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury College
- Sun. April 25 1-4 PM Earth Day celebration on the Middlebury Green
- Sun. May 2 8:30 AM Friendly Forum on FUM policy against hiring gay and lesbian employees
- Sun. May 9 10:00 AM Annual Celebration of Life and potluck at Quaker Acres on Washington Street
- Fri. May 21 5:00 PM Community Supper hosted by MFM, Middlebury Congregational Church
- Sat/Sun, Dec. 4/5 Quarterly Meeting hosted by Bennington and Middlebury Meetings

on the cover: For Burt photo by Winslow Colwell

*“Love is but the song we sing, And fear’s the way we die
You can make the mountains ring, Or make the angels cry
Know the dove is on the wing, And you need not know why*

*C’mon people now, Smile on your brother
Ev’rybody get together, Try and love one another right now*

*Some will come and some will go, We shall surely pass
When the one that left us here, Returns for us at last
We are but a moments sunlight, Fading in the grass*

*If you hear the song I sing, You will understand
You hold the key to love and fear, All in your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both, It’s there at your command*

*C’mon people now, Smile on your brother
Ev’rybody get together, Try and love one another right now”*

—CHET POWERS

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

21 March, 2010

Clerk: Stewart Kirkaldy

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Ruth Barenbaum, Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Wendy Goodwin, Brud Leedom, Chris Stackhouse, and Becky Stratton.

10.03.01 Minutes from 2/21/10 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

It was noted that since last MM, an ad hoc committee met to discuss and design an announcement to go in the annual Addison Independent Church Directory which is due to be published very soon. It was agreed that MFM should be represented in this compendium of local faith groups. The 1/3 page box costs \$150, which will come from the Outreach and Social Action budget.

10.03.02 Treasurer’s Report (from Laura Asermily) “During the month of February the Meeting had income of \$1,065. Total income for the fiscal year so far is \$6,194. The income for the comparable period last year was \$6,805.35. Friends are

cont.

encouraged to consider making donations to help us keep up with our budget obligations. Expenditures during February totaled \$156.95: \$90 for the children's program, \$22.95 for the newsletter, and \$44 for postage. The bank balance at the end of February was \$3,248.72, which includes \$1,200 in the carry-over surplus fund."

FOLLOW UP:

1. Additional funds to cover our annual notice in Friends Journal (total cost, \$44) will come from Miscellaneous.
2. Friends are reminded of \$250 set aside for Quaker camps and conferences, for the purpose of helping any young Friend attend a Quaker camp or anyone in Meeting to attend a Quaker conference such as Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference or other conference. Interested Friends should talk with a co-treasurer, Laura Asermily or Spence Putnam.

10.03.03 **Worship and Study Committee** (from Tom Baskett, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. *The Celebration of Life* will be held on May 9 at "Quaker Acres" on Washington Street. Many details are under way.
2. *Committee membership*: Because the Crown Point Bridge is gone, Mary Kay has found it necessary to step down because it is too difficult to attend meetings. Nominating Committee has been asked to help recruit a new member. We will suggest to Nominating Committee to ask potential nominees if they'd like to sit in on a worship and study committee meeting or two before committing themselves.
3. *A Holding in the Light Meeting* will be held on March 22 at the Putnam/Ruble home in New Haven. Tom Baskett will post, on the Listserv, background information about the Quaker tradition of "holding in the light."
5. *Practices Within Middlebury Friends Meeting* (a pamphlet first published over 10 years ago) is being revised and updated by the committee in hopes of reprinting it, in the near future, for participants and newcomers.
6. *Powell House weekend on Family Friendly Meetings* has come and gone, but without a Middlebury Friend in attendance.

10.03.04 **Pastoral Care Committee** (from Ruth Barenbaum)

1. Newly designed visitor/newcomer information cards will be ready to use next week. These will replace the sign-in book.
2. PCC reminds friends that Clearness Committees are a Friendly format to hold a concern or challenging situation in worshipful Light with a small group of people. Anyone who wishes to explore this possibility can speak to any Pastoral Care Committee member about this.

10.03.05 **Committee on Outreach and Social Action** (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

cont.

1. *Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)* seeks input from Friends and monthly meetings about priorities for their lobbying efforts with the 112th Congress. They make this request every two years to aid in the preparation of a legislative priorities document for the upcoming congress. FCNL asks for a response by April 10. If there is to be a response from the Middlebury Meeting as a whole this must be approved at Meeting for Business on March 21. Stewart and Tom drafted a set of priorities which were published on our Listserv.

FOLLOW UP:

COSA will send out their list of 11 concerns via Listserv and ask Friends to designate the 5 most pressing items. Tom and Stewart will tally these responses to send on to FCNL. In addition to the 5 top concerns, they will also include the other items of concern.

2. *Community Supper* date for this Spring has been finalized for May 21. We will serve our traditional vegetarian lasagna.
3. *March Quarterly Meeting*: Stewart reported on QM held at Plainfield, VT. A major topic of discussion concerned YM's financial support of Friends United Meeting (FUM) which sponsors missionary activities in Africa and the Middle East. Because FUM condemns homosexuality and excludes gays and lesbians from their workforce, there is a proposal that individual Meetings withhold a portion of their contribution to Yearly Meeting as a protest of their policy. (see item #8 below)
4. *December Quarterly Meeting* will be hosted by Bennington and Middlebury Meetings and probably will be held in Middlebury because of our central location. Planning must be done in time to publish information in the Fall 2010 issue of the Nor'wester.

10.03.06 Fellowship Committee: (from Wendy Goodwin)

1. MFM Friends have been invited for an evening of potluck and games, on April 23, organized by college Friends. Details will be forthcoming.
2. Starksboro Friends will be invited to join us for our Celebration of Life on May 9.

10.03.07 State of the Meeting: The 2009 State of the Meeting report was approved as published in the newsletter. It will now be sent on to Quarterly and Yearly meetings.

10.03.08 Friends United Meeting hiring policy: Steward Kirkaldy reported on the discussion at QM concerning FUM's policy to not hire gay and lesbian employees. The current Nor'wester has minutes from Glover and Plainfield meetings protesting this policy. Outreach and Social Concerns will publish a brief history of the issue on the Listserv and organize a May 2 Friendly Forum discussion for Middlebury Friends. This discussion may result in participants recommending an action to monthly meeting.

Monthly meeting closed with a moment of silence.

FRIENDLY BOOKS OF INTEREST



Dimensions of Prayer: Cultivating a Relationship with God

by Douglas V. Steere

Upper Room Books, 1997, 106 pgs.

Douglas V. Steere was one of the recognized giants of modern Quaker literature, a prolific author of numerous books. He was born in 1901 and did his undergraduate work at Michigan State University, earned his Ph.D at Harvard, and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. From 1961 till 1964 he was a professor of philosophy at Haverford College. Subsequently he played an active role in many Friends organizations, including Pendle Hill, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and the American Friends Service Committee. In 1964 he represented the Religious Society of Friends at the Second Vatican Council. By the time of his death in February of 1965 he had been recognized as one the outstanding Quakers of his time.

This book was originally written in 1962 and was then revised by his wife, Dorothy, in 1997. It is a very warm and yet thorough explanation of what prayer is and how it can play a key role in the life of people of all faiths. He states that to learn to pray “no laboratory is needed but a room, no apparatus but ourselves.” His aim, as stated in the subtitle of the book, is to lead us in ‘cultivating a relationship with God.’ He has written a workbook on prayer that is short but covers the subject in a way that is comfortable to read.

I found the book was very practical and down to earth. He begins with an explanation of what he believes prayer is meant to be and guides the reader into a rational understanding of the types of prayers, what they can or cannot do, and how to cope with all the ways that our human nature and society lead us away from the practice of prayers. I found that of particular interest were his comments on the impact of intercessory prayers, something that has in recent months been of meaningful interest to many of us at Middlebury Friends Meeting.

Modern Friends do not usually speak much of their personal prayer lives, and a book such as this one can give us a refresher course on the subject. Steere’s ecumenical approach to religious study provided him a great deal of exposure to many religious groups through his career, which he drew on to create this very balanced and understandable guide to this important part of spiritual life.

There is a copy of this book in the Meeting’s Library.

— Ted Colwell

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

"If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own!" — Scoop Nisker

LUCY MCKEON, MD, and TANIA ROHANY, a dentist, will be going with SAS CAREY to provide health care for the Dukha reindeer herders in northern Mongolia. Sas is in the midst of fundraising for Nomadicare, which effectively improves health care for 14 Rural Hospitals in the Gobi Desert, impacting 50,000 nomadic people. This is Sas' 12th trip to Mongolia and she will be gone from mid-June to mid-August. The Rubin Foundation in NYC is holding a "Friend Raiser" on May 12 for Nomadicare. If you have family or friends who would like to go, Sas will be happy to send them an invitation. And if you take gently used clothes to Neat Repeats, please mention it is for Nomadicare. Many thanks to everyone who might help!

DAVID ANDREWS turned 65 on March 23, and will retire from the Counseling Service at the end of April. He will continue as co-interim pastor at the First Congregational Church of Cornwall, most likely through October. David reports that son TIM and his partner KYRA FRIES will be married on August 14 at the Ann Arbor home of Kyra's father and step-mother. Congratulations to all!

BARBARA CLEARBRIDGE was in the Chicago area last week to visit her parents. Her father just turned 94, her mother is 92, and their 68th anniversary is in April! And both their granddaughters (sisters) just got engaged last month. So Barbara will be to-ing and fro-ing a lot in the next year...

— Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

Becky Stratton (388-2487)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

Treasurer

Laura Asermily

266 Washington St. Ext.

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Spence Putnam

575 Morgan Horse Farm Rd

Weybridge, VT 05753

388-1644

Pastoral Care Committee

Caring for one another in a loving community is an important part of our life as a Meeting. Call any member of Pastoral Care to share a concern or need.

Priscilla Baker (388-8024)

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

Newsletter Editor: Winslow Colwell (388-1961, win@wcolwell.com)

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 1026

Middlebury, VT 05753

Meeting for Worship

10 AM every First Day

Havarah House, 56 N. Pleasant St. (Rt.7), Middlebury

www.middleburyquakers.org

Please send newsletter submissions to
the address above or to win@wcolwell.com