

Middlebury Friends Meeting

December
2010 /
January
2011



DECEMBER 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	31	

JANUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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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	31					

You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

— JESUS, MATTHEW 5:43
(NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Saturday	10:30 AM	Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
Sat/Sun, Dec. 4/5		Northwest Quarterly Meeting hosted by Bennington and Middlebury meetings, in Middlebury
Tues, Dec 7	11:30 AM	Fellowship Committee at Carole’s Hungry Mind.
Wed, Dec 8	7 PM	Men’s Group at Tom Baskett’s (758-2055)
Sun, Dec 11	9:30 AM	Singing before Start of Meeting for Worship.
Wed, Dec 15	7 PM	Women’s Group at Sas Carey’s (388-1301)
Sun, Dec 19	10 AM	Annual Holiday Worship Service and Gala Potluck Luncheon at Colwell’s in East Middlebury.
Sat, Dec 25	4 PM	Traditional Carol Sing and Worship Sharing at South Starksboro Friends Meeting. A joyous occasion!
2011		
Mon, Jan 3	7 PM	Women’s Group at Fran Putnam’s (388-1644)
Sun, Jan 9	8:30 AM	Friendly Forum, with Tom Baskett talking on Mysticism.
Wed, Jan 12	7 PM	Men’s Group at Spence Putnam’s (388-1644)
Sun, Jan 16	11:20 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business.
Sun, Jan 23	3 PM	State of the Meeting Meeting at Havurah House, followed at 5 PM by a Potluck Supper.
Sat, Feb 5	9 AM-5 PM	Retreat led by Mary Kay Glazer on “Living a Life of Prayer”. Location TBA.

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

21 November, 2010

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Acting Recording Clerk: Ted Colwell

Present: Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Win Colwell, Shulameth Eagle, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaly, Fran and Spence Putnam, Chris and Jill Stackhouse.

During a time of silence, the Clerk read an excerpt of an essay on Truth by William Taber. She also commented that in this Jubilee Year many Monthly Meetings are encouraging simplicity at Meetings for Business and encouraged us to do this by eliminating duplication of the efforts of our committees.

10.11.01 **Minutes for 10/17.2010 were reviewed**, with no corrections.

10.11.02 **The Fellowship Committee** reported its progress in making arrangements for the Northwest Quarterly Meeting on December 4 and 5, to be co-hosted MFM and Bennington Meeting. Things are falling into place nicely. The Fellowship and the Outreach Committees are also finalizing their share of the effort. It was suggested that the next time we host QM these committees should meet together well in advance so there can be effective coordination between them.

The committee is coordinating Friendly Eights for the coming year and signup sheets have been distributed. On December 7th the committee will meet to create the new groups and plan the next monthly potlucks.

10.11.03 **The Outreach and Social Action Committee** reported on MFM's ongoing discussion concerning personnel policies of Friends United Meeting. After considerable discussion and review of two drafts of a proposed Minute to be sent to Northwest Quarterly Meeting, it was decided that a minute should be sent to the Quarter explaining our thinking, plus a draft of a second minute for consideration by NWQM that states our position vis-a-vis FUM. The following minute was approved, and will be delivered to the Quarter for its review at its December 2010 meeting:

“Middlebury Friends Meeting minutes its intention to consider and adopt a minute which will raise the issue of the Friends United Meeting's personnel policies, which we find inconsistent with Quaker values. Our concern dates back more the twenty years, as documented by or minute of 1989 that include the words “We joyfully affirm our willingness as a Meeting to sanctify celebrations of marriage for both same and opposite gender couples.”

The draft of the second minute reads as follows:

PROPOSED MINUTE ON FUM POLICY (DRAFT)

“Middlebury Friends Meeting wishes to go on record as not supporting the employment policies of Friends United Meeting. We do not find these policies reflect our sense of what we believe constitutes a loving, caring attitude towards those Friends who are gay or lesbian, or for personal reasons do not wish to be married.

This is not a new attitude on our part. In 1989 our Meeting approved a minute supporting the civil rights of gays and lesbians. A further minute was later adopted whose wording included the sentence “We joyfully affirm our willingness as a meeting to sanctify celebrations of marriage for both same and opposite gender couples”.

Our Quaker principles call on us to recognize all human beings as equals in the sight of God, regardless of race, nationality, gender or sexual orientation, none of which are a matter of choice.

We believe the current FUM policies are inconsistent with these Quaker values. We have treasured our long affiliation with FUM and appreciate much of the outreach of FUM around the world. We believe FUM is a key part of the Friends spectrum.

We wish to state our feelings about this matter, and to express our hope that in good time we can find a way to build unity on this issue. We wish to see what Love can do.”

We will bring this concern to NWQ, asking the Quarter to reach unity on this issue and bring the concern to NEYM, for eventual presentation to MUM.

10.11.04 Tom Baskett reported from the **Worship and Study committee**. Rebecca Holmes is procuring a variety of *Faith and Practices* from difference yearly meetings so we will have more choices for the monthly reading of a query or advise. Also, there was notice of a Retreat to be led by Mary Kay Glazer on February 5, 2011 at a location to be announced. In addition, the committee approved a request from Cheryl Mitchell to have her nominate Olivia Grugan for a Pickett Youth Leadership Grant. Cheryl has agreed to work with Olivia on her application.

10.11.05 **Treasurer’s Report** (from Jill Stackhouse) “During the month of October 2010 the Meeting had income of \$2,698. The income for the comparable period last year was \$380. Total income for the fiscal year through October is \$4,978, which is \$3,071 ahead of this same period last year. WOW! Expenditure during October totaled \$1,503: Childcare \$120, Newsletter printing \$15, Stamps \$44, NEYM \$499, NWQ \$250, Rent \$500, Worship and Study Practices Booklets, \$75. The bank balance at the end of October was \$6,871.40, which includes \$1,200 in the carry-over surplus fund.”

cont.

The Co-Treasurer will be sending the majority of our benevolences out over the next few weeks so Friends are encouraged to send their donations sooner rather than later that we can pay those requests and maintain our reserves to meet future expenses.

10/11.06 **The Pastoral Care Committee** reported that Ruth Barenbaum has agreed to spearhead a new series of Biographies of Friends. Everyone is encouraged to interview a friend and write up their life story in a few short paragraphs. This has been a feature of newsletters in the past and was found to be enjoyed by all.

Monthly meeting closed with a time of silence.

QUARTERLY MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY DECEMBER 4 & 5

We are hosting Quarterly Meeting December 4 and 5. Everything begins with a vegetarian potluck meal at 6:00 PM on Saturday night at Havurah. Please bring a generous dish to share since we will have some out of town guests. Please bring a set of dishes and silverware for yourselves. We will provide extras for our guests, along with beverages and extra serving spoons and napkins. Anyone who would like to stay for the committee meetings afterwards is welcome.

Sunday morning there will be bagels and hot beverages beginning at 8:15 for out of town guests and a forum for everyone at 8:45. If you are bringing soup for lunch, please drop it off at the CSAC building beginning at 8:00 AM. The building is the second one on the left after you come into Catamount Park.

We will have Meeting for Worship as usual at Havurah at 10:00 AM, followed by a simple lunch at the Counselling Service. Everyone is invited to come. After lunch, there will be a Business Meeting of the Quarter in the room adjoining our lunch space. Again, everyone is cordially invited to stay.

Childcare will be provided from 8:45-11:00 on Sunday.

—Fran Putnam

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)
Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

Treasurer

Laura Asermily
266 Washington St. Ext.
Middlebury, VT 05753
388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Jill Stackhouse
12 Seminary St
Middlebury, VT 05753
388-9224

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

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