

Middlebury Friends Meeting



February
2010

FEBRUARY 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						

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM. (Every Saturday again!)
- Sun. Feb. 7 8:30 AM Friendly Forum on the Quaker Peace Testimony
Facilitator: Tom Baskett
- Mon. Feb. 8 4:5:30 PM Outreach & Social Action Committee meeting at Dickinson's, 388-2594
- Mon. Feb. 8 7:00 PM Women' Group at Cheryl Mitchell's 545-2278
- Wed. Feb. 10 7:00 PM Men's Group at Spence Putnam's, 388-1644
- Sat. Feb. 13 2:00 PM Outside Winter Play & Games, at Putnam's, 388-1644
5:30 PM Potluck at Putnam's. If the weather prohibits outside play, we will only have the potluck; otherwise bring sleds, skates, skis and snowshoes for a few hours of Friendly recreation.
- Sun. Feb. 14 4:00 PM Annual Meeting of Spirit in Nature and presentation of the Eco-Spirit Award by 2009 recipient, Laura Asermily. Mitchell Green Lounge, M.C. McCullough Student Center.
- Sun. Feb. 21 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat/Sun Mar. 6 & 7 Quarterly Meeting at Plainfield Meetinghouse. Includes discussion of FUM hiring policy which excludes gays and lesbians.
- Sat. March 13 9 AM-4 PM Green Energy Expo at MUHS
1:00 PM Keynote speaker: Jim Merkel on Radical Simplicity

“Humor is the spiciest condiment in the feast of existence. Laugh at your mistakes but learn from them, joke over your troubles but gather strength from them, make a jest of your difficulties but overcome them.’ Is’nt that worth learning, Aunt Jimsie?”

Yes, it is, dearie. When you’ve learned to laugh at the things that should be laughed at, and not to laugh at those that shouldn’t, you’ve got wisdom and understanding.”

—L.M. MONTGOMERY

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

18 January, 2010

Clerk: Stewart Kirkaldy

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Glenn Goodwin, Wendy Goodwin, Faith Lowell, Grace McGrath, Spence Putnam, Chris Stackhouse, Becky Stratton, Jean Yeager and Marietta Yeager (visitors from Wilderness Meeting).

10.01.01 Minutes from 15 November 2009 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

10.01.02 Treasurer’s Report (from Spence Putnam & Laura Asermily): “During the month of November we had income of \$813.00, and in December, \$1,900. Total income for the fiscal year so far is \$4,698.00. The income for the comparable period last year was \$5,671.60. Expenditures during November totaled \$2,925.71: \$43.00 for the library, \$270.00 for the children’s program, \$49.76 for Passage with Care (Miscellaneous), \$37.95 for the Newsletter, and \$2,525.00 for benevolences, as follows: Addison County Relocalization Network—\$100.00 (which includes \$50.00 originally allocated to Midd Area Global Warming Coalition; changed per November business meeting), AFSC National—\$300.00, AFSC New England, \$200.00 (which was originally allocated to AFSC Vermont; changed per November business meeting), Community Lunch—\$200.00, Counseling Service of Addison County—\$100.00, FCNL—\$100.00, Friends General Conference—\$75.00, Friends

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World Committee—\$50.00, Habitat for Humanity—\$150.00, H.O.P.E.—\$400, Interfaith Power and Light—\$100.00, Kakamega—\$50.00, Nomadicare—\$100.00, Open Door Clinic—\$100.00, Parent/Child Center—\$200, Quaker Earth Witness—\$50.00, Quaker UN Office—\$100.00, Right Sharing of World Resources—\$50.00, Spirit in Nature—\$100.00. Expenditures during December totaled \$112.95: \$90.00 for the Children’s Program and \$22.95 for the Newsletter. The checking account balance at the end of December was \$4034.67, which includes \$1,200.00 in the carry-over surplus fund and \$825.00 in the Shareheat Fund.

“The bank balance as of January 9th was \$3,004.67. This reflects the payment of quarterly rent and payments to New England Yearly Meeting and Northwest Quarterly Meeting.

“Through the end of December donations to the Shareheat Fund (through the Middlebury Clergy Association) amounted to \$825.00, to which will be added the \$25.00 that the Meeting appropriated from the contingency line item to “seed” the fund. Including January donations the total amount to be forwarded to the Shareheat Fund is \$1,000.00.”

FOLLOW UP: 1) It was noted that the \$1,000 we send to Shareheat will be matched by CVPS, thereby making our total support to this fund \$2,000.

2) It was approved to allocate \$50 for the purchase of more round tins for the next batch of Hand Balm which the children will make to sell to benefit H.O.P.E. This money will come from the Outreach line item.

10.01.03 Worship and Study Committee (report from Tom Baskett, edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. *2009 State of the Meeting meeting*: Final plans were made for the January 24 gathering at the Rosenbergs’s. The W & S Committee will be prepared to reflect on its role vis a vis 1st Day School, the library, and the evaluation of Meeting and quality of worship.
2. *Quarterly Meeting Report*: Tom Baskett reported on Becky Stratton’s attendance at December Quarterly Meeting in Burlington where she discussed our spiritual life survey.
3. *Quaker Quest*: Jean Rosenberg reported that the last Quaker Quest presentation, in November ‘09, was very successful. Cheryl Mitchell, Spence Putnam and Olivia Grugan were the presenters and 23 people attended. A lively discussion followed the presentations. More publicity is needed for these events (advertise in Brandon?) and it would help to move the events to the library. We might want to offer a Quaker Quest presentation on campus in the spring.
4. *Campus Meeting*: There is a Quaker group meeting regularly on Sunday afternoons on campus. They have “club” status. We wonder how we might provide support. Several college students attend our Meeting, one is on Outreach Committee, and two are signed up for Quaker 8’s. We will ask if they would like Friends

from MFM to join them on Sunday afternoon and if their meeting time and place should be in the newsletter. This will be brought to Outreach and Social Concerns.

5. *Publicity*: We discussed publicity ideas, including taking out occasional ads in the Addison Independent. Becky Holmes suggested doing something like “Quaker Lemonade” that the Roseburg, Oregon worship group does at the Arts Fair. This will be suggested to Outreach and Social Concerns.
6. *Meeting for Worship Review*: We note that MFM seems to have a good balance between silence and vocal ministry and that MFM is very accepting of diverse ministry.
7. *First Day School*: The new curriculum seems to be going well.
8. *Library*: The library is overflowing both the cabinet and the closet shelves. Chris Stackhouse and Becky Holmes will explore additional shelving possibilities at Havurah House and an efficient way to display Pendle Hill Pamphlets. Becky and Jean rescued library materials that were damaged in a recent flood in the basement. To replace lost Pendle Hill Pamphlets, Becky’s will request donations from Friends and order pamphlets that should be replaced.
7. *Friendly Forum*: FFs are held the 1st Sunday of the month at 8:30am and will resume in February. Suggested topics: Friends peace testimonies and how FUM’s policy to not hire gay employees impacts on its relationship with NEYM. This raises the question, “How do you lovingly bring change?” FFs are not recorded which might be unfortunate. Maybe the FUM/NEYM forum could be recorded – perhaps held as a threshing session – with a potluck?
8. *Queries*: It was suggested we sometimes use the spiritual survey queries on monthly meeting Sundays when a Friend reads a query. Tom will post them on the library door and make extra copies available.
9. *Temporary loss of committee members*: Mary Kay will be absent until the new ferry service begins between Crown Point, NY and Vermont, hopefully by late January. Jean will be in Australia until early May.

10.01.04 Pastoral Care Committee (from Grace McGrath)

In addition to considering personal concerns, the committee is exploring ways to better collect contact information from visitors and newcomers, perhaps creating a card for them to fill out. Win offered to help with the design.

10.01.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee: (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by Recording Clerk)

1. *New convener*: Tom Dickinson is now the convener for COSA replacing Karen Nawn-Fahey who served as convener since the inception of the committee. We are still exploring with the Nominating Committee the possibility of welcoming one more person to the committee.

2. *Middlebury Area Clergy Council*: Karen will check with Sas Carey, MFM representative to the Middlebury Area Clergy Council, to discuss the best way to get information from the Clergy Council to COSA so that we can disseminate it as needed.
3. *MFM and Middlebury College*: We discussed how wonderful it is to have students attending. We are still interested in doing some programs on campus and in finding out more about the student-run Meeting on campus. We want to identify contacts on campus with whom to plan future programs there.
4. *Community Suppers*: We hope to secure a Community supper date in April and to keep our last Friday in September date for the fall, thereby spreading out our twice/year hosting.
5. *Community Lunch Program*: Tom shared the first Annual Report from the Community Lunch program which is felt to be a success, with increasing numbers of meals delivered or consumed on site at St. Stephen's or Charter House. A new program to deliver Family Dinners sponsored by MCCC and Mary Johnson Day Care Center starts this month. The pilot program will last 12 weeks and hopes to send meals home to eligible families (subsidized lunch children) every Friday for the weekend. The program seeks volunteers to help package the meals on Friday mornings at Charter House.
6. *MFM and Quarterly & Yearly Meetings*: We discussed MFM's participation in NWQM and NEYM from an historic perspective and current active members.
7. *MFM and church service listings*: Recent out of state visitors informed us that the list of churches supplied by the inn where they stayed did not include MFM. We will follow-up to find out how to include MFM.
8. *Vermont Action for Peace*: A newly organized Vermont Action for Peace hopes to assume some of the work formerly performed by the now laid down VT AFSC. To raise funds for their work, they offer a DVD of Pete Seeger in conversation with Dr. Offie Wortham.

FOLLOW UP: It was suggested that information about Sunday morning MFM meetings be given to all local inns and B & B's.

10.01.06 Fellowship Committee meets quarterly and will next meet in late January. It was noted that newly configured Friendly 8's are up and running and that two of them have room for additional participants. A winter fun day and potluck is planned for Feb. 13.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

FRIENDLY BOOKS OF INTEREST



The Future of Faith

by Harvey Cox, HarperOne, 2009

Harvey Cox has recently retired after a long career teaching at Harvard Divinity School. He is the author of *The Secular City*, a highly popular and well-regarded book written in 1965. In this new book he hazards a guess as to where the Christian church is headed in the future. Cox is noted for his ability to deal with critical issues of religion with wisdom as well as a well-honed sense of humor.

He makes a survey of the history of Christianity and finds it can be broken down into three eras; the Age of Faith, which encompassed the first three hundred years following the death of Jesus; the Age of Belief, which lasted from the fourth to the twentieth century (and began when the Roman emperor Constantine reversed himself and ordered that the early Christian church be the recognized faith of the Empire); and the Age of the Spirit, which started about fifty years ago and is creating a major change in the way people worship today.

He states that in its earliest phases Christians were carried forward by the example and memory of the life and teachings of Jesus. The disciples and apostles also had an impact that lived on after the death of Jesus for about three centuries, during which there were little in the way of dogmas or rites, but a vital practice of the Way in a free flowing manner. There were no firm creeds and a wide variety of beliefs and teachings. However, as the glow began to die down, the church became captive to both the Roman government and the power of the Clergy. The faith became more and more an acceptance of certain dogmas, selected scriptures, and new creedal statements, all of which the people had to accept as demanded by the leaders of the organized church. This state of affairs continued until relatively recently, with a number of exceptions. One of these were the Quaker concepts that attempted to return its membership to the practice of the teachings of Jesus and eliminated the compulsory acceptance of creeds. The church split in many ways, such as the division between the Roman and the Greek Orthodox churches as the first millennium began, and the Protestant breakaway some four hundred years later. The old fervor of the religious world became lost and an overall weakening of belief took place.

Cox believes we are in an exciting new renewal of the church. He sees is the recent growth of the evangelical churches in the United States as well as in Africa and South America as the wave of the future. He feels that the Fundamentalism that was seemingly so strong is dying out and that the evangelicals are growing more liberal, at least politically, less self-centered, and more willing to work with the wider church.

I believe that this book should be of interest to Quakers who have questions of where Christianity is likely to be headed. I felt as I read the book that it showed clearly that George Fox led us into the Age of the Spirit nearly four hundred years before most of the other churches began their change into a newly revitalized religion.

The Future of Faith” is available in our Meeting Library.

— Ted Colwell

COMMUNITY LUNCH ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

GINNY HEIDKE, COORDINATOR

On December 22, 2009 Community Lunch celebrated its first year anniversary. This new program has followed the format established by the Community Supper program. More than 70 volunteers from seven religious organizations have taken turns preparing and serving free lunches to the community. Monday and Tuesday lunches were served at St. Stephen’s, and Wednesday and Thursday meals were served in Fellowship Hall. On May 1, 2009 the program moved into Charter House, where we served lunch Monday through Thursday through September 30th. Beginning in October, the Monday lunch moved to St. Stephen’s, while Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday meals remained in Charter House.

In March we began preparing and delivering brown bag lunches to HOPE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In October we added bag lunch preparation and delivery to CVOEO on Mondays and Wednesdays, so that now we send out lunches every day that we serve on-site. These lunches are picked up by clients of the food shelves and provide important nutrition for people who cannot come in for lunch.

We have provided about 4400 lunches this year, including serving about 430 children, 721 take-out meals, and 1356 brown bag lunches. Our attendance has been steadily increasing over the months, so that this winter we’re routinely serving 25 to 30 people each day. People now know about the program, and many people are very hard-pressed economically. More important, perhaps, is the growing evidence that folks enjoy coming to lunch. They sit, eat, talk and stay till well past serving time.

Our financial picture has been stable this first year. Our total income was \$5218.00. The sources of revenue were:

- \$1000.00 gift from Community Suppers (19% of income)
- \$2142 donated by religious organizations (41% of income)
- \$1281 donated by individuals (25% of income)
- \$ 795 from Crop Walk (15% of income)

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Our expenses amounted to \$4177. All of the expenses were for food and staples directly used for lunches, except for \$150.00 to defray some kitchen work in Charter House. Our expenses and number of meals served nearly match, so that we could say that we served lunch for about \$1.00/meal. However, that would neglect the crucial role of volunteer hours and donated food. I would estimate that the donations equaled the monetary expenditures, so that in reality we provided lunch for about \$2.00/person.

COMMUNITY FAMILY DINNERS, 2010

Middlebury Community Care Coalition (MCCC) and Mary Johnson Children's Center After School Programs (MJCCAS) are partnering to create a new community meals program. We are working together to build a take-home dinner option for families in our community who we know are dealing with hunger. MJCCAS will manage all the details of the participating families, including eligibility, recruitment, contact with families, feedback, evaluation – in other words all the hard stuff. MJCCAS will also initially underwrite the expenses, although donations are welcome.

MCCC is being asked to do the easy part: cook for a crowd! We'll gather 4-6 people on Friday mornings to prepare family dinners to be delivered to Mary Hogan School on Friday afternoon for take home. The size of each meal will depend on the size of the child's family. We'll make traditional favorites like goulash, meat loaf, and chicken pie, along with kid-friendly veggies, fruit, and dessert. We will have appropriately sized baking dishes on hand, all the foodstuffs, as well as transport coolers, etc. We need you, your friends, family, and neighbors to come help cook and package dinners to go.

We begin on Friday, January 15th. We'll meet in the downstairs kitchen in the Congregational Church at 9:30 AM. We'll cook up a storm, pack it all up and be done before noon.

This pilot program runs for 12 weeks. During that time, we hope most of what falls through cracks will have done it, we'll have fixed it, and we'll have good feedback from the participating families. Our hope and expectation is that after three months, 'Community Family Dinners' will be poised to grow throughout the county.

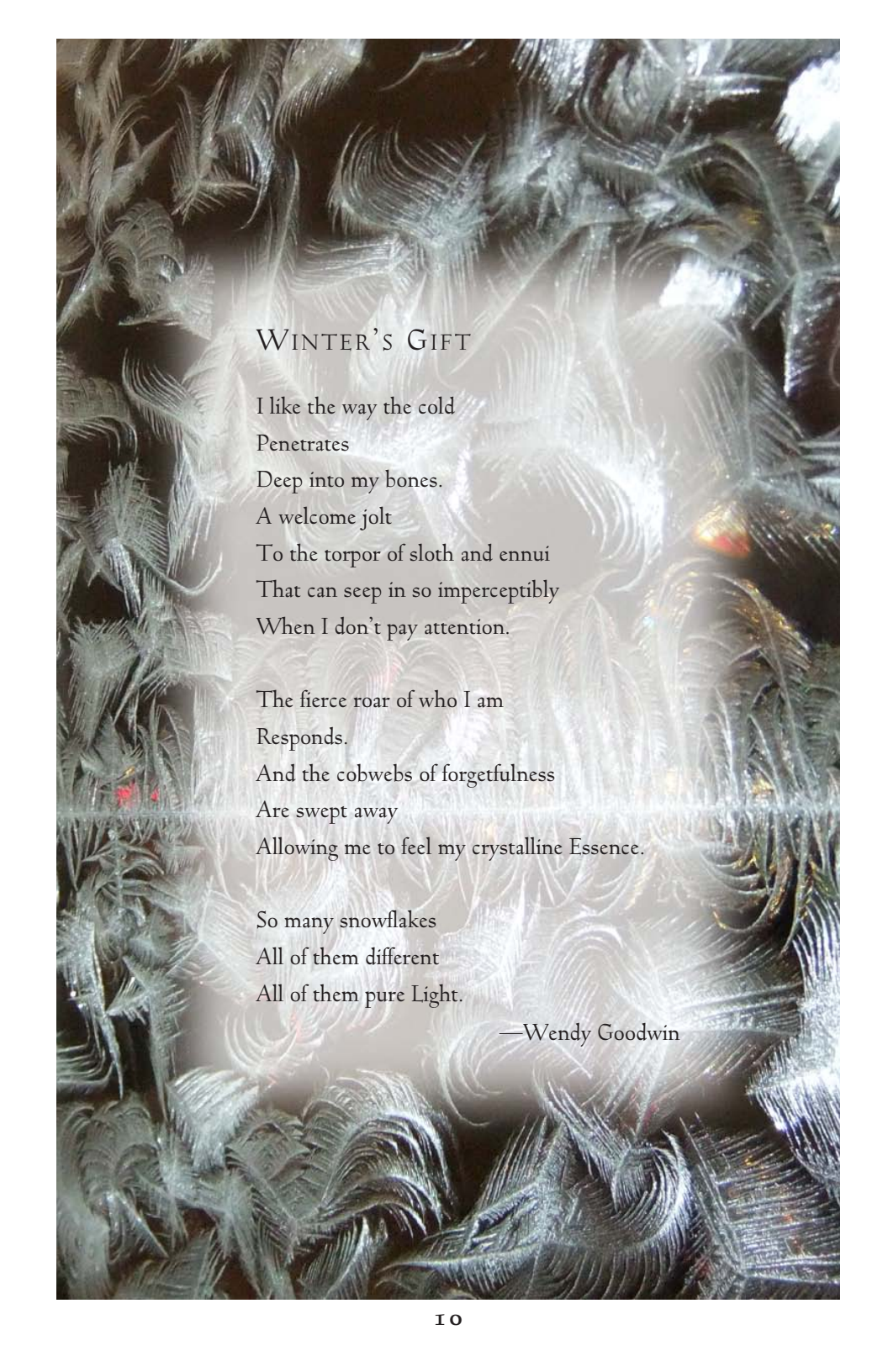
Interested? Know someone else who might be? Contact

Ginny Heidke – ginny pots@comcast.net or 989-7272

Dottie Neuberger – fdneuberger@middlebury.edu or 388-7613

Ginny Sinclair – vsinclair@ripton-coop.net or 388-4304 (w)

Let one of us know when you'd like to help – what dates, what times. Please note that part of the task is packing the meals, so non-cooks are needed as much as our gourmet chefs.



WINTER'S GIFT

I like the way the cold
Penetrates
Deep into my bones.
A welcome jolt
To the torpor of sloth and ennui
That can seep in so imperceptibly
When I don't pay attention.

The fierce roar of who I am
Responds.
And the cobwebs of forgetfulness
Are swept away
Allowing me to feel my crystalline Essence.

So many snowflakes
All of them different
All of them pure Light.

—Wendy Goodwin

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

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

JOANNA COLWELL has been very busy lately, so busy that it's been hard for her to get to the task of assembling the News of Quakerly Interest for this newsletter. So I will step in and do what she seldom considers important—briefly update you on news of Joanna!

After quite a long time of giving generously to her students, friends, and family, Joanna was able to take some time for her own education and refreshment in January. She attended a 5 day intensive yoga retreat at the Kripalu Center in Lennox, MA, studying with celebrated teacher Kofi Busia. This man, born in Ghana and Oxford educated, enlightened and entertained his students during five hours of yoga practice each day. He so impressed Jo that she hopes to bring him to her own studio in the future. Wonderful food, saunas, and the chance to hear lectures by Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield rounded out a lovely week.

On return Joanna was asked to deliver a sermon at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Her talk, *Finding Freedom*, was well received by the congregation. She discussed yogic philosophy, had them do some simple yoga, and got a few good laughs!

— Win Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)
Becky Stratton (388-2487)

Treasurer

Laura Asermily
266 Washington St. Ext.
Middlebury, VT 05753

Co-Treasurer

Spence Putnam
575 Morgan Horse Farm Rd
Weybridge, VT 05753

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

388-9478

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)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Sas Carey (388-1301)

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