

Middlebury Friends Meeting

February
2011



FEBRUARY 2011

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.
- Tue. Feb. 1 1:30 PM Fellowship Committee at Carol's Hungry Mind
- Sat. Feb. 5 9 AM-4 PM Retreat: Living a Life of Prayer, led by Mary Kay Glazer, at Tom Baskett's in Bridport, 758-2055
- Sun. Feb 6 8:30 AM Worship and Study Committee at Havurah
- Mon. Feb 7 7 PM Women's Group at Cheryl Mitchell's, 545-2278
- Wed. Feb 9 7 PM Men's Group at 26 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT (Doug Bicklin's new House)
- Mon. Feb. 14 4:30 PM Committee on Outreach & Social Action (COSA) at the Dickinson's, 388-2594
- Sun. Feb. 20 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business

The poet lights the light and fades away.
But the light goes on and on.

— EMILY DICKINSON

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

16 January, 2011

Clerk: Stewart Kirkaldy
Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker
assisted by Win Colwell

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Grace McGrath, Fran Putnam, Chris Stackhouse, and Jill Stackhouse.

11.1.01 Minutes for 11/21/10 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

11.1.02 Treasurer's Report (from Jill Stackhouse & Laura Asermily)

Two reports were submitted, for the months of November and December, 2010.

1. "During the month of Nov. 2010 the Meeting had an income of \$740. The income for the comparable period last year was \$863. Total income for the fiscal year 2010 through Nov. is \$5705, which is \$2885 ahead of this same period last year. Expenditures during November totaled \$143.77: Childcare \$90, Newsletter printing \$14, First Day School supplies \$39.77. The bank balance at the end of November was \$7341.40, which includes \$1,602.80 in the carry-over surplus fund."

2. "During the month of Dec. 2010 the Meeting had an income of \$1595. The income for the comparable period last year was \$1900. Total income for the fiscal year 2010 through Dec. is \$7300, which is \$2580 ahead of this same period last year. Expenditures during Dec. totaled \$3775: Ticonderoga Meeting \$200, child care \$150, as well as all of our remaining benevolences with the exception of the Clergy Fund & Quaker Camps & Conferences. The bank balance at the end of Dec. was \$5161.40, which includes \$1,602.80 in the carry-over surplus fund.

"Expenses paid in Jan 2011 total \$1249.00. Jan. bank balance to date is \$4342.65. Remaining expenses for our fiscal year is \$3737.23. Projected income based on our average monthly donations is \$7766.49. If we look at our total projected income & our current bank balance and deduct our remaining budgeted expenses for our fiscal

year it would seem that we would have some monies available for unbudgeted donations.”

FOLLOW UP: With designated benevolences paid for this fiscal year, it was decided to allocate an additional \$2,000 to additional requests for financial support. 1) Specific donations were approved for CVPS Share Heat fund for \$1,000, Friends China Camp for \$300 and Peace and Justice Center for \$200. 2) It was decided to form an Ad Hoc committee to review the many requests received by our co-treasurers. This committee, consisting of co-treasurers Jill Stackhouse and Laura Asermily as well as Manya Dickinson and Stewart Kirkaldy, will meet and report at February monthly meeting.

11.1.03 Worship and Study Committee (Tom Baskett; minutes from Becky Holmes, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. *State of the Meeting* meeting will be held on January 23rd at Laura Asermily’s home. Tom will be the facilitator; Win will be the recorder. Notable quotation from this discussion: “Together we have a wisdom that individually we lack.”
2. *Living a Life of Prayer* retreat will be led by Mary Kay Glazer, on February 5th at Tom Baskett’s home in Bridport. Attendees are asked to RSVP to Tom so he knows how many to expect.
3. *Funds for 2nd Sunday*: Heather Potter has requested \$150 for her 2nd Sunday 1st Day program for supplies, snacks, books, etc. The committee approves the request. Tom will check at Business Meeting about where the money should come from.

FOLLOW UP: \$150 will be paid from the line item for Children’s Program

4. *The Unitarian Universalist Teen Curriculum*: We await word of the start date for the teen Popcorn Theology curriculum. Becky gave Tom copies of a sample curriculum unit to show the Business Meeting.

FOLLOW UP: It was decided that W & S should talk with the 5 Quaker youth, between the ages of 13 and 18, who would be eligible to be a part of this program. If these young Friends, and their parents, wish to participate in the program, we will continue to pursue this opportunity.

5. *Friendly Forum*: The committee decided to skip the February FF since the retreat is the forum in a sense. Tom will do another FF on mysticism in March. Tom will ask in Meeting for Worship if there is anyone who would like to lead an FF in April.

11.1.04 Fellowship Committee (from Fran Putnam, edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. *Report and assessment of December Quarterly Meeting*: There were 18 people in attendance at the Saturday night potluck, including about 6 people from other meetings. There were enough volunteers for this event and it went smoothly. There were 25 people in attendance at breakfast, 47 at Meeting for Worship, and 30

for lunch at the Counseling Service building, including 11 from other Meetings. There were approximately 15 people at Meeting for Business.

The logistics of being in two different locations were tricky, but there were some advantages. Using the Counseling Service space was handy because there were two rooms, one for the lunch and one for the Business Meeting. Parking was ample. Perhaps another year the entire schedule should take place at this building to make for simpler logistics.

We learned from the QM clerk that we need to make our plans well in advance the next time we host. We noted that the Hanover Meeting had a handout at the December Quarterly Meeting with a complete plan for the March Meeting, which they are hosting.

Because planning for and hosting a Quarterly Meeting is a large responsibility involving several of our standing committees, the Fellowship Committee suggests that a special committee be formed at our Meeting for Business at least 6 months in advance to coordinate the next Quarterly Meeting we host. We suggest that the Co-clerks be in charge of this task and that one of them sit on the committee.

2. *Newly formed Friendly 8s* have been notified and a convener appointed. These groups will meet for 4 months and then decide if they want to meet again.
3. *Potlucks*: The College Quakers will host a potluck on January 14 at the French House. We propose a potluck in February to discuss the Minute from Wilderness Meeting concerning a perceived bias against Muslims in this country. The Quarter has asked us to discuss this Minute and report on our discussion at the next Quarterly Meeting, March 5 and 6. We need someone to host and someone to lead the discussion. FOLLOW UP: Tom Dickinson will scan the Minute and send via Listserv. Fran Putnam will seek a host for the potluck.

11.1.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. *Quarterly Meeting* in December went well, and our draft minute on FUM policies was accepted for consideration by Quarter. Later in December we sent a slightly revised version of the draft along with an introduction, to be published in the *Nor'Wester*. We believe Middlebury Meeting should continue to press for a minute on FUM policies from the Quarter.
2. *A concern about sexual ethics* was initiated in Yearly Meeting by the youth group who ask for guidance and support as they encounter contemporary sexual culture at school and social activities. Several Monthly Meetings have had discussions and surveys on the subject. We agree that this is an important (and difficult) matter, and will suggest it as a topic to be taken up in our Meeting.
3. We discussed how to become more engaged with the *wider Quaker community*. We are starting a project to seek and share the experiences of members of MFM who have participated in Quarterly and Yearly Meeting activities, in action groups

like AFSC and FCNL, and in retreats and workshops. We are also considering encouraging visits to other Meetings in our area to see what goes on there.

4. Recently there has not been much action by our Meeting as a whole on peace issues, although individual members continue to be active. Ways in which our Meeting could bring peace issues to the community include letters to the editor, a more active connection to the Peace and Justice Center, and a continuing presence at the Middlebury Peace Vigil.

FOLLOW UP: We discussed the Minute on FUM Hiring Policy. A brief discussion considered whether Yearly Meeting's concern on sexual ethics should be resolved before acting on the minute. It was agreed that we should proceed now. The minute was reread, and several possible changes to wording were considered. After reviewing the history of the statement it was the belief of the group that it has sufficiently 'seasoned' and that no further changes were necessary at this time. The Minute was approved in the form transcribed here:

MINUTE FROM MIDDLEBURY ON FRIENDS UNITED MEETING HIRING POLICY
January 2011

Middlebury Friends Meeting wishes to go on record as opposing the personnel policies of Friends United Meeting. These policies do not reflect our sense of what we believe constitutes a loving, caring attitude towards those Friends who are gay or lesbian.

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, national origin, 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 community.

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.

— End of Minute —

We thanked the committee for its hard work on seeing this process through.

Monthly meeting closed with a moment of silence.

A ONE-DAY RETREAT: LIVING A LIFE IN PRAYER

On Saturday, February 5, the Worship and Study Committee is offering a one day retreat (9 AM to 3 PM) led by Mary Kay Glazer to be held at Tom Baskett's house in Bridport on the theme of prayerful living.

During the day, we will explore what it means to live each moment in that place of prayer; in other words, what it means to pray without ceasing (1 Thes 5:17). Many of us, regardless of our age, background, personality, feel a call to engage in new ways with God – as we understand and encounter God - in prayer. The more we sink into prayer, the more we become aware of God's presence – and the more we become aware that God is present always and at all times.

Living in prayer is profoundly counter-cultural, but it does not have to be somber or boring. The more we live in prayer, the more boldly the Spirit moves in and through us, leading us into surprising places. So, rather than give in to the temptation to act first and pray if there is time, we will explore how a life of prayer keeps us in touch with the Source who leads us – and keeps our good works grounded in God's transforming call and invitation, fulfilling in them God's promise of faith, hope and love springing forth from the Living Water.

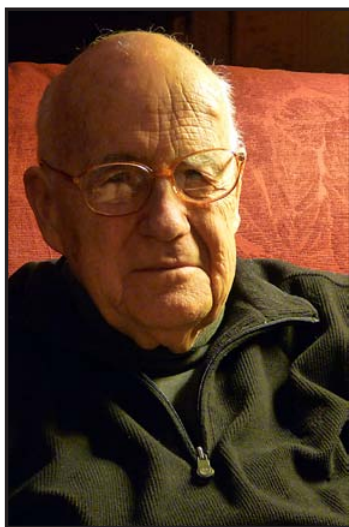
In our time together, we will practice and play with living in that place of prayer. All approaches to prayer are welcome. We will hear from each other how prayer is manifest in each of our lives, and in listening to one another, we will surely learn from one another.

Please RSVP to Tom (trbaskett@gmavt.net) if you plan on participating and plan to bring your own lunch. Beverages will be available if you let Tom know what you want. The address is 1008 Hemenway Rd. in Bridport. Call for directions if necessary (758-2055). Tom will let participants know who you are so that you can car pool from Middlebury.



Stewart Kirkaldy

Though he was born in England of Scottish parents, Stewart came to the US in 1951, seeking “new experiences.” A graduate of the University of Edinburgh Medical School that year, his first position was as a rotating Intern at Fall River Hospital, MA. This was a random choice from a list of hospitals giving Fulbright scholarships. New England seemed a good match since he didn't want to go West or into the South. During that year he met and married Frankie, his wife of 55 years, until her death in 2007. He also met and was befriended by a Quaker surgeon, Frank Lepreau, who would come to have a great influence in his career.



After this, Stewart spent two years as a Medical Officer in the RAF, and a year as a Training Assistant in Family Practice in Yorkshire. He realized that in the United Kingdom becoming a “partner” in a practice was a long and frustrating process and decided to settle in Canada. But first he decided to do a year of Surgical Residency to broaden his skills. He found a job position in Nova Scotia where he spent four years, not very happy ones. His discontent came to the notice of Frank LePreau, who persuaded, encouraged, arranged and assisted him in obtaining a Massachusetts Medical License.

In 1960, Stewart, Frankie and their sons, Andrew and Peter, moved to Westport, MA, where Frank LePreau lived and was Clerk of the local Friends Meeting. At that time, the Westport Meeting was semi-programmed with a very brilliant Mennonite student-pastor. On their first Christmas eve, the Kirkaldys were surprised by carollers on their front lawn, who turned out to be from the First Day School of the Meeting. The pastor very gently invited them to come to Meeting, which they did. They both felt completely at home in the first exposure, Stewart says, and they rarely missed a Meeting after that experience.

The medical practice flourished, and new buildings and additions followed. In his last five years in Westport, Stewart was a Town selectman. Frankie and Stewart moved to Middlebury after retiring in 2000, mostly to be near their family, but also because Stewart was afraid that after retirement he would be stopped in the street by his many former patients asking for medical advice.

Here he keeps busy working at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington as a docent and unofficial librarian. Stewart's interest in birding goes back 70 years,

starting with observation of Jackdaws, and little Owls nesting in a hollow tree in his backyard, where pairs of Blackbirds and Thrushes also found nesting sites. The Fen country where he lived was flat, wet and low-lying and bicycling to see wildfowl was his joy.

Stewart volunteers in the Research Center of the Sheldon Museum currently studying railroad development here, but also organizing family letters donated to the Museum. He participates in the Everybody Wins program at Mary Hogan School. Now co-clerk of our Meeting, he is also active in the Meeting's Community Outreach and Social Action Committee.

An Invitation from the Ticonderoga Worship Group

Please consider joining the Ticonderoga Worship Group for Sunday afternoon worship. Come early for a ski or walk with Mark Moss and/or Mary Kay Glazer and/or Martin Glazer. And, you are welcome to also stay for a simple dinner after worship. We heartily welcome visitors!

TICONDEROGA WORSHIP GROUP
Under the care of Middlebury Meeting

4:00 Sunday afternoons
In the chapel of St. Mary's Catholic Church
Fr. Jogues Place
Ticonderoga, NY

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Winslow Colwell

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

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Laura Asermily

266 Washington St. Ext.

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Jill Stackhouse

12 Seminary St

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9224

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)

We welcome your submissions! — win@wcolwell.com

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