

Portland Friends Newsletter

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FIRST MONTH 2013

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship

Sundays 10:30am

Religious Education

2nd & 4th Sundays:

Adults 9am, singing 10am,
youth 10:45am

Visit our website

PortlandFriendsMeeting.org

Friends to contact

Co-Clerks

Anne Harwood 666-8179
Sarah Cushman 841-7186

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 780-0349
58 Hillis Street
Portland 04103

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940
14 Drew Road
South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 883-0573

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Kate Potter 761-1648

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor &
David Spector 774-2578

Religious Education

Adults: Brad Bussiere-Nichols
772-1774

Youth: Shuli Bonham 619-4787

Youth RE Coordinator

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com



"There is a principle that is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages has had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity." —John Woolman

Advices & Queries

"Ask yourself: Am I down in the flaming center of God? Have I come into the deeps, where the soul meets with God and knows His Love and Power? Have I discovered God as a living Immediacy, a sweet Presence, and a stirring, life-renovating Power within me? Do I walk by His guidance ... knowing every day and every act to be a sacrament?" —Thomas Kelly

(From revised Ch. 11, New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, preliminarily accepted)

Upcoming Events

Jan 18-20 Junior High Yearly Meeting retreat, Westport, MA

Jan 20-21 Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation MLK day events

Jan 25-27 Junior Yearly Meeting retreat, Wellesley, MA

Feb 2 FCNL lobbying training, PFM 12:30pm-4:30pm

Maine War Tax Resisters annual meeting and workshop, Augusta

March 23 Mid-Year Gathering of New England Yearly Meeting, PFM 9:30am-7pm

"Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God's Purposes"

Monthly Events:

1st Fri/Sat: Art Walk Friday, art play Saturday 10am-noon. Kathy Beach, 233-2065

1st Sunday: Meeting for Business, 9am

2nd Saturday: Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm Marnie Grumbach, 749-9666

2nd & 4th Sun: Singing & Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45am

4th Friday: Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm. Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762

There are members and attenders who need rides to Meeting and other support during times of difficulty. If you need or can provide rides, food, or your silent presence at home meetings for worship, please leave a message for Shannon O'Connor, 774-2578.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail items to:

Anna Barnett
835 Congress St., Apt. 2
Portland, ME 04102

OR email items

to Anna Barnett
abarnett@gmail.com
Phone: 523-0314

Send address change

details to Tony Scillipoti
tscillipoti@maine.rr.com

Deadline for receiving newsletter items: Friday after business meeting or sooner!

Portland Friends Meeting for Business

January 6, 2013

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 29 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Anne Harwood read quotation from Thomas Kelly included in *Advices and Queries*: "Ask yourself: Am I down in the flaming center of God? Have I come into the deeps, where the soul meets with God and knows His Love and Power? Have I discovered God as a living Immediacy, a sweet Presence, and a stirring, life-renovating Power within me? Do I walk by His guidance... knowing every day and every act to be a sacrament?" A brief discussion followed.

2. Clerk's Comments: Anne spoke about the recent death of Russell Libby, farmer, environmentalist, and Executive Director of MOFGA for 17 years. She read a poem he wrote entitled, "A Pledge".

3. The minutes of December 2, 2012 Meeting for Business were accepted.

4. Treasurer's Report:

a. Kathy Beach reported that we ended the year 2012 with a surplus of \$3,407. Our total annual income was \$61,862, or 86% of budget, and our total annual expenses were \$58,455, or 81% of budget. Financial Oversight recommends that we use the surplus towards capital improvement expenses in 2013. We accepted the report for 2012 and the recommendation for use of the surplus.

b. Presentation of the Budget for 2013. The phone budget has been increased to \$1700 because the 2012 phone expense was \$1693. The Library budget of \$200 has been combined with the \$1000 Archive budget. Donations to NEYM have been increased by \$500. We plan to donate monthly to NEYM. It was pointed out that individuals may also donate directly to NEYM. We approved the budget as proposed for 2013.

c. Funds that are available for capital improvement projects for 2013:

Barbie Potter bequest: \$6,200
Funds in People's United: \$18,000
Fundraising: \$1,500
Budget Surplus: \$3,407
TOTAL: \$29,107

Treasurer's Report at a glance:

12 months = 100% of the year
Total income: \$61,862 (86% of budget)
Total expenses: \$58,455 (81% of budget)
Budget surplus: \$3,407

Friends approved making the above money available for capital improvements as necessary.

5. Building and Grounds Committee (Liz Maier/Syl Doughty): Syl Doughty presented a Capital Improvements Report giving brief outlines of proposed capital improvements to the Meeting house, listed in recommended order.

For budget purposes a current single quote was obtained for each element from known contractors with the capacity for the work.

The first proposal is to replace the existing roofing with new roofing. The present roof is deteriorating more quickly than might be anticipated from a roof of this age. Damage to the roof and running repairs undertaken by Brad Bussiere-Nichols can be clearly seen by looking at overhead pictures of the Meeting house on Google maps' satellite view. The likely cause of this rapid deterioration is inadequate ventilation when this roof was installed. Also included is a proposal to provide a fully ventilated double layer roof with new roofing, which would prolong the life of the new roof. The estimate obtained for simple replacement of the roof was \$16,000. If enhanced ventilation were to be included, the estimate was \$20,000. The meeting approved the option of spending the larger amount of money to prolong the life of the roof, subject to finding out from the manufacturer the estimated extent of that prolongation, and left the decision to the discretion of Building and Grounds Committee.

The second proposal was to pave the parking lot, water line, and left side extension. This is recommended in order to stabilize the surface so that gravel is not washed into the catch basin, blocking it up, and also to repair the surface area of the parking lot where the water line was replaced last year. A single estimate for budget purposes was obtained from Bayside Paving of Portland for \$ 34,000. Concerns were expressed about the amount of paving, and questions asked about the possibility of using gravel or underground drainage or absorbent asphalt, which may be more expensive options. Another question of leveling the parking lot was raised, but there would still be a run-off problem. Our gravel has been washing into the catch basin. This could be dealt with on a temporary basis by running some asphalt across the bottom of the driveway. The feeling was that this whole question needs more seasoning and the meeting asked that it go back to Building and Grounds for further discussion in that committee. It may be that a threshing session is needed.

Discussion of proposals three and four concerning basement flooring and the heating system was deferred for another day.

Continued: Meeting for Business, January 6, 2013

6. Stephanie Richards reported for Ministry and Counsel:

- a. We welcomed new members to the Committee: Nathan Broaddus, Denis Lachman, Lea Sutton, and our new Meeting Clerk Sarah Cushman. We are thankful to and appreciative of those committee members who have finished serving: Kate Potter, Jenny Doughty, Lee Ivy, and to our outgoing Meeting Clerk Muriel Allen.
- b. Work will begin on the State of Society report in January.
- c. We have been busy with a number of Clearness Committees for Membership and for Marriage.
- d. We would like to bring a recommendation for the Marriage of Shannon O'Connor and David Spector to take place under the care of the Meeting. Their Oversight Committee comprises Ann Harwood, Becky Steele, and Doug McCown. This was approved with joy.
- e. Request by Lorraine Hoyt to resign her membership. This was approved with regret.

7. Nominating Committee: Chris Beach reported for Nominating Committee and asked for approval of individuals added to various committee lists during December, and named committees where volunteers are still needed – Cemetery, Earth and Spirit, Pastoral Oversight, and Adult Religious Education. New committee members were approved. During January, Nominating Committee intends to focus on identifying two individuals to fill vacancies on Nominating Committee during 2013. They have some people in mind and will soon ask them if they would be willing to serve. The list will be sent to the newsletter for publication.

8. Midyear Gathering of NEYM: Dorothy Grannell reported that New England Yearly Meeting will hold its Midyear Gathering at Portland on March 23rd, jointly sponsored by Friends World Committee for Consultation and New England Yearly Meeting. The program will begin at 9:30 am and extend through dinner to 7 pm. The guest speakers are Simon Lamb and John Fitzgerald, who are from the evangelical unprogrammed tradition.

Portland Friends and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Friends will be called upon to help make this challenging opportunity possible. There will also be a sign up list in the foyer setting out areas where help is needed.

9. Other Business: A memorial meeting was held in the meetinghouse yesterday for Henry Myers, who was one of the architects of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Thanks were expressed to Stephanie Richards and Any Grannell for help with food and parking respectively.

We closed in silent worship purposing to meet again for the purpose of Business on Feb 3, 2013 at 9:00am

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Doughty, Co-Recording Clerk

2013 Individual & Committee Responsibilities at PFM

Approved January 6, 2013

Co-Clerks of Meeting	Anne Harwood & <i>Sarah Cushman</i>
Co-Recording Clerks (Bus. Meeting)....	Lyn Ballou & Jenny Doughty
Recorder (Meeting's official records) ...	Lise Wagner
Treasurer (Operating Account)	Kathy Beach
Treasurer (Contributions)	Sue Nelson
Treasurer (Special Funds)	Sara Jane Elliot
Reviewer of Financial Records	Beth King
Special Needs Fund	Chris Beach & Elizabeth Szatkowski
Youth Religious Ed. Coordinator.....	Anne Payson
Nursery Religious Ed. Coordinator....	Jessica Eller
Meetinghouse Use Coordinator	Jane Mullen
Back-up Person	Patricia Pyle
PFM's Nominees to FSP Board.....	Andy Grannell
Egroup Coordinator	Mary Beth Walsh (back-up = Patricia Pyle)

basic font = continuing from 2012
italics & underlined = new in 2013

* = Clerk or Convenor

_____ = position to be filled

Continued: 2013 Committees at PFM

Committees

Ministry & Counsel (meets 3rd Thursday, 6:30, Back Classroom)

Nathan Broaddus ('13), Jim Maier ('14), Stephanie Richards ('15), Christine Fletcher ('13), Arthur Fink ('14), Lea Sutton ('15), Dee Kelsey ('13), Lyn Ballou ('14), Denis Lachman ('15)

Peace & Social Concerns

*Jennifer Frick, Sydney McDowell, Tom Tracy, Becky Steele, Doug McCown

Financial Oversight

*Rita Clifford, Terry Garrett, Dorothy Grannell, Doug McCown, Jo Linder, Kathy Beach (*ex officio*), Sara Jane Elliot (*ex officio*), Sue Nelson (*ex officio*)

Communications

Newsletter: *Anna Barnett, Marion Lundgren, Liz Maier, Tony Scilipoti, H.D. Wagener

Website: Tony Scilipoti, Arthur Fink, Rich Nagle, Anna Barnett, Sam Solish

E-group Coordinator: Mary Beth Walsh (Back-up: Patricia Pyle).

Recording Announcements: 1st Sun: Chris Beach, 2nd Sun: Colleen Crowley, 3rd Sun: Marnie Grumbach, 4th Sun: Janet Lohmann, 5th Sun: Christine Fletcher

Buildings & Grounds (meets 3rd Sunday, 9:15, Kitchen)

*Liz Maier, Dorothy Coyle, Syl Doughty, Stacey Pickering, Karin Wagner, H.D. Wagener, James Grumbach (winter only), Tracy Booth (summer only)

Helping Hands: Ed Robinson, Kathy Beach, Chris Beach, Doug McCown

PFM Resource Committee for FSP

*Stefanie Fairchild ('13), Kiya Smith ('13), Chris Beach ('14), Terry Garrett ('14), Sarah Davis ('15), Anne Payson ('15)

Library & Records

*Karyl Sylken, Colleen Crowley, Stephanie Richards, Andy Grannell

Cemetery

*Ed Robinson, Andy Grannell, Al Schryver, Karyl Sylken, _____

Earth & Spirit (meets 3rd Sunday, 9:15, Back Classroom)

*Barbara Rose McIntosh, Mary Brock, John Radebaugh, Ed Robinson, Aaiyn Foster, _____, _____, _____

Pastoral Oversight (meets 3rd Sunday, 9:15, Parlor)

*Shannon O'Connor & *David Spector, Sue Calhoun, Morgan Grumbach, Kristina MacCormick, Al Norton, _____, _____

Hospitality

*Heidi Johnson (refreshments), Marlee Turner (friendly suppers), Muriel Allen & Karin Wagner (welcome newcomers)

Adult Religious Education

*Brad Bussiere-Nichols, *Sandi Jensen, Andy Grannell, Marlee Turner, Tom Antonik, _____

Youth Religious Education

*Shuli Bonham, Chris Fitze, Susan Lavigne, Obie Philbrook, Lise Wagner, Britanny Cook, Heather Denkmire, Anne Payson (*ex officio*), Jessica Eller (*ex officio*)

Teams to Clean Up & Close Meetinghouse after Meeting for Worship

1st First Day of month: *Chris Beach & Kathy Beach

2nd First Day of month: Jen Frick & Peter Raszmann + Brad Bussiere-Nichols & David Travers

3rd First Day of month: Marnie Grumbach & Morgan Grumbach

4th First Day of month: Marion Lundgren & H. D. Wagener

5th First Day of month: Christine Fletcher & Richard Nagel

Leadings

Patricia Pyle, Brad B-N., Lise Wagner, Muriel Allen, Sandi Jensen

Nominating Committee

 (To be reconstituted in February of 2013)

*Chris Beach ('13); *Elizabeth Szakowski ('13); Stefanie Fairchild; (13) Rob Levin ('14); _____ ('14); _____ ('14)

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A letter from Tom Ewell

October 18, 2012

Dear Beloved members of the Portland Friends meeting,

I send warm greetings to you. I am sorry it has been too long since I have worshipped with you, but I have not been in Maine during a weekend for some time. I miss you!

Last month our little Whidby Island worship group was approved by the quarterly meeting to become a monthly meeting, something we've been working toward for five years. So it is now time that I can request a transfer of membership from the Portland Friends Meeting to the Whidby Island Friends Meeting. I would appreciate a formal recognition of this transfer to present to our meeting here. See the enclosed.

I am not sure when I joined PFM, but I believe I have held membership with you for at least thirty years. That's a good deal of my life, and I am deeply grateful for this long affiliation. I will always consider part of myself ever with you. Thank you for all we have shared.

Cathy and I have been in Washington for six years now, and we are well settled into our community and our continuing commitment to Friends. I have just completed a size year term of leadership with FCNL and a three year clerkship of our Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy (modeled after its Maine namesake!). I am now going to focus on my leadership statewide on criminal justice reform and building up our little Friends meeting -- you at Portland are my inspiration!

Blessing to you, my dear Friends,

Tom

Discernment about the Doctrine of Christian Discovery

At last year's NEYM Sessions we had a presentation on the Doctrine of Christian Discovery and were asked to go back to our Monthly Meetings to discuss this issue. This work is particularly meaningful for our meeting because of our recent participation in the forum about Maine's Truth and Reconciliation Process with Maine's Abenaki people.

The Doctrine of Christian Discovery is a legal principal arising out of a series of "Papal Bulls" elucidating "the rights" of Christians traveling to non-Christian lands issued in the 15th Century beginning in 1452. It formed the justification for genocide, slavery and the seizure of land occupied by non-Christian peoples. It has been cited in legal proceedings in this country as recently as 2005.

There is now a movement to have the Doctrine of Christian Discovery repudiated, and a number of denominations and at least three Yearly Meetings have already done so. You can read more about it in an article in the Fall *New England Friend*, currently available at <http://newenglandfriend.neym.org/>

When we discussed this at December's Meeting for Business we decided to have Adult Religious Education plan to have at least one session devoted to this topic, so that we may enter into discernment and let our voices be heard when this is again addressed at NEYM Sessions next August. --*Margie Schoeller*

Quaker Studies classes in Winter 2013



Dear Friends,

Quaker Studies has some wonderful opportunities for learning this January and February. I hope you will want to share what's relevant with your meeting and consider participating yourself. If you are within an hour's drive of the Boston area, you may want to consider our local programs. Contact me if hospitality would make it possible for you to participate!

And online, we have 2 programs that are follow-ups to last year's Reading Early Friends series. "The Apocalypse is within you" and "James Nayler". "Plain Worship, Four Puzzles" is Eric Edwards' experiment in deepening worship using online resources and community. It's part of the "Cracked Open" series that NEYM M&C is supporting.

Where can you learn more? <http://www.bhfh.org/qsp/> provides full descriptions, info about tuition aid, online registration and payment, and downloadable fliers. If you'd like fliers to share with your meeting, please contact me!

Blessed holidays and a happy (and learning-filled) new year!

Sarah Spencer

What's happening with climate activism in Maine?

Wendy Schlotterbeck of Durham Friends Meeting is active with the group 350 Maine, a local branch of 350.org. Along with many other environmental groups, 350 Maine is working on a number of climate change issues in Maine. Wendy writes with an update about the campaigns and how to get involved.

For more info, see 350 Maine's website (www.350maine.org) or facebook page (www.facebook.com/350.Maine). You can also contact Wendy at schlotterbeck@roadrunner.com or 777-1980.

350 Maine current issues and actions:

- A proposed **tar sands pipeline from Canada through New England** - runs along the Androscoggin River and past Sebago Lake. This plan puts Maine waterways and ocean fisheries at risk.
- The proposed **East/West Corridor**, a private 2000' road/right of way through the center of Maine. Land could be taken by eminent domain and the project would threaten air and water.
- Proposal to build a **14-story liquified petroleum gas (LPG) tank** on the coast in Searsport
- Support of **Bill McKibben's DO THE MATH tour** urging colleges and others to divest from fossil fuel companies.
- On Jan 7 an action took place at **TD Bank North** in Portland to protest their heavy investment in the oil industry, especially Tar Sands extraction - see the 350 Maine facebook page for more info.



Get involved -- upcoming events:

- Jan 19, 12-2pm: Greenbelt Walk, walking part of the oil pipeline in South Portland.
- Jan 23: Actions planned around the state at Congressional Offices and Banks to keep Maine tar-sands free. At least one in Houlton will collaborate with Idle No More, an activist group started in Canada by First Nations. Check out the 350 Maine facebook page or webpage for more info.
- Jan 25, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00): *Chasing Ice*, an award-winning documentary about melting ice, will be shown at Space Gallery in Portland, followed by a discussion and party at the Empire Dine and Dance (sponsored by Camden Film Festival and 350 Maine).
- Jan 26, 12pm: Rally in Portland's Monument Square to oppose the Tar Sands Pipeline through the Northeast. Hear speakers at the Square, then march to the Maine State Pier. Activists from all over New England will be coming. This should be a big event with participation by many organizations across Maine and the Northeast, and we'd love to make it as big as possible.
- Feb 17: President's Day Rally In Washington DC to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline. There will be buses going sponsored by Sierra Club. We hope to get 20,000 people.

--Wendy Schlotterbeck, schlotterbeck@roadrunner.com, 777-1980

Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation - MLK day events



Sunday, Jan 20: Martin Luther King dinner

Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 96 Harlow St., Bangor, ME

6pm: vegetarian potluck; 7pm: speaker Esther Altwater Attean (Community Organizing Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission).

Free and open to the public. More info: 942-9343

Monday, Jan 21: Martin Luther King breakfast

9am, Winthrop Congregational Church, 10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME.

Esther Altwater Attean and Denise Altwater speaking



Lobbying training

Make your voice heard in Augusta and Washington

February 2, 12:30-4:30pm, Portland Friends Meetinghouse

Want to get more involved with talking to your legislators but aren't sure how? Already experienced, but want some expert advice and practice to polish your skills?

Learn how to make your voice heard effectively in Augusta and in Washington, DC. You'll receive training, sample materials for lobbying visits, and hands-on practice sessions to practice your new skills.

This exciting workshop features a great panel of speakers and trainers: Jim Cason of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL); Dick Wagner, a Quaker who has recently left the Maine state legislature, and Leslie Manning, a Quaker active in many circles, including the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy and the Maine Council of Churches.

We will cover both federal and Maine legislative processes, with pointers on grassroots advocacy, in-person lobbying, and follow-up tips.

All are welcome, but space is limited, so sign up quickly!

RSVP to: PortlandFriendsPSC@gmail.com or by phone to 813.451.7220.

If you know of any other organizations that might be interested in co-sponsoring and sending participants, please let me know. Friends and non-Quakers are equally welcome. --*Becky Steele*

Also Feb 2: Maine War Tax Resisters annual meeting and workshop

"If you work for peace, don't pay taxes for war"

"No Taxes, No Wars"

"Not in Our Name, Not with Our Money"

You are invited to attend the annual Maine statewide workshop and gathering of war tax resisters and supporters on Saturday, Feb 2, at the Mediation and Facilitation Resources building, 11 King St., Augusta, ME (off State St. south of Capitol building, turn at Pat's Pizza). *Snow date:* Feb 3, same time and place.

The agenda includes workshops for resisters and supporters, a potluck lunch, and planning to promote war tax resistance and excite people in Maine about how not to pay for war.

More info: Larry Dansinger, Maine WTR Resource Center, 525-7776, rosc@psouth.net



NEYM-FWCC Mid-Year Gathering at Portland Friends Meeting - March 23

“Let the Living Water Flow!”



Simon Lamb

“At its best, a Quaker meeting can welcome someone wherever they are, no preconditions. But the Quaker experience is a poor one if it is not eventually transformative.” So say Simon Lamb and John Fitzgerald of Northern Ireland, who will be guest speakers and facilitators at New England Yearly Meeting’s Mid-Year Gathering, to be held at Portland Friends Meeting March 23.

Do we recognize the Spirit as it flows through us? How are we transformed? How do we respond? These queries and more will be explored at the gathering. Mid-Year Gathering this year is jointly sponsored by NEYM



John Fitzgerald

and FWCC, and follows the FWCC theme: “Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God’s Purpose”.

The program will begin at 9:30 am and extend through dinner to 7 pm. Onsite registration begins at 8:30 am. Cost is \$40 per person. Since building space and parking is limited, both early registration and carpooling is recommended. No children’s programming or child care will be offered. Those Portland Friends who want to attend and need financial assistance should contact the PFM clerks about the Adult Scholarship Fund for Friends Activities.

Volunteers needed!

Portland Friends and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Friends are being called upon to help make this challenging opportunity possible. Online registration will begin in early February through the www.neym.org web site. However, Dorothy Grannell dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com will take names and information from Portland Friends who want to help on one of the following ways.

- Provide overnight hospitality for the guest speakers
- Provide overnight hospitality for Friends from a distance who want to attend the gathering.
- Be a resident host at the meetinghouse for those individuals sleeping at PFM in sleeping bags
- Help with set up of the building on Friday, March 22 in the afternoon BEFORE 5 pm
- Help with clean up on Saturday evening after the event
- Pick people or return them to the Portland bus and train station.
- Direct people to designated parking areas
- Assist with meal and snack clean up
- Facilitate a small group discussion
- Registration helper Saturday morning

To volunteer, contact Dorothy via e-mail dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com, call 878-8698, mail 43 Delaware Ct, Portland, ME 04103. Or complete this form and give it to her or place it in the box on the table in the foyer.

PLEASE CHECK or circle ALL THAT APPLY

Your Name, e-mail and/or telephone _____

Address of your home for hospitality _____

___ Overnight Hospitality ___ March 22, ___ March 23, ___ number of beds YES, NO have pets

___ Host at Meeting House ___ March 22 ___ March 23

___ Set up Meeting House March 22 (afternoon) ___ Clean up Meeting House 7 pm March 23

___ Clean up ___ AM Snack, ___ PM Snack, ___ Saturday Lunch ___ Saturday Dinner

___ Parking Assistant Saturday, March 23rd, 8:30 – 10 am ___ Registrar on Saturday 8:30 – 10 am

___ Small Group Facilitator (requires preparation before event)

First Day School News

What's happening with the kids? Anne Payson and Lise Wagner will be giving us updates over the year.

Portland Friends Meeting is blessed with a vibrant First Day School community of some 30 children and volunteer teachers. The vitality of our First Day School is even a topic of conversation at other meetings! Thanks to Will Kessler, Jim Maier, Jonathan Ewell, Heather Denkmire, Caroline Clavel, Lise Wagner, and Elizabeth Szatkowski, children are learning about Quaker testimonies, how to build community, and racial justice.



There is always news to share about these wonderful kids. Many attend NEYM youth retreats, even elementary age children, and the teens are such a bonded group that they get together outside of meeting to have fun. Some will be moving on after this year – Quinn Lavigne to Smith College, and Abby Reuscher to Haverford College.

Some are not even here this year – Jake Griffin is a Rotary exchange student in Finland, where he has made contact with some Quakers in Helsinki. Cordelia Payson is also a Rotary exchange student in Brazil, where she has yet to find any Quakers.

The children had a wonderful time at the beginning of December during the first annual Cookie-making Extravaganza! The products were enjoyed by many at rise of meeting, including some of our elders who were sent home with tins of yummy cookies for later. We look forward to more collaboration with other committees this spring to help our children learn more about our community.

Adult Religious Ed update: Prayer and the historical Jesus

This week (Jan 13) we plan to continue our focus of the past two adult religious education classes on Prayer. Our sharing has been open, honest, and rich! Here are the advices and queries that we have used to prompt our discussion.

From Advices and Queries in the new revision of Faith and Practice:

"Make space in your daily life for communion with God and for spiritual nurture through prayer, reading, meditation, and other disciplines which open you to the Spirit."

1. Do you remember your earliest experiences with prayer? What were they? How do you feel about them now?
2. How would you describe prayer? Do you think it is the same as "holding in the light"?
3. Do you have an active prayer life? Do you pray with any regularity now, whether verbal, silent or some other form of expression?
4. Mary Glenn says, "Prayer keeps us alive spiritually. There has to be growth in any relationship to keep it alive. The same is true in our relationship with God." Is this your experience?
5. Do you communicate with or practice the presence of God or Spirit in ways other than with words?
6. Do you wish you knew how to pray?
7. Has prayer ever carried you into a sense of oneness with the Divine? Have you ever felt you were in God's presence spontaneously, without praying?

On January 27, we will begin a series of classes on the historical Jesus, based in part on the PBS Frontline program "From Jesus to Christ." This program is available to watch online [HERE!](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/watch/) (or you can copy and paste this link: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/watch/>). While this is not required viewing to participate in our class, you will have a better sense of direction in our discussion. What do we know now of the Jesus that lived, and how has the story of Jesus Christ developed and changed over the centuries? Where do Friends fit in all of this? Please join us Jan 27 at 9am (promptly) in the meeting room.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

Address Service Requested



Please recycle this newsletter.

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Notices

Friends Camp brochure online

Friends Camp, the Quaker summer camp in China, ME, has put out a beautiful paperless brochure for Summer 2013: tinyurl.com/friendscamp2013

Online registration is now open at www.friendscamp.org

Job opening: FUM Global Ministries Director

Friends United Meeting (FUM) is seeking qualified applicants for the Global Ministries Director position. This full-time, Richmond, Indiana-based staff person will receive a competitive salary, including benefits.

A complete job description is available on the FUM website at www.fum.org or by contacting the FUM office at info@fum.org or (765) 962-7573. Applications will be received through January 31, 2013. Contacts with finalists and interviews will be scheduled after the close date, with an anticipated start date in Spring 2013.

Anne Harwood painting at MECA

Anne writes: I have been taking painting classes at Maine College of Art (MECA). Currently, I have a small landscape painting in the show for continuing ed students at MECA. This show will be up throughout the month of Jan., ending on Feb. 1 after the First Friday Art Walk.

Greeters wanted

Ministry and Counsel welcomes people to serve as greeters at the front door each Sunday before worship. This involves arriving by 10 am, greeting people as they enter, welcoming newcomers and a number of other small and pleasant tasks. If you would like to participate in the life of our Meeting in this small but significant way, please contact anyone on Ministry and Counsel.