

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Tenth Month, 2014

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

First Day School: 2nd & 4th Sundays 10:45a

Connections

Co-Clerks

Sarah Cushman 841-7186

Andy Grannell 878-8698

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 391-6116

60 Shadagee Road, #2

Saco, ME 04072

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940

14 Drew Road

South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 749-9706

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940

Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Stephanie Richards 829-4082

Lyn Ballou 865-3888

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578

Christina Davis, 518-0784

Religious Education

Adults: Sandra Jensen, 839-2372

Youth: Susan Lavigne, 775-0626

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414

mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com

Newsletter

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"In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said 'As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me...'"

*(from The Kabarak call for peace and ecojustice approved April 24, 2012
at Friends World Conference, Kabarak University, Nakuru, Kenya)*

Calendar

October 16: 6:00 pm Pot Luck at Portland Friends Meeting
7:00 pm Program: Marian Baker "Empowering East African Women," Photos, discussion and sale of African Crafts

October 25-26: All-Meeting Retreat, Alfred, ME

November 1, 9-3: Falmouth Quarter Meeting at Durham Friends

November 14-16: Young Friends Retreat - "Make Food, Art, Music (Not War!)," Portland Friends Meeting

November 21-23: JYM Youth Retreat "God's Yeast: A Bread Retreat," Westport Monthly Meeting

Monthly Events

Every Sunday:

10:30a Meeting for worship (for all ages)

Every Wednesday:

5:30p Meeting for worship

2nd & 4th Sundays:

10:30a children in Meeting for worship

10:45a First Day School

2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sundays:

10:00a all ages singing before worship

2nd Saturday:

5-8p Youngish adults potluck

Jock Carter jockel.carter@presumpscott.com

4th Friday:

3:30-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen

Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

**Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting
October 5, 2014**

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on October 5, 2014 at 9 a.m., with 16 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which Dorothy Grannell, acting for co-clerk Andy Grannell (who was sick and unable to attend), read The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice of 24 April 2012, which begins "In past times God's creation restored itself."

We found the minutes of our September 2014 meeting to be in good order with the addition in the Ministry and Counsel report of the words "was approved" after the name of Mabel Peterson, and the elimination of "e" in the name of Douglas McCown.

1. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are nine months or three quarters of the way into the 2014 budget year. Now that Meeting attendance is back in full swing, our expenses are greater than they were during the summer months, but donations are lagging behind these expenses. Total expenses are 64% of budget while donations are only 49% of budget. We also face soon substantial expenses for Buildings and Grounds work and insurance

Income for September was \$3,817. Expenses were \$5,555. Total year-to-date income is \$37,174, or 54 % of budget, and total year-to-date expenses were \$42,515 or 62% of budget. The balance for the year to date is negative \$5,344. Financial Oversight Committee asks that Friends consider giving their end-of-year donations at this time.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
Nine months — 75% of 2014**

Year-to-date Income	\$37,174
Percent of Budget	54%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$42,515
Percent of Budget	62%
Balance	(\$5,344)

As we aim for 100% participation in supporting the life of our meeting, please consider making a donation—in any amount—before the end of the year.

Kathy also reported on the Committee's consideration of the over-budget expense of Earth and Spirit Committee for the visit of Betty the Bus to the Meeting, which was \$142 (budget of \$100; expense of \$242). It will remain on the Earth and Spirit line 35 so that we have transparency about what occurred. Friends accepted the report.

2. **Ministry and Counsel.** Stephanie Richards reported.

Membership. The committee recommends that the Meeting approve the transfer of membership of Christine Fletcher from Celo Meeting in North Carolina to Portland Friends Meeting. Friends warmly approved.

Recruiting Greeters. As part of a process to "democratize" the greeter function beyond only members of M&C, a sign up list will be circulated on occasion. There is a list of simple tasks that the Greeter performs, and we encourage pairs to sign up. This is a wonderful way to gain greater familiarity with members and attenders.

Annual Retreat. Friends are reminded of our chance to get to know each other more deeply and in a different setting at the October 25-26 retreat. It will take place at the Notre Dame Spiritual Center in Alfred, which is surrounded by orchards and a Shaker Museum. The theme is Passion and Spirituality and the program features large and small group activities and discussions, Meeting for Worship, and a Saturday night talent show. Emily Kelsey will head up a program for children. An equalization fund will provide scholarships. A flyer for sign-ups is available in the lobby.

3. **Nominating Committee.** Muriel Allen reported that the committee has nominated Kirk Read to serve on Ministry and Counsel Committee filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Nathan Broaddus (who needs to attend to the final year of his master's program at USM). Friends approved the nomination and thanked Nathan for his service.

minutes (continued)

- 4. Adult Religious Education.** Dorothy Grannell reported that no-one has come forward to convene this committee and there is therefore no program for next week. Nominating Committee would like to hear from interested Friends. It was suggested that perhaps each other committee could share their work on Adult Ed Sundays. It was also urged that we offer a session on how to become a member. Lise Wagner for Youth Religious Education offered to share speakers who may be coming to visit young Friends. Another idea would be to offer Bible study, or the Journal of John Woolman, or writings of Margaret Fell.

It was also suggested we have a worship sharing session next Sunday on the question "what is our spiritual need?" Arthur Fink offered to facilitate. Friends approved this idea and we scheduled worship sharing for 9a.m. Sunday October 12.

- 5. Youth Religious Education.** Anne Payson reported on this year's program, which began last Sunday. There are approximately 25 children. All teachers have returned. The teens are focusing on Quakers in history and the others are working with the SPICES curriculum on Quaker values. Friends thanked Anne for her work as Religious Education Coordinator. Friends are excited to hear that all teachers have returned, and mentioned how much they were moved by the entry of the singing children last Sunday.
- 6. Meeting Website.** Dorothy Grannell has encountered problems with the website as recently as this morning, and mentioned the possibility of a hacker. The banner for the Wednesday Meeting for Worship needs to be put back on after the summer. Dorothy will speak with Rich Nagle about the banner and security. Jock Carter was suggested as a possible helper as he is skilled with websites.
- 7. Falmouth Quarter.** Dorothy Grannell presented. Falmouth Quarterly Meeting will meet on November 1, 2014 at Durham Friends Meeting for the conduct of business and a short program. Ministry & Counsel will meet at 9:15 am followed by worship at 10:45, light lunch provided by Durham Friends, program "Walking Faithfully: an exercise in spiritual conversation", and business at 1:30. Decisions will be discerned concerning officers, budget, All Maine Meeting as well as other items.

We appointed the following people as our representatives to Ministry & Counsel and business meeting. For Ministry and Counsel: Stephanie Richards. Business Meeting: Marlee Turner. We will seek a second representative during announcements after meeting. All Friends are invited to attend.

- 8. Other Business.** Sam Solish reported on the groundbreaking for the Friends School of Portland yesterday, which included a huge sand pile full of happy children. Lise Wagner commented there was an interesting report by the Head of School on the climate-friendly nature of the building.

Marian Baker (from New Hampshire) will be speaking about Empowerment of Women in Uganda and Tanzania on October 16 at our Meeting. Potluck at 6, program at 7. There will be a sale of African crafts to benefit Kakamega Orphanage. We may offer this program to the general public.

We closed in silent worship at 10: a.m. with 26 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on Sunday November 2, 2014.

Care of our Meetinghouse
The kitchen needs a 12 cup
coffee maker and a couple of
2 quart juice pitchers if you
would like to make a donation.





"SPICES" in sticks and leaves by the Middles at the First Day School opening day celebration

A message from First Day School's "middles" (ages ≈7-12)

Familiar to so many of you, the Quaker values —"SPICES"—will guide our classroom activities and conversations throughout the year. Jonathan will call on his work at the Friends School, and Heather will bring her interest learning! Silent soccer, community story-telling, and other activities will be a part of the fun. As always, the children will lead us.

(We will also ponder how the value of "Truth" relates to SPICES.)

Do you know 7-12 year olds who might be interested? Please invite them to join us!

—Jonathan Ewell and Heather Denkmire

Simplicity testimony

An early Quaker, John Woolman, put it like this: 'live simply, that others may simply live'. Early Quakers felt they should live simply, tending to real needs and avoiding luxuries. They were aware of the poverty around them, and that resources needed to be shared. For Quakers in the affluent West today, simplicity of lifestyle is hard. But the testimony is there to challenge us.

Peace and nonviolence testimony

George Fox and other early Quakers soon saw that since all protagonists in any situation of conflict have that of God in them, it followed that war could not be appropriate, and joining the military was unacceptable. Conscientious objection was a consequence of this.

But most conflicts are not in war settings and peaceful, nonviolent ways of dealing with these are equally essential to Quakers. This may be in their daily lives, but it is also about helping others caught up in conflict, and working for it in the wider world through the UN and many other channels. Quakers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for such work.

Integrity and Truth testimony

Quakers have always been clear that honesty in all their dealings was fundamental. Early Quaker artisans and shopkeepers soon acquired a reputation for honesty and fair prices. Their integrity was a key factor in their great success in business and banking in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Another manifestation of this testimony is often called 'speaking truth to power'. Quakers are exhorted not to stand by, but to speak out about injustices they see.

Equality testimony

Quakers soon saw that since there was that of God in everyone, all must be treated equally - men and women, master and slave, employer and employee.

Quakers quickly saw the equal humanity in prisoners, and Elizabeth Fry and many others soon became involved in prison reform and criminal justice. Quakers are particularly active nowadays in systems of restorative justice.

Community testimony

This is fundamentally about responding to the needs of others. Working for criminal justice and rehabilitation and for victims of crime, is part of this. The relief programmes Quakers have undertaken in times of famine, disaster and conflict, are another aspect. Seeking justice for refugees and asylum seekers, also witnesses to this.

Stewardship testimony

This is a relatively new concern as a separate testimony, though strands of it are implicit in the testimonies listed above. Now that we are all much more aware of the need to take care of our planet for future generations, it is emerging as a testimony in its own right. A global consultation is underway about how Friends should be responding, and whether Quakers have something distinctive they can say.

source: <http://www.quakersintheworld.org/home/testimonies.html>

First Day School news:

The Youth Religious Education Committee is delighted that all our volunteer teachers are returning. They are Lindy Hankins and Chris Fitze (young elementary), Heather Denkmire and Jonathan Ewell (older elementary and middle school), and Elizabeth Szatkowski, Janet Lohmann, and Lise Wagner (teens).

How to Donate to Portland Friends Meeting

New members and attenders often ask how to donate money to the Meeting, as we don't do a weekly collection that they might be used to.

There are several ways to donate and the most popular for donors and most helpful to our ongoing monthly expenses is to set up a regular monthly contribution through their online bank accounts. This is very simple to do, especially through online bill features. If you don't bank online, you can go into your bank and ask them to help you set a monthly contribution amount from your checking or savings account, much the same way as you might have set up automatic mortgage or car payments.

If you prefer writing a check and mailing it to the Meeting, please make your check payable to Portland Friends Meeting and mail to the Meeting House at 1837 Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine 04103. Sue Nelson's email is snelson8@Maine.rr.com if you have questions.

If you have stock investments and want to donate a gift of stock to the Meeting, we have a simple process for this. Please contact Kathy Beach at katherinegbeach@gmail.com for details.

To make an occasional cash or check donation, there is a donations box in the front hall beside the door to the Meeting room.

We welcome and appreciate donations to our Meeting Operating Budget and encourage participation from everyone.

Blessings,

The Financial Oversight Committee



Please join Friends School of Portland for the next event in our **Parenting for Peace** speaker series, *Envisioning a Sustainable Future: A Discussion with 3 Maine Thought-Leaders*, taking place on Wednesday, October 15 at 7pm in Carter Hall at FSP. We are excited to host Seth Silverton, founder of The Woodchop School, community organizer and sustainability educator, Brooklyn Friends School graduate; Naomi Beal, Director of PassivhausMAINE, advocate for reducing the carbon footprint of our built environment, Earlham College graduate; and Stacy Brenner, owner of Broadturn Farm, expert in community-centered organic farming and farmland preservation, George School graduate. This event is free and open to the public--invite a friend! Please visit our website for more information: <http://friendsschoolofportland.org/parenting-peace-0>

Are you interested in learning more about Friends School of Portland? Please join us for our **FAMILY OPEN HOUSE** on Saturday, November 1, 10:00am-12 noon. Tour the school with a student tour guide, learn about our programs and Quaker education, and get a feel for our culture of joyful learning. Spend time with teachers in their classrooms and speak with current parents. For parents and prospective students in preschool through 8th grade who are interested in admission for Fall 2015.

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting of Friends

Saturday, November 1, 2014
Durham Monthly Meeting of Friends
532 Quaker Meetinghouse Rd.
Durham, ME 04222

Fall Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Schedule

9 - 9:15 am arrive

9:15 - 10:30am **Falmouth Quarter Ministry & Counsel**

Co-clerks: Daphne Clement and Kristna Evans. Each Meeting should send representatives from its Ministry and Counsel to participate in the Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel

10:45 - 11:45am **Worship**

11:45am - 12:30 pm **LUNCH**

Soup, bread, beverage and dessert will be provided by Durham Friends. You may want to bring something to share for morning coffee.



12:30 - 1:15 pm *Leslie Manning "Walking Faithfully" An exercise in spiritual conversation.*

Please join us for a brief program on making spiritual connections and enjoying each other's stories. This is an exercise that you can take back to your Meetings and share with them!

1:30 - 3 PM **Falmouth Quarterly Meeting for Business**

Agenda

- I. Old Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes from April and July Meetings (see attached please post)
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- II. New Business
 - A. Proposed Budget for 2015
 - B. Presentation of Slate of officers and committees for 2015
- III. Report from Ministry & Counsel
- IV. Visitation Report - Marlee Turner
- V. All Maine Meeting May 1-2
 - A. Location recommendations
 - B. Program recommendations
 - C. Funding recommendations
- VI. Joint Meeting with Dover Quarter - Structural Review for Quarterly Meetings, Saturday, March 29, 2015
 - A. Appoint representatives from Meetings/Quarter to attend
- VII. Other Business : MCC "Love your neighbor...Feed the Hungry"
Reports from other committees - Beacon Hill, Maine Council of Churches
- VIII. Announcements

If your Meeting has Memorial Minutes to be read, please bring them or send them ahead to Dorothy Grannell, dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com or 43 Delaware Ct, Portland, ME 04013



Member Profile: Kirk Read

Where did you grow up?

Mostly in Upstate New York, outside of Ithaca. My family spent summers in Maine for a lot of my youth. My mother was invited to sing in concerts at Ocean Park and they kept coming and eventually retired there.

Go to school?

I attended a rural central High School in Dryden, NY. Undergraduate at Dartmouth and graduate school at Princeton.

What do you do for work?

Associate Dean of the Faculty at Bates College; Professor of French and Francophone Studies.

What are your favorite things to do?

Spending time with family; cooking and baking; singing (I sing with a group called Renaissance Voices in Portland); playing tuba (occasionally in the Bates College orchestra); photography; writing (I've done about 15 essays for Maine Public Radio); traveling...

Are there people close to you you'd like to tell us about? Pets?

My family is very close: wife, Camille Parrish; daughters Hannah (26 working in New York City for a non-profit social services agency) and Alice (24 in Missoula, MT for graduate school). I have a brother in Arundel. All of my wife's and my parents are deceased.

Tell us about the spiritual journey that brought you to Portland Friends Meeting.

My father was a Presbyterian minister and I grew up going to church every week at least once with a life constantly punctuated by youth groups, services, church camps and potlucks. The performative aspect of this was not entirely pleasant: my Dad loathed preaching (he was a wonderful minister) and the anxiety was a constant worry. I had read a bit about Quakerism in High School and decided to attend meeting when I went off to college. Hanover meeting in New Hampshire was a wonderful introduction. I instantly felt I had found my spiritual home. My wife and I were actually married under the combined oversight of Portland Friends and Willistown, PA meeting in 1985 (we met teaching at Wilmington Friends School in Wilmington, DE). Jean Fine and Richard Bowman were our overseers from Portland.

What kinds of things would you like to do in our community?

I'd be happy to serve on Ministry and Counsel or help with the school-related group--given my association with Quaker schools many years ago.

Is there something about you which might surprise us?

I'm sure there is, but I'll leave that for a surprise...

What question would you like to be asked?

"Where do you find love and joy in your life and how can we help nourish that?"

What question would you ask of us?

"Where do you find love and joy in your lives and how can I help nourish that?"

**Friends Committee
on National Legislation's
Quaker Public Policy Institute
November 20-21
Grants for Young Adult Friends**

The Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund has set aside grant money to help interested Young Adult Friends from New England travel to and participate in this event.

This year, attendees will be lobbying congress on the importance of diplomacy in the Middle East as an alternative to war, right before the end of the diplomatic negotiations with Iran.

Anyone with questions about QPPI can contact Shannon Palmer at Shannon@fcnl.org.

To apply for funds, send the following information in a word document to Phebe McCosker by October 20th

1. Who you are and why you are interested in attending QPPI
2. What relationship you have to the Religious Society of Friends
3. The expected costs of your registration and transportation, and your expected personal contribution to those costs.

Spiritual Journeying

There are openings in a Spiritual Journeying group and the possibility of forming a new group. Please call Kate Potter (761-1648) for information.

These small (four or five women and men, maximum) groups meet monthly and are truly confidential. Three groups have been quietly meeting for many years. We gather to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit and to each other in a structured format so that each person has time to share. The groups are not substitutes for therapy and do not teach theology. But they offer space and time to enter the contemplative stream, strong in so many religions throughout the ages.

Portland Friends Meeting Invites You
to its **Annual Weekend Retreat**
For Friends and Families

Passion and Spirituality

Exploring what spirituality calls us to do in the modern world

Consciousness
Worship
Prayer
Social Justice
Meditation
Transformation
Environment
Our Stories

PFM Retreat
October 25-26, 2014
Notre Dame Spiritual Center
Alfred, Maine
Children's Program with Emily Kelsey

.....
Registration form (please print clearly)

Names of all adults using the same address:

Address with zip code:

Telephone:

Email:

Children (include ages):

Please circle ONE: Ride Needed Ride Offered Neither

Please circle ONE: Prefer Single Room Sharing Room Either

Please circle ONE: Need Scholarship of \$ Don't Need Scholarship

Special needs or diet:

We will try to honor your special requests, but cannot make guarantees. Please keep in constant contact with us (see below) in advance if you have any absolute requirements.

Prices: Adult: \$90 ▲ Children 4-16: \$50 ▲ Children 0-3: free ▲ No Pets, Please

Amount enclosed: Adults: \$ + Children 4-16: \$ +

Donation: \$ = Total: \$

Please make check payable to Portland Friends Meeting and give check or mail to:

David Spector, 56 Yale St., Portland, ME 04103.

All registrations and refunds must be completed by five days before the retreat.

For more information, contact David Spector at 207-774-2578 or pfm@nsrusa .

(Ver. 3)

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, November 5th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

