

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Eleventh Month, 2015

Meeting for Worship: Sundays, 10:30a
Wednesdays 5:30p

Adult Education, First Day School: 2nd & 4th Sundays



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org
207-200-6544

Connections

Co-Clerks

Andy Grannell 878-8698
Liz Maier 883-5420

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

Lyn Ballou 865-3888
Lea Sutton 642-2327

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Christina Davis 518-0784
Al Norton 899-3001

Religious Education

Adults: Sandra Jensen, 839-2372
Youth: Sarah Peterson, 504-0974
Youth Religious Education Coordinator:
Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698
dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com

e-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
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Newsletter

submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

address change details

Tony Scilipoti

tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

"Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God?"

Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity?"

Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all?"

Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings?"

Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake??"

New England Yearly Meeting, 1985 Faith & Practice, III: Advices and Queries

Calendar

November 20-22: JYM Youth Retreat, Westport Monthly Meeting, Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Days

November 20-22: Young Friends Youth Retreat, PFM, Confronting Inequality: Racism & Privilege

December 4-6: JHYM Youth Retreat, Woolman Hill: How Does the Truth Prosper in Thee? (A Bread Retreat)

December 6: Advent Garden Walk
Portland Friends Meeting, 4:15 PM

Monthly

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for Worship

1st Thursday: 4-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen,
Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

1st Sunday: 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Bart Czyz, btczyz@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

2nd & 4th Sundays: Adult Religious Education, First Day School

Save the date!

women's retreat at
the meeting house-
March 18 and 19 2016.

**Portland Friends Meeting for Business
November 1st, 2015**

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began with 24 members and attenders present, when co-clerk Liz Maier read Query number 11 on Stewardship that begins: "Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God?" We spent a while in silent and expectant worship.
2. The minutes of October 4th 2015 Meeting for Business were accepted without any changes.
3. Kathy Beach gave the Treasurer's Report. Donations for October were \$3,275, with a total income for the month of \$4,233.

Total expenses for October were \$7,012. This leaves us with a negative balance of \$2,778 for this month.

In the year-to-date our total income is \$39,533 and total expenses \$48,700 leaving a negative balance of \$9,167.

We're back in the red once again, so we have some big catching up to do as the year comes to a close. We have some substantial pledges that are expected to come in this month, but it would be wonderful if everybody could donate whatever they can, no matter how small. Many small donations add up quickly.

Last month we discussed the fact that line 10, fuel, is now at 150%, well over what was budgeted for the year. Syl Doughty has been looking into this and discovered that beginning in November 2014 the amount of energy we have been using rose sharply. He is in the process of investigating the cause of this sudden rise.

Gratitude was expressed for the clarity of financial reports presented to the meeting.

4. Lyn Ballou reported for Ministry and Counsel. At the behest of Jenny Rowe, head of Friends School of Portland, they would like to make the worship at Friends School of Portland an annual September event, using the same format of two meetings with child care available at both, and a potluck at Friends School of Portland afterwards. The meeting approved this idea.

Ministry and Counsel approved Shirley Hager's request to transfer her membership from PFM to Winthrop Center Friends Church.

They are working on an adult education session on vocal ministry for December.

Ministry and Counsel would like to ensure everybody has a chance to read the newsletter, and reminding people that some paper ones will be available in the lobby. People who would like to receive a copy in the mail are asked to call or email Heather Denkmire, whose details are in the newsletter. Friends are encouraged to read the wonderful profiles in the newsletter and to offer their own profiles. Suggested questions can be obtained from Heather Denkmire.

5. Rob Levin reported for Nominating Committee. The committee lists are under way. Lea Sutton was heartily approved as co-clerk for next year. Jennifer Frick was nominated for a three year term on Ministry and Counsel. Peace and Social Concern has acquired two new members, Nathan Broaddus and Sophie Szatkowski. These were approved. Marion Lundgren does the mailing of the paper newsletter and should be added to the Communications Committee list.

Some committees could use more volunteers: Buildings and Grounds, Youth Religious Ed, and Adult Religious Ed. However, the Religious Ed committees would prefer their members to be recruited in June as they function during the school year, September to June. Nominating Committee are willing to change the term on their sheets to July to June for informational purposes, but committees other than Ministry and Counsel and Peace and Social Concerns were encouraged to recruit their own new members. Some other corrections were made to committee lists.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
Ten months — 83% of 2015**

Year-to-date Income	\$39,533
Percent of Budget	59%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$48,700
Percent of Budget	73%
Balance	(\$9,167)

(cont-)

(continued from page 2)

6. Arthur Fink reported for Adult Religious Education. He confirmed that they would like more people to join the committee. There have been lively discussions at ARE sessions, but they have been small. Child care is not automatically available but can be. They welcome ideas from members and attenders who would like ARE sessions on particular issues. They look forward to the discussion on vocal ministry in December. Next week there will be a session on Friends and the Bible, and a session on November 22nd will look at the spiritual basis of care for the Earth. There will be no meeting on December 27th, but there will be a session on January 10th on artistic creation as a spiritual practice, and later sessions on Friends and business, Friends and mental illness, the miracle of meeting for Business, Quaker outreach and evangelism. Appreciation for the work of the ARE committee in preparing such a lively set of topics was expressed.
7. **Any Other Business.** It was noted that several people on Ministry and Counsel are not members of PFM, indicating that not everybody who is active in meeting is a member. A committee on Ministry and Counsel is looking at the issue of membership. They are currently looking both at the packet of information for people considering becoming members, and looking at all the processes involved in this throughout the meeting. Ministry and Counsel were requested to put this issue on the agenda for a future business Meeting, and the meeting approved a suggestion that Ministry and Counsel give an update on their progress at December meeting for business.
8. **Announcements:** There is an event at Durham Friends on Sunday Nov 8 about Black Lives Matter, 1:00 – 3:30PM. The program is facilitated by Roland Gibson.

On November 12th at 7pm Ministry and Counsel are attending the Donna M Loring lecture at UNE on "Racism in Maine: Beyond Black and White."

YRE are looking for a new co-ordinator to replace Jessica Eller.

November 22nd there will be a teen group retreat at PFM.

The same weekend there will be a meeting on the theme of "Turning Toward Truth: Forging a New Understanding of Thanksgiving" at 4-5pm at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 6 Williams Street in Augusta, sponsored by the Capital Area Multi-Faith Association, aimed at moving toward right relationship with the Wabanaki people.

Next Saturday is Quarterly meeting at Falmouth Quarter. Ministry and Counsel meets at 9.15 am, and worship at 11 am. Take your own lunch, and Friends from PFM are asked to bring a beverage or dessert to share.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Doughty, co-recording clerk.

Advent Garden, Sunday December 6, 4:15 PM

In the midst of the rush of the holiday season, you are invited to enter into a space of silent wonder.

All are invited to join children and families on Sunday, December 6, at 4:15 PM for the annual Advent Garden in the Meeting room. One by one children will walk along the spiral of fragrant evergreens boughs, light their candle at the center, and place it next to the boughs. Adults can participate after the children. Listen and watch as the glow spreads during this wonderfully peaceful ritual.

Light refreshments to follow - finger sandwiches provided, please bring other finger food to share.



Library Corner

Quite a few books have been added to our Quaker library. Several are additions to our **Youth** section, some of which a parent will want to read to, or with, their child.

I Love You, Sun, I Love You, Moon by Karen Pandell, illustrated by Tomie dePaola, is a simple board book for very young children, which includes some surprising things to be grateful for, such as a rock, a wolf, a sheep, a bird, and a fish. At the end, the text says "I love you, earth, and You love me." Tomie dePaola's simple, appealing art makes this a charming book.

My Book Of Thanks by B.G. Hennessy, is a simple book describing blessings from God, e.g. "Thank you for me. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for my friends. Thank you for the earth." Each Thank You has an appealing drawing on the facing page, and is followed by an Advice to children such as "Help me to take care of (the earth) for you. Help me grow strong in body, mind, and spirit. Help me to be kind to (my friends). Help me to comfort those who are lonely." Wonderful book for ages 4-9.

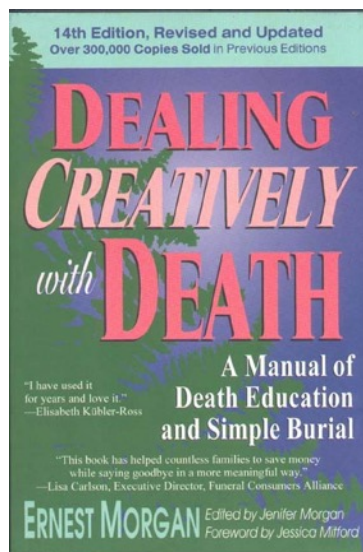
Because of You: A Book of Kindness by B.G. Hennessy, is another simple book with appealing illustrations on facing pages of the text. The text is a celebration of each child: "Each time a child is born, the world changes. Because of you there is one more person who can love and care for others. When you help, care, share, and listen, you are being kind. When people from different countries help, care, share, and listen to one another, it is called peace. Even with something as important as peace begins with something small and precious. It might begin because of you." Again, a wonderful book for ages 4-9.

Swan in Love by Eve Bunting, is a transformational story of a swan who falls in love with a wooden swan boat. His animal friends tell him it is wrong to love someone different from you, but the swan is steadfast in his devotion. He feels deeply that love is never wrong. Swan keeps hearing a voice from on high, saying that he is a faithful swan who has found the answer. The ending is ambiguous but touching. A memorable story on diversity and love. Ages 4 up.

And God Cried, Too: A Kid's Book of Healing and Hope by Marc Gellman, is a child's version of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People". The book is told from the viewpoint of a young angel in training, who is helped by a wise old angel. Issues addressed include 9-11, the loss of a pet, is it okay to be mad at God?, and what to say to a sad friend. The young angel learns how to hold on to hope and faith during difficult times. The title story is touching. Can be read with a parent or by the child alone. Ages 8 up.

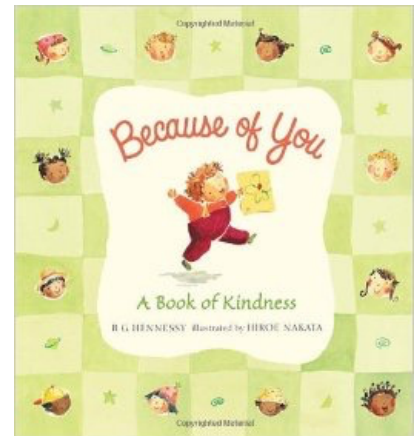
Added to our **Bible** section is "Tomie dePaola's book of Bible Stories, a collection of Old and New Testament stories (from the New International Version) told verbatim, with no changes in the text. Each set of facing pages has an illustration in dePaola's simple, appealing style. A detailed Table of Contents helps the reader quickly find the desired story or psalm. Parents may want to be aware that Abraham's offering his son Isaac to God is pictured, with Isaac bound with rope and a knife in Abraham's hand. That is why we are shelving it with Bibles, rather than in our Youth section. The crucifixion scenes are less intimidating and subtle. Can be read by parents to children, or by older children alone.

In our **Life: Death** section we are adding "Dealing Creatively with Death: A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial" (14th edition, revised and updated), by Ernest Morgan. Endorsed by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, and written by a Quaker, this book deals straightforwardly with dying, hospice, simple burials, organ donation, bereavement, and suggestions for readings and music for memorial services.



A practical yet kind book In our **Life: Parenting** section will be "10 Principles for Spiritual Parenting: Nurturing Your Child's Soul" by Mimi Doe and Marsha Walch. In this liberal, earth-centered book, chapters include "Trust and teach that all life is connected" and "Allow and encourage dreams, wishes, hopes." Each chapter includes helpful sub-headings, with guided exercises for children and parents, and affirmations for each. This is a hopeful, touching book with advice on slowing down the hectic pace of modern life.

In our **Life: Healing From Trauma** section will be "Don't Forgive Too Soon: Extending the Two Hands that Heal", written by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn, and Matthew Linn, well-known authors on prayer. The authors start with the revolutionary impact of Jesus urging that we turn the other cheek when struck. A punch to the face was the blow for underlings; by turning the other cheek, you force the attacker to slap your cheek, an act reserved for equals. Similarly, walking the second mile confuses and discomforts the oppressor, as the law stated that a soldier could only force a peasant to walk one mile. The authors then present the five stages of forgiveness, similar to Kubler-Ross's 5 stages of dying. The steps are meant to release you from the victim role, and the other person from the oppressor role---standing up for one's rights and being forgiving at the same time.



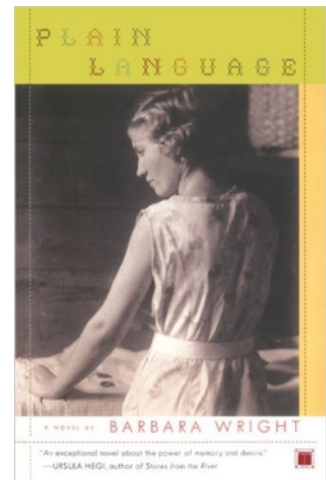
Library Corner (cont-)

In our **Creative Expression** section, the novel "Plain Language" by Barbara Wright, tells of a Quaker woman who marries a non-Quaker, in Colorado in the years of the 1930's Dust Bowl. On an isolated ranch, they must adjust to the hard realities of a ranching life, and to the differences between them. A subplot involves taking in the woman's brother who suffered Traumatic brain damage, and whose strengths are only rarely seen. This is a beautifully told tale of a family's struggle with love, loyalty and loss.

In our **Jesus** section, will be "Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography" by John Dominic Crossan, which explores the human aspect of Jesus. Crossan emphasizes the revolutionary act of welcoming all sorts of people into his circle, breaking the usual norms of who is appropriate to associate with.

These books are currently in our New section, near the door, along with an equal number of other new books.

Karyl Sylken, Library Committe



Upcoming Adult Religious Ed. Topics: More Bible Exploration, Earth Care and Vocal Ministry

The Adult Religious Education committee invites you to attend our upcoming classes, always held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 9-10 am. If you need child care please contact Jessica Eller (761-6508 or ellerfitze@yahoo.com) ahead of time to arrange a child care worker.

On **Nov. 8** we will be continuing our discussion from the last class on Friends and the Bible, but it is not necessary that you attended that class. If you have a favorite Bible verse or one that might be problematic or that you have questions about, please bring that to add to the discussion. Friends have many different views on the Bible, from "I find it inspiring and read it often", to "it's not my thing", to "I don't trust the language to be telling the truth with so many interpretations and translations". Whatever your view is, it is welcome and will add to our understanding.

On **Nov. 22** we will focus on what the Bible may say about stewardship or care of the Earth and our relationship with the natural world we live in. The basis of this discussion will be the inspiring Bible Half Hours that were given by Maggie Edmonson (pastor at Winthrop Center Friends Church) at the 2011 New England Yearly Meeting Sessions. You can find the recordings at www.neym.org (choose Resources and Documents tab, then Recordings, then scroll down to Maggie Edmonson...4 days of half hour talks). Of course you are also welcome to bring any of your own favorite verses or chapters that would address this focus. Particularly for those who feel called to action on climate and earth care issues, what spiritual or Biblical foundations have moved you to these actions?

On **Dec. 13** members of Ministry and Counsel will guide a discussion on vocal ministry in meeting for worship, a topic always worthy of further exploration for deepening our understanding of how to listen inwardly and discern the "still small voice" within.

Dec. 27 - no class

Nursery Coordinator Needed - Portland Friends Meeting

Portland Friends Meeting seeks a Nursery Coordinator to manage its childcare room during Meeting for Worship on Sundays. This part-time position involves managing the childcare room for infants, babies, and young children up to 9 years old; providing a safe and loving environment for children; recruiting and scheduling assistants; and reporting to the Meeting. The hours are Sunday mornings from 9 AM - noon from early September through mid-June, and Sunday afternoons 4:45 - 6:00 PM from mid-June through early September. The salary is \$4,160. Applications are accepted through Dec. 31, 2015. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Contact Anne Payson (annepayson10@gmail.com) for a job application and detailed job description.

Please join Andy and Dorothy Grannell in responding the Christel Jorgenson's Leading

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you, yes you, because I think you will understand this issue, which is about inequality.

I need help to go to the World Plenary Meeting of Friends in Peru which will be held in January of 2016.

One of the key strands is focused on developing Quaker Youth Leadership and spiritual gifts. I do have some insight to offer on this topic from my years of working with NE youth. My costs will be about \$2000 and I *have* avenues for funding this event.

I don't feel like I can go unless I can raise significant funds for the FWCC travel fund. Global inequalities really become evident when we are trying to get plane tickets and accommodations for our Friends who do not have access to financial resources. I saw it up close when the Section of the Americas meeting was in Mexico City – a relatively few Latin Americans could attend, due to financial and Visa issues. It felt strange to be at a conference in Mexico with so few Latin American Friends in attendance. I want to do what I can so that at least the named representatives can be present in Peru!



I want to raise \$5000 in donations. I don't know how many airline tickets that would buy, but it will impact the \$35,000 that FWCC is still seeking for the travel fund.

PLEASE HELP – and sooner better than later, because the sooner people can get their tickets, the less expensive. I really want our worldwide family of Friends to be represented at this conference. There is nothing like a face-to-face encounter to give God/Spirit/ Christ an opening to lead us.

You can donate directly to FWCC, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 or here's the webpage:
[https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E7287&id=1)

[name=E7287&id=1](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E7287&id=1)

When you donate, I will know if the goal is being reached if you do the following things:

1. On the *Purpose* line pull down and click on “**World Plenary Travel Fund**”
2. On the *Type of Tribute* line pull down and click on “**In Honor of**”
3. Then just enter “Christel Jorgenson”

Using “tribute” sounds weird to me but it is the easiest way for FWCC to be able to see what the total is.

I appreciate you thinking about it, even if you can't donate anything right now. I appreciate your holding in prayer this appeal and the conference, the 19th to the 27th of January 2016 in Pisac, Peru.

Thank you so much. Your support is quite special.

Pax
Chris



of New England

**conference fees for me are high, over \$1000, because I'm from a "first tier" country. I think the lowest tier is about a third of that. That will be a gigantic hurdle for anyone from a less resourced economy, let alone the transportation.*

– **Black Lives Matter** –

What can we, mostly white Maine residents do?

What can Quakers do?

Come and learn with us – Durham Friends Meeting

532 Quaker Meeting House Rd.

Durham Maine

Sunday November 8th

1:00 – 3:30PM

Program facilitated by:

Roland Gibson



Roland Gibson's fifty years in education include: educational consulting; training/consulting in a wide variety of Programs, including: the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, The Efficacy Institute, and in urban and suburban school districts. With over five decades of service in public and private schools as a successful teacher, administrator and principal.

Roland does not consider himself an 'expert' on Race Relations, but, as he celebrates his 50th year as an educator, change agent, facilitator...he does see himself as 'a catalyst', an agent, who enables individuals to explore perplexing problems, and figure out personal solutions. To describe issues of Race, Racism and Social Justice as perplexing, would be an understatement. Nevertheless, they are profoundly personal.

Committee Time!

Please consider joining a PFM committee! There are spots open on the following:

Adult Religious Education

Buildings and Grounds

Cemetery

Earth and Spirit

Events

Coordination

Library

Pastoral Care

Resource Committee for Friends School of Portland

Youth Religious Education

You can sign up on the sheets in the foyer, or e-mail Rob Levin at rob@roblevin.net.

Thank you from Nominating Committee!



Turning Toward Truth
Forging a New Understanding of Thanksgiving

Sunday

November 22, 2015

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Temple Beth El

3 Woodlawn St., Augusta

Sponsored by the Capital Area Multi-Faith Association Moving beyond turkey, potatoes, cranberries, pie, and pilgrims toward right relationship with the Wabanaki people. Join the religious leaders of Augusta with the retelling of the story of the First Nations and the first immigrants. Awaken the spirit of truth and love as we prepare our hearts and minds for new rituals to recreate the American traditions of thanksgiving. Be a part of a community committed to cultivating hope and taking action toward a new cultural narrative.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, December 9th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

