Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Twelfth 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 mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com

Newsletter submissions Heather Denkmire pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

address change details Tony Scilipoti tscilipoti@maine.rr.com "Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way?

Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with

po you nurture your spiritual tije with prayer and stient waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?"

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

Calendar

December 24: Christmas Eve Meeting for worship (*time is to be determined*, please visit <u>portlandfriendsmeeting.org</u> for details)

December 27: No First Day School scheduled this 4th Sunday

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

Nursery Coordinator Needed

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.

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting December 6, 2015

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on December 6, 2015 at 9 a.m., with 14 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which Co-Clerk Andrew Grannell read from the 1985 New England Yearly Meeting queries, the Query No, 1 on Spiritual Life, which starts "Do you live in the thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life?"

- 1. **Minutes.** There were no corrections necessary for the November minutes.
- 2. **Treasurer's Report.** Kathy Beach reported that we are 92% of the way through our budget year. We finished the month of November with a positive balance of \$2,453. Expenses for the month were \$6,348, and income was \$8,801. Year-to-date expenses were \$55,048, and income was \$48,334, leaving a year-to-date negative balance of \$6,714. We still have some giving to do to end the year with a positive balance.

We approved the Treasurer's report. Thank you to all who have given generously in the past month. Gratitude was expressed for Emily Silevanic's announcements each Sunday reminding us of the need to give.

Percent of Budget	83%
Balance	(\$6,714)

Year-to-date Income

Year-to-date Expenses

Percent of Budget

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses

Eleven months — 92% of 2015

\$48,334

\$55,048

72%

Once again, Friends discussed encouraging more rentals as rental income is down.

3. **Financial Oversight.** Jo Linder presented the Committee's proposed budget for 2016. She went over the lines and discussed the differences from 2015. There is no overall monetary difference (only \$180), but specific changes are as follows:

Overall

- * Rentals are down so use of our spaces is encouraged
- * Donations are expected to be down slightly.
- * Holding a fundraising event (silent auction?) would help
- * Endowment income has been increased, but still less than the income generated by the endowment

Meeting Community

- * Fuel expenses are being investigated (and should go down)
- * The new phone arrangement saved \$1500
- * There have been fewer teens helping in the nursery this year
- * There were fewer requests for China Camp scholarships last year
- * Special needs have decreased a little over the years

Meeting Contributions

- * New England Yearly Meeting was raised 4% (they requested 3 to 5)
- * The College Guild was dropped (but Friends are encouraged to donate in honor of Ruth Bowman)

The gift to the NAACP to support the Martin Luther King breakfast was retained. Even though attenders usually pay for themselves, it was considered important that we continue to support this cause.

It was noted that the Ramallah Friends contribution is for the education of one student for 12 years, and we are in the fourth year of that pledge.

The total budget of \$66,890 is \$180 more than in 2015. Friends thanked the Committee for the clarity and care evidenced in the budget, which is deeply appreciated. The proposed budget will be published in the newsletter and brought forward for approval at January Meeting for Business.

3. Ministry and Counsel. Lea Sutton reported for the Committee.

Jessica Eller has agreed to be our representative to the Ministry and Counsel Committee of New England Yearly Meeting. She was approved. (cont-)

4. (cont-) **Ministry and Counsel** has struggled with the question of what membership in our meeting means to many different people. Recognizing that a great deal of excellent work was done not long ago in gathering many resources on the subject and making them available, the Committee has not been clear as to our next steps. It suggests to the monthly meeting a threshing session or worship-sharing time on the topic of membership and its significance to us as a meeting. The tentative date is Sunday January 17, 2016 at the rise of Meeting. Friends asked that the Committee put forth some queries before the session to focus our thoughts.

On Dec. 13th at 9 a.m., the Committee will be offering an adult religious education class on the topic of Vocal Ministry. The focus will be an exploration of how we experience giving and receiving vocal ministry.

5. **Nominating Committee.** Rob Levin reported for the Committee.

Chris Beach has been nominated for Ministry and Counsel Committee. Friends approved.

Karyl Sylken sent a welcoming letter to Cedar Levin as a member of the Library Committee.

Rob presented the entire slate of 2016 nominations for our approval. We approved the updated list.

The Committee still needs people to record announcements for the third week, and would like to have one or two more members for Youth Religious Education, and for Adult Religious Education.

6. Other

We discussed encouraging younger people to join committees and the possibility of a one-day men's retreat on a Saturday.

It was noted that meetings for business have sometimes been shorter than the time allotted in recent months. Lea Sutton brought to our attention an idea she learned about during her recent clerking workshop at Pendle Hill, which was including in meeting for business a short session about aspects of Quakerism. There was favorable reaction to this suggestion.

Liz Maier read a note from Lea to the Meeting expressing her thanks for the financial support necessary to attend the workshop, which she described as rich in both inspiration and practical training. Everyone thanked Andy Grannell for his inspirational work as Co-Clerk over the last two years, this being his last meeting for business.

We closed with silent worship at 9:55 a.m. with 24 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again on Sunday January 3, 2015 at 9 a.m., God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk, with the able and indispensable aid of Liz Maier

Updates and Reminders

- 4:15 pm, Sunday/today Advent Garden Walk
- 6:00 pm, Sunday/today "Refugees are Welcome: Stand with Families in Danger" Monument Square
- 3:45 pm, Monday, Finance Committee (as needed) at home of Kathy Beach
- 4:00 pm Tuesday, City Hall presentation on Public Display of Solar for the City of Portland, please respond to Will Kessler
- 9:00 pm Wednesday, deadline for contributions to Heather for PYM Newsletter
- 6:30 pm Wednesday, Ministry & Counsel meeting in back classroom
- 4-7pm, Thursday, Preble Street Soup Kitchen, contact Aiyn Foster

Saturday, December 12, Climate Change Rally at Boston, contact- Rob Levin

Portland Friends Meeting - 2016 Budget Proposal

	2016	2015	Change
Income			
Donations	52,640	53,010	(370)
Rent	1500	2,250	Not enough renters (750)
Fundraising	750	850	No event in 2015 (100)
Endowment	12,000	10,600	Because we can 1400
Other			
Total Income	66,890	<u>66,710</u>	180
Meetinghouse Expenses			
Fuel	3500	2000	B&G investigating 1500
Electricity	800	800	0
Water & Sewage	600	500	City changes 100
Phone	300	1800	New system (1500)
Insurance	1900	1800	Increase in rate 100
Snow Removal	2100	1800	Planning ahead 300
Building & Grounds	5000	5000	0
Custodial Care of Meeting	2500	2500	0
Endowment Replenishment	4500	4500	0
Subtotal	1000	1000	
Meetinghouse Expenses	21,200	20,700	500
Martin Community			
Meeting Community			
Religious Ed Coordinator	7500	7500	
Nursery Coordinator	7500	7500	0
Nursery Coordinator	4,160	3400	Poised amount by 760
Workers Comp	450	400	Raised amount by 760
First Day Program	750	500	Request
			250
Childcare Providers	2000	2400	Fewer providers (400)
Camperships/Youth			
Scholarships	5000	5500	Changes in NEYM (500)
Adult Religious Ed	100	150	Request (50)
Adult Scholarships for			
Friends Activities	1500	1500	Take YRE dev from here 0
FO/Payroll/Audit	750	900	(150)
Communications	850	1000	(150)
Peace & Social			
Concerns	150	150	0
Library & Records	300	300	0
Ministry & Counsel	150	100	50
Earth & Spirit	120	150	(30)
Clerk's Enrichment	500	500	Ó
Pastoral Care	100	100	0
Events Committee	150	150	0
Special Needs Fund	2000	2500	(500)
Clerk's Fund	100	100	0

FSP Resource			
Committee	50	100	(50)
Retreat Committee	0	500	(500)
Miscellaneous	250	250	Ó
Subtotal Meeting			
Community	<u>26,930</u>	28,150	(1,220)
N			
Meeting Contributions			
NE Yearly Meeting	13,000	12,500	NEYM request 500
Equalization Funds	1,000	500	Change in NEYM 500
Friends School of Portland	1500	1500	0
Friends Camp	300	300	0
AFSC	400	400	0
FCNL	400	400	0
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting	200	200	0
City of Portland—in lieu of taxes	200	200	0
Maine Council of Churches	150	150	0
Quaker Ridge Building Fund	80	80	0
Preble Street	400	400	0
NAACP	380	380	0
College Guild	0	100	(100)
Ramallah Friends School	500	500	Ó
FLGBTQC	150	150	0
FWCC	100	100	0
Subtotal Meeting			
Contributions	18,760	17,860	900
Total Expenses	<u>66,890</u>	66,710	<u>180</u>
Balance	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Vigil to End Gun Violence - Monday, December 14

On the third anniversary of the Sandy Hook School shootings in Newtown, CT the community is invited to gather at the Friends School of Portland, 11 Route One in Cumberland at 6:30 PM on December 14 for a vigil honoring all victims of gun violence and calling for an end to gun violence.

All are welcome, and the service is appropriate for older children. Pihcintu Multinational Children's Choir is scheduled to perform and prayers from a variety of faith traditions will be offered.

This vigil is one of a national series, and includes vigils in Portland at St. Luke's Cathedral on Wed. December 9 at 7 pm and another at the UU Church of Brunswick on Dec. 12 from 2-4 PM. Sponsors include Maine MOMS Demand Action, the Maine Council of Churches and Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence.

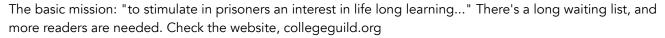
For more information, please contact Leslie Manning at leslieam55@gmail.com

COLLEGE GUILD RESPECT REDUCES RECIDIVISM

A stimulating volunteer job - College Guild

If you're imprisoned, your life can shrink into a knot of misery. Unless you sign up for a free, non-traditional College Guild correspondence course. There are more than 20 subjects offered (poetry, logic and puzzles, marine biology, histories, dogs, philosophy among them)

College Guild is based in Brunswick ME and reaches inmates nationwide.



I have been one of the readers since Ruth Bowman spoke passionately about CG years ago. The two courses I respond to are Art of the Masters and Precision Drawing, six units each. The prisoner's work is scanned online to me, or arrives in the post (drawings). Then I write a candid, encouraging but impersonal response which the Brunswick office sends snail-mail to the prison.

What I gain is deepening awareness of the untapped potential within each student, the talent and self-awareness at first tentatively shown, then blossoming into confidence, hope! Even a sense of fun...a shaft of sunlight in their dark world.

Kate Potter

Family Open House Saturday, January 9th, 10:00am-12 noon

Tour our new school, meet the teachers, spend time in classrooms, and talk to current parents and students. Learn more about Quaker education and get a feel for our *culture of joyful learning*. Have a conversation with our Head of School and Director of Studies. This event is for families with children entering preschool through grade 8. Prospective students and their siblings are welcome!

If you would like to attend, please <u>click here to RSVP</u> or email Jen McNally at <u>jen@friendsschoolofportland.org</u>.





You are cordially invited to join in a vision of peace on Earth and help it to come about.

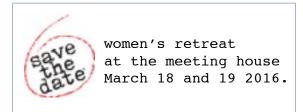
On September 14, 2001, three days after 9/11, I was participating in a three-day Native American Vision Quest. At that time I was given a vision of the wars that would be coming as a result of 9/11, and of a time after, when we would know the futility of making war and would have peace on the Earth. The vision I was given is of a time when war has ceased, and we direct our energies to feeding all the children of the world. Can you imagine a world where no child would go to bed hungry again? Next, we would focus our energies to healing all the diseases that afflict us, such as cancer, or heart disease.

Well, the time is now, and I invite you, and all who read this, to come together at the first gathering to Pray for Peace on Earth. I call this event "Portland Prays for Peace." All people of all faiths and nationalities are welcome to join hands around the Back Cove walking trail. Let's see if we can surround Back Cove, all three and half miles, with people holding this vision of peace.

Please bring a flashlight to shine, as we hold the light for peace on Earth. If enough people come, I am hoping that other communities around this country will do their own gatherings for peace, and we will have started a movement that will spread.

We will gather at 4:00 pm on Dec. 20, 2015. Sunset is at 4:05 pm. With our flashlights we can let our vision of world peace shine out to the world. Will you hold this vision with me? Please share this message with all your friends in the Portland area, and if you can't be there with us please hold this vision in your hearts and prayers at that time, to create peace on Earth.

Blessings to all Jack S. Cole The Vision Holder.

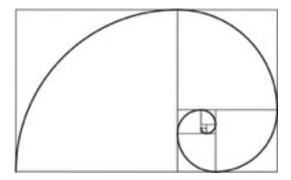


Newsletter updates New newsletter deadline!

Instead of 9pm the first Wednesday following Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business, newsletter submissions will be accepted until 9am the following day! That is, 9am on the Thursday following Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. (The fact is, I don't work on it until Thursday, so why miss the late night Wednesday crowd's important messages?)

Seeking a calendar/event editor!

Do you keep up with Quaker happenings? Would you like to? The newsletter needs someone who can look at the various websites (NEYM, for example) and talk to the various committees at PFM to collect dates for our first page calendar. Let Heather Denkmire know if you're interested!



Learning About Portland Friends Meeting

It was easy to feel like everyone knew what was going on but I was somehow out of "the loop." It was easy to feel like everyone knew who everyone else was, but not me. Then, I attended Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business.

Held on the first Sunday of each month at 9am, all I had to do was show up and sit quietly. I was present while the "people who knew what was going on" talked about the life of the Meeting. I started to understand a bit about "Ministry and Council" and the work of other committees. I started to see how decisions about the meetinghouse and anything related to Portland Friends Meeting were made. And, being who I am (a talker), I was able to ask questions and voice opinions—though I certainly felt no obligation to participate that actively.

If you are interested in expanding your experience at PFM, I recommend coming to Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. —Heather Denkmire

Member Profile: Dorothy Stempel Grannell Born March 20,1941 in Trenton, NJ

General Biography

I was the fourth and last child born to Eleanor and Carl Stempel first and we were second generation children of immigrants. As the youngest and only girl, I managed to get away with more than my brothers, Bob, Jack and Ted. I am now the last one of my birth family living. I find it odd and lonely to no longer have parents or siblings with whom to talk. For more than 25 years I spoke on the phone with my mother and brothers on Sunday afternoon.

I was raised in Bloomfield, NJ and graduated from Bloomfield High School. I went to Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA and graduated with a BA in History and English with minor in education. I have most of a master's degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ and a Masters in Curriculum and Supervision from the University of Maine in Orono, ME. Over the years I have taken classes at 8 colleges or universities. We moved a lot – 18 times in 35 years. This also meant that I changed jobs and careers a lot as well. I taught or had administrative posts in 9 schools in 8 systems, 2 private and 6 public, over the course of 15 years. In addition, Andy and I were co-pastors at Allen's Neck Friends Meeting. I was as an associate editor for the Young Catholic Messenger; did community development for the Maine Indian Program Committee, a division of AFSC; worked for two different United Ways, directed a social service agency, a family literacy program, a county wide business –education partnership for the Richmond –Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, was a fund raiser for a college and worked part time after retirement for the Maine Commission for Community Service as well as this meeting.

Andy and I met at the opening school picnic at Princeton Seminary in September 1965 and were married on December 18th, 1965. He always says he looked at the odds on campus - 36 female students in a population totaling 360 souls and decided he had to work fast. In reality, I picked him up! We have two adult children, Delaney Kyle and Susan Elise Grannell. Kyle named for the first Grannell in North America because he was the first black Grannell and Susan for my college roommate of 4 years. We have one granddaughter, Kiana Lynn Sawyer and one great grandson, William Sawyer Herrick. We all live here in Portland. When we started the adoption process it was a bit unusual to adopt transracially and over the years the mixed family raised some eyebrows but it was much easier for Kyle and Susan to distance themselves when their parents acted up in public - "Who are those people anyway?"



Spiritual Journey

I was raised in a socially active and large Presbyterian Church. I was active as the president of the youth Presbytery and as a young adult became one of the youngest to be named an elder in the denomination and one of the early women elders. The migration away from the Presbyterians began with meeting Andy who was thinking about becoming a Quaker. In Princeton we often worshiped at Princeton Monthly Meeting. My first principal, George Oldham, was a Quaker and it was he who told me that I did need to swear a loyalty oath to the US government in 1963 as a new teacher but could affirm that I would not over throw the government. Very wisely he told me to choose my battles carefully had put me on to the life Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Our life as Quakers has been an odyssey as well. Members of 7 monthly meeting in 3 yearly meetings and worshipping in many more, we have experienced the wide variety of the Religious Society of Friends. In fact, Andy

(continued from page 8)

and I were co-pastors at Allens Neck Friends Meeting in the early 70's. For me, the silence drew me and became my sanctuary. It was hard to lose the music of my earliest years and I struggled with the concept of the meeting for worship itself being the act of communion. Now, the concept of bread and wine being the body and blood of Christ seems a sacrilege when I know I am in the oneness of God and have access to that communion and love at any time. As the line from the song that Cedar Cushman brought to us says – "Heaven is in This place Every day" – and so we just reach out and in to live in it.

The last 10 years I have been able to give time almost every day for reading and meditation. Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Bishop Spong, have been the teachers that I find in books. The book of Genesis and the Gospel of John are the biblical sources of my understanding. Jewish mystics and the Kabbalah have impacted me more than Christian mystics. The path to and from Yahweh has been there since the start and it has unfolded over the centuries.

The opportunity to work for and with Friends has deepened my understanding of the Spirit and the witness of Friends. My current involvement with Friends World Committee for Consultation is giving me the opportunity to work on the final chapter of the goal I set for my life in 1978 – "To be a catalyst for positive change in my family, my community and my faith". When a former boss said that I had been a catalyst for positive change in the organization, I wasn't sure what that meant. I have been working on that ever since – with very mixed effort and success. It means to be the one who helps the change to happen and to be part of a group or community striving to bring about love, justice and mercy.

What is Next?

In January, Mary Tracy and I want to offer a discussion group on Douglas Gwyn's book, The Sustainable Life, Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation. See below, and please do ask us about it.

A Book Discussion Group is Coming Your Way!

Douglas Gwyn's book, <u>A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation</u> explores how humans are able to live a sustainable life in the face of a changing climate and what our responsibility is for sustaining life on earth with integrity, peace and justice. That being said, it is not a book about climate change, but rather how, as Friends, the practice of building a personal and a communal sustainable life is now, and always has been, our goal. The author treats Friends' history, understanding of scripture, God and the testimonies as strands that weave our lives so that they sustain us, our community and creation.

Mary Tracy and Dorothy Grannell enthusiastically invite you to join them in small group discussion of this book during January and February. Doug Gwyn, pastor at Durham Friends, will be invited to spend at least one session with us as we wrestle with the work. Copies of the Preface, Conclusion, a study guide, and The Kabarack Call For Peace and Ecojustice will be available in the meetinghouse foyer to entice you! Our PFM library has ordered three copies of the book, which can be borrowed; books may be purchased at www.quakerbooks.org.

We are looking for 6 to 8 people to join us. For the benefit of the group, participants are asked to commit to attend all meetings, keep up with the readings, and prepare for discussion. We will meet for seven Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 pm from Jan. 12 to Feb. 23 at the Grannell home, 43 Delaware Dr., Portland, 04103.

What better time than winter to warm up with tea and provocative conversation with friends?

Contact Mary Tracy to sign up or to ask questions:

Marytracy126@gmail.com or 207-749-8712















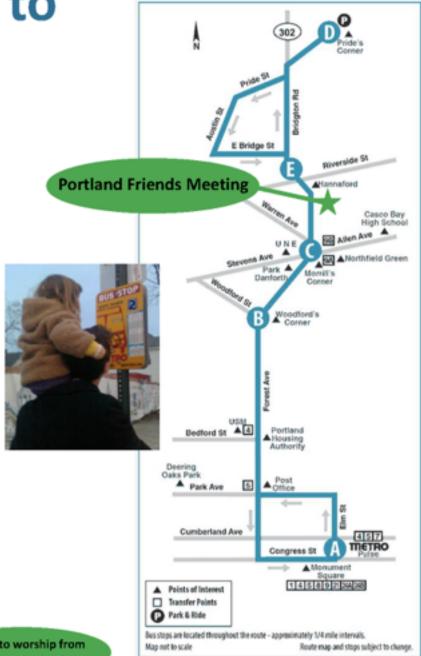
Advent Garden 2015

METRO ROUTE 2 Riverton

Try the Bus to Meeting!

This past August, Greater Portland Transit District (METRO) was able to respond to long-term interest in Sunday bus service and began to offer it on all of its routes. This includes the Route #2 bus which runs up and down Forest Avenue and has a stop right in front of Portland Friends Meeting.

Many of us have used the bus during the week to get to Meeting committees, etc., but now we can use it to attend Worship on Sunday as well! The timing isn't perfect but it's decent (you may arrive to worship a couple minutes past 10:30). Below are the current Sunday schedules with the recommended outbound (to worship from downtown Portland) and inbound (after worship) times underlined in green. Bus stops are located every 1/4 mile along the route and the price is \$1.50 per ride (exact bills & change required or the farebox will keep the remainder). We're all encouraged to try it out!



Learn more at gpmetrobus.net

Getting to worship from

SUNDAY		Downtown Portland			
OUTBOUND TO PRIDE'S CORNER					
METRO Pulse Elm St	Woodford's Corner B	Morrill's Corner	Pride's Corner		
9:15 10:15 11:15	9:23 10:23 11:23	9:28 10:28 PI 11:28	9:35 10:35 11:35		
12:15 1:15 2:15 3:15 4:15	12:23 1:23 2:23 3:23 4:23	12:28 1:28 2:28 3:28 4:28	12:35 1:35 2:35 3:35 4:35		

Getting back downtown SUNDAY from worship INBOUND TO DOWNTOWN PORTLAND

Pride's Corner	Forest/ Riverside	Morrill's Corner	Woodford's Corner B	METRO Pulse
9:40	9:45	9:50	9:55	10:10
10:40	10:45	10:50	10:55	11:10
11:40	11:45	11:50	11:55	12:10
12:40	1:45	12:50	1255	1:10
1:40	1:45	1:50	1:55	2:10
2:40	2:45	2:50	2:55	3:10
3:40	3:45	3:50	3:55	4:10
4:40	4:45	4:50	4:55	5:10

Produced by Cushman Transportation Consulting, LLC – www.sarahcushman.com

Portland Friends Meeting 1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:

Thursday, January 7th, 9am

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

