Portland Friends Newsletter

PAGE 1 FOURTH MONTH 2011

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship 8am and 10:30am

Religious Education

Children & Adults 9:15am 2nd & 4th Sundays except during summer schedule

Friends to contact

Co-Clerks

Tom Antonik 879-0241 Muriel Allen 874-9523

Treasurers, Operating Account & Contributions

Kathy Beach 741-2940 14 Drew Road South Portland 04106

Sue Nelson 780-0349 58 Hillis Street Portland 04103

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 883-0573

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940 Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Beth Bussiere-Nichols 939-8247

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578 David Spector 518-9723

Religious Education Coordinators

Adults:

Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Children:

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698

Clerk: Lyn Ballou 865-3888

Use of the Meetinghouse

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414



The love of our neighbor in all its fullness simply means being able to say,
"What are you going through?" — Simone Weil

Query Number Four—The Meeting Community

Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?

Upcoming Events

Preble St. Soup Kitchen fourth Friday every month. Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762 **Local clergy Peace Vigil** Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Monument Square, Portland

Apr 15-16	Sexuality ed. program for Young Adult Friends, Cambridge, MA
Apr 17	Some committees meet before and after Meeting for Worship

April 22 Good Friday Peace Vigils:

Portland, Tommy's Park, noon-1pm

Boston, Beacon Hill and Boston Common, 10am-2:30pm NEYM Call to Witness and Discernment, Beacon Hill

April 22-23 NEYM Call to Witness and Discernment, Beacon Hill Friends House and Wellesley Friends Meeting House, MA

April 24 EASTER - Easter Breakfast, 9-10:20am, Basement Room April 29-May 1 JHYM Retreat, Framingham Meeting, Framingham, MA

April 30 ALL-MAINE GATHERING, 9am-4pm, Friends Camp, China, ME

Falmouth Quarter will meet; Arthur Fink is featured speaker

May 1 Meeting for Worship for Business, 9am

May 8 Singing, 9am; Adult and Youth Religious Education, 9:30am

May 14 Youngish Adults Potluck, 5pm

May 15 LOVE YOUR MEETING HOUSE DAY, noon-4pm May 22 Youth Religious Education Workshop, noon-3pm

There are members and attenders who need rides to Meeting and on other occasions. If you are interested in helping please let Shannon O'Connor know.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail items to:

Anna Barnett 140 W. Pownal Rd. North Yarmouth, ME 04097 OR email items to Anna Barnett abarnett@gmail.com

Phone: 523-0314

Send address change details to Tony Scilipoti tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

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

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting April 3, 2011

- 1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 26 members and attenders present, during which coclerk Muriel Allen read the Fourth Query from NEYM Faith and Practice, concerning The Meeting Community, which begins: Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens?
- Clerks Comments: The co-clerk reminded us that it is a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. Our job is to discern the will of the Holy Spirit in our decisions. She felt called to end this Meeting at 10:15 so this room may be opened to worshippers at that time.
- 3. We found the minutes of our March 6th meeting in good order.
- 4. **Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Beach reported that our donations were \$8345 in March so it appears people are taking seriously our request to donate regularly. Our balance was \$6709.76. In accordance with the decision taken last year, a check will be written this month for a quarter of all the charitable donations we make regularly.
- 5. **All Maine Gathering and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting** will be held on Saturday April 30 at Friends Camp at China Lake at 9am. Dorothy and Andy Grannell and Nancy Bowker volunteered to be delegates to the Quarterly Meeting. Kate Potter and Hal Burnham also volunteered to be delegates.
- 6. **Ministry & Counsel:** Beth Bussiere-Nichols reported for Ministry and Counsel. She said that while it doesn't need our approval Friends should be aware that John Fatula has transferred his membership to Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Co-clerk Muriel Allen circulated a personal letter to John for Friends to sign.

Crafting a Positive Sexual Ethic – In our Positive Sexual Ethic Statement and Queries we said that we wanted to designate Resource People – Stacy Brenner and Tom Antonik have kindly agreed to be our first resource people. Co-clerk of Ministry and Counsel Beth Bussiere-Nichols read a quote from our statement that concluded:

"As a community we are committed to...identifying a man and woman to serve as resource people for those with sexual ethics concerns. They will:

- -help us be aware of positive and negative patterns in our community,
- -employ formal and informal community resources,
- -check in regularly with Ministry and Counsel.

Tom and Stacy will be meeting later this month to explore this new role and strategize with M&C how best to communicate their evolving sense of how this will work."

Spiritual Journey Groups - Three groups have started led by Kate Potter.

The Memorial Minute for Richard Bowman is in process.

The latest draft of the 2010 State of Society Report was presented for approval. Friends found the writing deeply moving and approved the report with one minor correction.

- 7. **Youth Religious Ed:** Lyn Ballou reported for Youth Religious Education on progress with the Easter Breakfast. Money raised will go to Heifer International. In-kind donations will go to Preble Street Resource Center and local pet shelters.
 - Youth Religious Education announced a meeting-wide survey for feedback on their current program and outreach towards the wider community, to be done by April 30th. This will be followed by a workshop in May about Youth Religious Education and Teacher Recruitment. Survey sheets were handed around and Friends informed that this could also be done online.
- 8. Salt & Light/FWCC: Andy and Dorothy Grannell thanked the Meeting for its support of their work with Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas (FWCCSOA) and supporting their travels as they work towards unity across the varied theological lines among Friends. Andy and Dorothy returned from their first FWCCSOA annual meeting held in Philadelphia, PA March 16 -19 and gave an enthusiastic description of the activities of the meeting and of the greening of the building in which the meeting was held. It was both the Section Annual Meeting and a Being Salt & Light Event. Salt and Light refers to the theme of the 6th World Conference of Friends to be held at Kabarak University in Nakuru, Kenya in April 2012. A report of the recent events and a poster describing the work of FWCCSOA are now available for those who are interested.
- 9. **Building & Grounds:** Kitchen progress. Appliances will be delivered tomorrow, the cabinets are almost together and trim work is progressing. Overhead lights remain the same, but there will be under-cabinet lighting in some areas and on the range hood. All is proceeding on schedule. Friends commented on the 'wow' factor. The floor may be improved later. Brad Bussiere-Nichols, David Campbell and Peter Raszmann were thanked for their work.

We closed in silent worship, purposing to meet again on May 1st, 2011 at 9am, God willing.

Jenny Doughty Co-recording clerk

Portland Friends Monthly Meeting Portland, Maine 2010 State of Society Report

As we begin our annual reflection on our journey, we focus inward on our community. We start with tangible lists, committee reports, tasks accomplished. Then the sparkling energy draws us to the dynamic face of our community: folks who have left for new jobs, or who are on new spiritual paths in this life or the next, new additions young and old, and of course, members and attenders who are constant in presence, though we hope ever-changing in insight. We end at our core experience, our meeting for worship. All is illumined by the Ever Present Light.

It is intriguing to lift our heads and read New England Yearly Meeting Minute of Sending Forth/ Commission from the 350th gathering in August 2010, where some specific areas were identified for sustained and disciplined attention to prepare us for faithful witness. These were the call to forgiveness, the call to strengthen our ability to love and to build our community, the call to name, cultivate, and exercise gifts of ministry, eldership, and leadership, and the call to undertake clear leadings for witness. Ah, but these are the very pieces that have called to our Portland Friends community all year. We are humbly grateful for the opportunity to deepen into God's mystery.

We have responded to the call to strengthen our ability to love and to build our community in many ways. It was perhaps most succinctly put by the always practical Pastoral Care Committee who used as their guide, the phrase "Love is a verb," when organizing meals, rides and other forms of sustenance. The Youngish Adult Friends have emerged this year as a lively group of singles, couples and families (who don't want to be called a committee). They gather once a month to share a meal seasoned with love, worship, laughter, deep discussion, and occasionally, bowling. Sometimes children are included, but at other meetings there is shared childcare. Earth and Spirit Committee who contribute celebration and awareness activities of many kinds promoted a joyous planting of trees with the eight-member family of Burundi Friends who have joined us. Youth and Adult Religous Education committees help us to nurture one another's journey. The decision many years ago to hire a religious education coordinator continues to strengthen our program of volunteers. Our youth program includes around 60 children engaged in spiritual growth, celebration and service. Communications Committee, in addition to producing our traditional newsletter, is participating in our investigation of how we might build community using the web. Four people (not a committee!) make sure our weekly announcements go out by email. Our greatest challenge and gift was to complete our community's Positive Sexual Ethic process led by Ministry and Counsel. This began the previous year by listening deeply to God and each other on this tender topic. It felt scary to follow this leading, which might reveal divisions that we hadn't discovered just by examining our shared disagreement with FUM's personnel policy. What joy to find ourselves in unity on a series of statements and a set of queries that we believe will be a resource in many ways.

We have responded to the call to undertake clear leadings for witness several ways but our current work on leadings may make this even more important in the coming years. Earth and Spirit Committee is exploring how the meetinghouse might use less fossil fuels. Building and Grounds is investigating greener alternatives for the day our old furnace needs replacing as well as sensitivity to the environment in their ongoing work to care for our dear old building.

We have responded to the call to name, cultivate, and exercise gifts of ministry, eldership, and leadership. During a retreat of extended silent worship Peace and Social Concerns Committee decided to create opportunities for Portland Friends to focus on queries to explore their leadings. The committee has joined with Adult Religious Education for this undertaking. Nominating committee has once again brought discernment and enthusiasm to the task of filling our 100 positions. Financial Oversight has provided leadership in closing our budget gap with \$179 to spare in a difficult year. They are working to find ways to make our support of budget less dramatic in the final months of future years and help us to discern how to be good stewards of a generous bequest. Our Friends School Resource Committee works in a supportive role with Friends School of Portland, which is celebrating its fifth year with 88 students preschool to eighth grade.

Our response to the call for forgiveness is less clear. It has been there certainly in our work on sexual ethics. Perhaps it moves in our memorial service for an older Friend who arrived recently and was known by few. This year brought the passing of our long time member Richard Bowman. He had been a curmudgeon at times in the past yet in these last few years his ministry shifted to giving us brief gentle messages on the meaning of the exit signs and gratitude for little things like rides to meeting. Maybe forgiveness was an offstage element to the drama of Richard, the meeting elbow who prodded us for most of his life with us only to have his final scene be one of giving us a gentle hand up.

In closing we find ourselves in a lively healthy place with an enormous sense of gratitude and blessing in our lives held together in Divine Embrace.

Approved 4/3/2011 Meeting for Business

Sexuality Education Program for Young Adult Friends, April 15-16

Tom Antonik received information about this opportunity from some Young Adult Friends of NEYM. While PFM were looking at various models of sexuality education during the time of discerning our own response to "What is a positive Quaker sexual ethic?", the OWL curriculum stood out as one that was held in high regard.

There is the possibility of childcare during workshop time. Tom can help put you in touch with Young Adult and other Friends in the Boston area if you need overnight hospitality, as well as forward additional information upon request. The program is restricted to 18- to 35-year-olds (there are other programs for older adults as well as younger age groups).

What feels good, What feels better: Young Adult Our Whole Lives

Friday April 15, 6:30pm-9pm, and Saturday April 16, 10am-6pm; First Parish, Unitarian Universalist, Cambridge, MA Young Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum for people ages 18-35. OWL was created by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist association to provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information about sex at different levels from kindergarten to adult. Young Adult OWL is not your middle-school sex ed. It's an open, sex-positive space for self-reflection and lively conversation about relationships of all kinds, gender identity, sexual orientation, risks and deciding whether to take them, communicating

Register by Friday, April 8. Sliding scale \$10-20 for materials, breakfast, lunch and snacks. For registration form or questions contact First Parish Ministerial Intern Elizabeth Nguyen (<u>elizabeth.b.nguyen@gmail.com</u> or 937-623-7165).

NEYM Call to Witness and Day of Discernment

about what you want and what feels good, and more!

Friday April 22: Call to Witness, Good Friday & Earth Day

Good Friday Witness for Peace at Beacon Hill and Boston Common, 10am-2:30pm

Awakening the Dreamer Program, Beacon Hill Friends House, 4-8:30pm

Saturday April 23: Day of Discernment

Wellesley Friends Meeting House, 8:30am-3:30pm

As an outgrowth of the 2010 Sessions Minute of Sending Forth, this weekend is a search for how God is leading New England Yearly Meeting to deepen our spirituality and its expression in our testimonies. It is an opportunity to stand with others in witness, to share our journeys and our differences and to discern, "What are we called to do?"

Good Friday Peace Vigil in Portland

Our Good Friday peace vigil will be Friday, April 22, noon-1pm, at Tommy's Park (Exchange and Middle Streets).

We'll start at the UU Church on Congress at 11:45 and walk to the park together. We will be worshiping and praying publicly – being visible witnesses for the peace testimony and enjoying the peace we experience in being together in the silence.

Let's hope for sunshine! More details to come.

Jasa Porciello

774-9667 or jasa@gwi.net



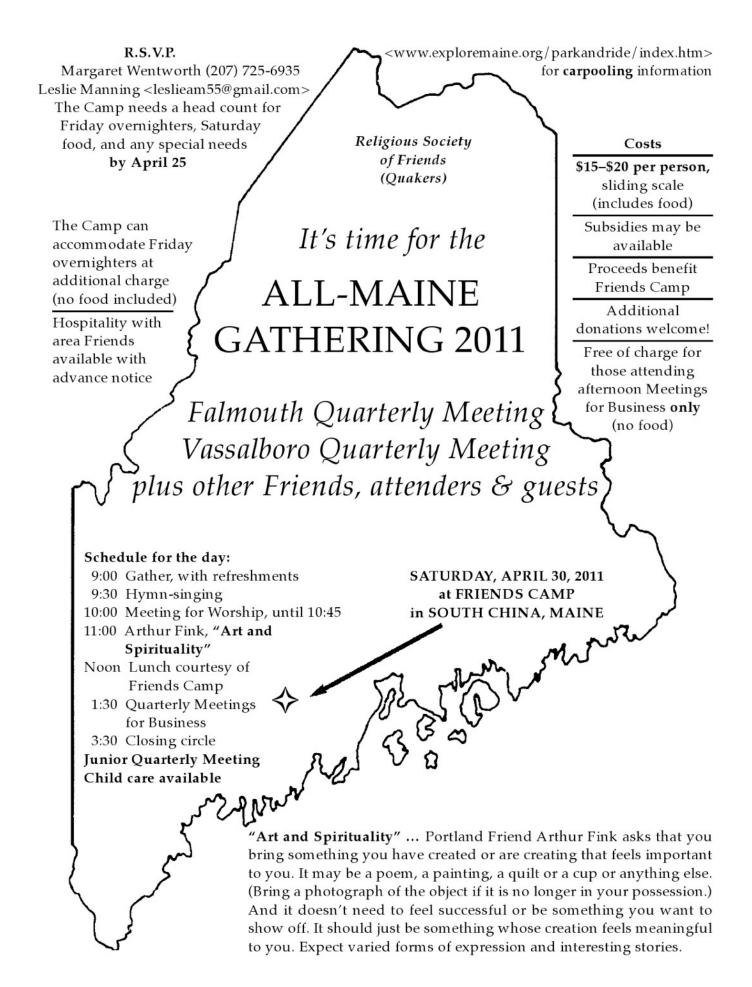
Awakening the Dreamer on Friday night will be presented by Steve Chase from Putney Meeting. Through leading-edge information, prayer and meditation, inspiring multimedia, and dynamic interactions with others, participants are moved to connect with their deep concern for our earth and find their unique contribution to creating a sustainable, fulfilling and just world.

Suggested donation is \$15/day or \$25 for the two days per adult. Equalization will be available for those in need. Light meals will be provided. Hospitality, childcare and travel information will be provided as needed.

Advance documents will be sent out to all those who register as to all the Monthly Meetings to aid in our discernment.

For more information and to register go to: http://www.neympeace.org/witness-discernment-inapril/

Or if you do not have internet access, you can email Cliff Harrison at c.cliffharrison@comcast.net, or call 781-397-1419. Please register before April 1.





Fill the Ark! Or Fill the Shelves!

On April 24, 2011 we will celebrate Easter. That morning Youth Religious Education Committee and the First Day School children will again provide Easter Breakfast from 9am to 10:15am. We hope that the NEW kitchen will be in place but even if it is not, a tasty, hearty breakfast will be available along with the energy and excitement of our children who want your help in supporting the organizations they believe in.

At the Youth Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business in February, the children decided to ask for donations from those attending the breakfast to benefit Heifer International (cash donations), Preble Street Resource Center

(food, toiletry and socks) and pet food for a local animal shelter. During the next month you will hear more about these organizations and the needs that they have.

Please look for the posters announcing the Easter Breakfast and learn what is needed by each organization and where it goes. Llamas, ducks, pigs, goats and camels provide a living for people in communities where Heifer works including sites internationally and in the US. For those who would prefer to help locally and with a non-cash donation, many food and toiletry items are needed by those who are served by Preble Street Resource Center. Food at the animal shelter helps the animals and the families that adopt the animals.

PREBLE ST. NEEDS: Towels, Socks & Underwear (white, men's & women's both in large sizes), Men's Jeans & gloves, Razors, Toothbrushes, tampons/pads, Coffee, Rice, Pasta, Soup, Stews, Canned Chicken & Fish, Soup and Vegetable Oil. No peanut butter please.

ANIMAL SHELTER: Kitten & Cat Food (dry & Canned), clay cat litter, dog & cat toys, 33 gallon trash bags, bird food, parrot food, rabbit, gerbil or hamster food, Soft scrub Paper Towels, "Forever" postage stamps.

Youth Religious Education Survey

It has been five years since we have surveyed the Meeting about our First Day School program and views on youth religious education. Please complete the survey that is available at the meeting house and place it in the box provided in the fover. Better yet, please complete the survey online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SNM299G.

The committee is planning for 2011-12 year and wants your input whether or not you currently have a child in the program. Anyone may complete the survey including children. Question #5 (In your youth, what were memorable activities that contributed to your spiritual growth that might serve as models for our youth religious education programs and events?) is one we hope that every adult will respond to. The deadline for submitting your response is April 30, 2011.

Youth Religious Education will sponsor a workshop on May 2 from noon to 3pm. We will share the results and seek ideas on how to make our First Day School program meet the spiritual development and religious education needs of our children and families. All those who are interested should attend, especially those who indicate that they could be a resource for First Day School in the coming years.

Peace Action Maine's 20th Annual Peace Supper

Meet new and old friends Saturday, May 7, 5pm at Woodford's Congregational Church. Join Maine's other peace activists and guest speaker Medea Benjamin, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and co-founder of CODEPINK and the international human rights



organization Global Exchange.

Food by Local Sprouts includes their famous Pea "Give Peace a Chance" Soup.

Cost: \$20. Reservations: Peace Action Maine, 772-0680. Any questions: Jacqui 772-1051.

Cush Anthony to Receive Civil Liberties Award

Thursday, May 12, 6pm at Harraseeket Inn in Freeport: Our long-time friend and Friend Cush Anthony will be given the Justice Louis Scolnik award at a dinner and celebration hosted by the Maine Civil Liberties Union. Dinner ticket is \$85, but a limited number of discounted tickets may still be available. Contact Edward at MCLU, 774-5444. Please reply by April 27.

Cushman was an active member of Portland Friends Meeting for many, many years. He served on the Indian Affairs Committee of NEYM and worked for the Friends' Committee on National Legislation, a favorite organization of his. It would be wonderful if one or more of us could attend this celebration of Cush's half century of work for justice, peace and civil rights.

Friends Camp Registration Open

New Pricing Structure Makes Camp More Affordable http://www.friendscamp.org/camper-registration.html

Nat Shed, camp director, has announced that Friends Camp now has a new voluntary three-tier pricing policy. You get to pick the price that works best for your family.

Full Price Level - allows us to cover all of the operating costs and will overtime cover most of our capital replacement and improvement expenses.

Medium Price Level - covers our operating costs and more accurately accounts for our true costs, including maintenance improvement and a limited number of capital improvements.

Basic Price Level - is our historically low camp tuition rate, and does not reflect the true operating expenses or the actual long term cost of running Friends Camp.

By choosing to pay a higher fee, families can help us keep our buildings, docks, equipment, plumbing, and property in a much better condition and you will also help us keep the basic camp fee affordable.

This new pricing system is voluntary and in no way influences admission or the experience your child will receive at Friends Camp. It will offer your family the opportunity to support the true cost of your child or children's camp experience.

Campership in the \$100 to \$360 range will still be available for families who need additional help in sending a child or children to Friends Camp. (http://www.friendscamp.org/campership_application.html)

2011 Session Fees – New 3-Tiered Pricing	Full	Medium	Basic
Two Week of Jones, Dyer, Fox & Fell camps	\$860	\$810	\$760
Two Week Drama I, II & III camps	\$890	\$840	\$790
One Week Jones camp	\$470	\$445	\$420
One Week Mott Family Camp (adults & teens)	\$350	\$325	\$300
One Week Mott Family Camp (7 to 12 y.o.)	\$320	\$295	\$270
One Week Mott Family Camp (Birth to 6 y.o.)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Deposits (All deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable)

Jones, Dyer, Fox, Fell & Drama Camps: \$200

Jones Camp (one week) \$100.00

Mott Family Camp: \$200.00

Families / Campers applying for a campership: \$50.00

SUMMER SESSIONS 2011

Drama Camp III (12-17)

Mott Family Camp (All)

COMMENT CLOCKET CONTRACTOR	
Tuition Payment Deadline	June 4, 2011
Jones Camp (ages 7-12)	June 26 - July 9
Jones Week One (7-12)	June 26 - July 2
Jones Week Two (7-12)	July 3 - July 9
Drama Camp I (7-12)	June 26 - July 9
Dyer Camp (10-13)	July 10 - July 23
Drama Camp II (10-13)	July 10 - July 23
Fox Camp (12-17)	July 24 - August 6
YM Sessions Bus	August 6
(Portland, ME, Newton, MA	J
& Smithfield, RI)	
Fell Camp (12-17)	August 7 - August 20

Reminder: Portland Friends Children may apply for financial help to attend Friends Camp. Forms for scholarship help are located on the egroup site under the "files" section, or paper forms are found in a folder posted on the bulletin board in the basement. Please complete these forms and get them to Youth Religious Education (Lyn Ballou or Ellen Belknap) no later than 6 weeks before the camp registration deadline. Funds are also available if your child wants to attend a different Friends camp, retreat or Yearly Meeting Sessions.

August 7 - August 20

August 21 - August 27

Preble Street Soup Kitchen

Come one, come all - intergenerational support of the (in essence) public free restaurant for the homeless and challenged of Portland.

All of the 'spiritual communities' of Portland join together serving as a local 'oversight committee' via supporting such venues as Preble Street. Portland Friends will be offering our support every 4th Friday of each month.

Le Restaurant de grace begins with cooking/preparing starting at 3:30; plating and serving starting at 5:00; clean-up is happening all along but if you want to come for that just arrive around 6:30. Choose what you feel drawn to partake in and please do call Aaiyn Foster 766-9762 to RSVP.

Feel welcome to add to the grace by joining in with those of us going to the Museum of Art - it's free on Friday nights. An opportunity to practice simple loving presence and allowing others their process - as well as sharing the nourishment of art together, intergenerationally.

Aaiyn Foster 766-9762 or af@maine.rr.com

Love Your Meeting House Day is scheduled for noon on Sunday, May 15.

Friends should bring rakes, gloves, gardening tools, etc. Or for those who will clean inside, bring window cleaning and dusting supplies.

Portland Friends Meeting

1837 Forest Avenue Portland, Maine 04103 Non-Profit
Organization
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Portland, ME
Permit #94

Address Service Requested



Please recycle this newsletter.



Margaret Raymond's new address:

Village Crossings Rm. 008 78 Scott Dyer Road Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107 Her phone number is unchanged: 799-5175 She would, as always, love to hear from anyone anytime - via phone, mail, or a visit. Village Crossings is just a very quick jog from the center of Cape Elizabeth.

Early Meeting for Worship is being held every Sunday at 8am.

Contact: Ward Archer 332-1385



Tom Antonik looking for used car

Tom Antonik is asking Friends to keep him in mind if they have or know of a decent reliable used car for sale that is not too prohibitive to maintain (perhaps a mid-sized Toyota or Honda?).

Tom writes: I've taken on a part-time job in which an essential part of my duties are to drive a man with MS to various appointments as well as shopping, etc. While my present car serves me well personally, it is getting on in age, and the regularity of repairs has become cause for me to consider upgrading given the needs of this job. Essential would be that I could fit in a folded walker as well as three tall-ish people (duties sometime include taking his son along), decent gas mileage, and air conditioning. While I am certainly looking for a "good deal" (who isn't?) and hoping someone may be in a position to be particularly generous, I will consider all reasonable options under about \$10,000. Preferably well under!

Tom Antonik 879-0241 or <u>Qqmonk@hotmail.com</u>