

CORVALLIS FRIENDS

FIRST MONTH 2012

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING, 331 1 NW POLK AVE., CORVALLIS, OREGON 97330
(541) 752-3569 (PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE)

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, 7:00–7:45 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Clerk
Esther Schiedel

Recording Clerk
Jim Flory

Treasurer
Wendy Robinson

Ministry & Oversight Committee
Nina Joy Lawrence, clerk

Adult Religious Education
Committee
Bob Burton, clerk

Peace, Justice, and the
Environment Committee
John Selker, clerk

Communications Coordinator
Susan Easton

Groundskeeping Coordinator
Brigid Bonner

House & Hospitality
Coordinators
Wendy Robinson, Laila Cusick

Major House Maintenance
Bob Burton, Justin Wirth

Representation
Jim Flory



Corvallis Meeting:
www.quaker.org/corvallis

Willamette Quarterly Meeting:
www.willamettequarterly.org

North Pacific Yearly Meeting:
www.npym.org

Corvallis Meeting Calendar

- 1/1 ♦ 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
♦ 11:30 a.m. No second hour program
- 1/8 ♦ 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
♦ 11:30 Meeting for Business
- 1/12 ♦ 5–7 p.m. Stone Soup, at St. Mary's Catholic Church
(You'll need to be on coordinator Susan's notification list;
e-mail her at mike.aronson@comcast.net.)
- 1/15 ♦ 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
♦ 11:30 a.m. Bob Burton, "The Monthly Meeting III," in
which we look at our practices with clearness committees,
Friends in ministry, and children and youth.
- 1/22 ♦ 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
♦ 11:30 a.m. Nina Joy Lawrence, "George Fox: Walking in
the Light, Pulling Down the Pillars of the World"
- 1/29 ♦ 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
♦ 11:30 a.m. PJE Potluck: Emmet Whitaker, "Update on
the U.S.-Gaza Children's Cultural Exchange"

"Monthly Meeting" Series Finishes This Month

Last month we held two discussions in the three-part series on the chapter from North Pacific Yearly Meeting's revised *Faith and Practice* dealing with the Monthly Meeting. Our third discussion will take place on January 15.

NPYM asks us to respond to some thought-provoking queries and relay our responses to the next meeting of the NPYM committee for *Faith and Practice* revision. In fact, Jay Thatcher, a member of that committee, will be taking note of our responses to the manuscript. He has already shared notes from the first two discussions.

You may obtain the chapter's text, queries, and a study guide for the revision process by going to www.npym.org.

This newsletter comes out on the first Sunday of the month, or by e-mail a few days earlier. Please submit newsletter material and requests for e-mail delivery to Eileen Flory, editor: eflory@peak.org, 13711 NW Pali St., Seal Rock, OR 97376. Next deadline: supertime, 1/28.

Western Friend Subscriptions Available

If you don't already subscribe to the magazine *Western Friend* through the Corvallis Meeting, please tell Jay Thatcher if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity. Subscribing as a Meeting is cheaper, more convenient for the staff of *Western Friend*, and something that the Meeting wants to do for all attenders who are inclined toward it.

Please let Jay Thatcher, (see contact info in print or email version) know about your wishes by noon on 1/8/2012. Jay has samples of the magazine and answers to questions you might have.

WQM is at CFM on February 4

As is our custom, this will be Willamette Quarterly Meeting's winter Business Meeting, along with lunch and a program: "Have Quakers created their own language barrier?" Words define; language shapes culture. How does "Quakerish," our sometimes arcane, quaint and in-groupy language, define us—for ourselves, for outside seekers and for the public at large? Rick Seifert, clerk of Multnomah Monthly Meeting and a writer, will invite participants to explore with him the often murky and confusing nomenclature of Friends.

PNW Quaker Women's Theology Conference

Please join us for the Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference, June 13-17, 2012 at the Menucha Conference Center.

We will worship, fellowship, and work together as we explore the theme, "Living in the Life and Power: Inviting, Contemplating, and Enacting Grace."

If you find your way clear to join us, and we hope you will, we ask you to take time to explore the theme and write a paper to share with other women. You will find this to be an incredible grounding experience as you prepare for the Conference.

2 Corinthians 9:8 says there are no limits to the Grace of God. We pray that God's grace will lead you to be with us.

For further information, speakers for the four days, and to register, visit <http://pnwquakerwomen.org>.

Report on "How We Won Health Care For All"

Around a hundred people attended this Corvallis event the evening of December 12. A presentation by two passionate young community organizers (Kate and Sarah) from the Vermont Workers Center accompanied a fabulous potluck dinner.

Last June, the Vermont legislature passed a law to create a statewide universal health care system. This was a result of the Workers Center conducting a three-year campaign that convinced the legislature first to declare health care a human right and after that to pass a law for a publicly funded, universal and unified health care bill.

They began with persistent state-wide grass-roots organizing that mobilized many, many people through forums, sharing of individual health care stories, developing their own media, and so on. When they had developed a strong base of support (they call it a "people's movement") they relentlessly tackled the legislature.

The implementation stage lies ahead, and they anticipate resistance from vested interests, including both attempts to divide the people's movement over hot-button issues like immigrants and abortion as well as attempts to lobby for amendments to weaken the law. But they are committed to keep fighting for their demands, using the powerful human rights framework.

They hope to inspire other states and the nation; hence this tour.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business 12/11/2011

Clerk: Esther Schiedel

Recording Clerk: Jim Flory

Present: Jay Thatcher, Bob Burton, Wendy Robinson, Jasper Smith, Nina Joy Lawrence, Ruth McNeill, Roger Weaver, Mary Jane Gray, Laurie Childers, Virginia Tyler, Nancy Ewald, Susan Easton, Bob Henderson, and Charles Kettenring

Additions to agenda:

Food for thought: “There are two ever present and very real hazards in the Friends business method: impatience and a vacuous boredom. The Friend who recognizes that these hazards can be a spiritual call to go deeper into worship brings great power to the work of the church as well as an opening of his or her own spiritual gifts, including discernment.”

From *The Mind of Christ: Bill Taber on Meeting for Business* (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 406, pp. 6-7)

Opening worship

Approval of minutes from November (11th month):

The minutes were approved with the following corrections and additions:

Under the Children’s Religious Education Volunteer Coordinator Report the following text should be substituted for the previous text. (Italics indicates new wording.)

Jay is delighted to have hired Carrie Black, who has worked for Clear Creek and Eugene Friends Meetings, to provide child care and religious education services. She is studying recreation resource management at OSU.

Nancy Ewald clarified that, even though she presented a report during the time allotted for the PJ&E report at the November MFB, she is not a member of the PJ&E Committee.

Treasurer’s Report – Wendy Robinson

The current balance as of November 30, 2011 was \$6,039.12 and, the savings account has a balance of \$7,689.70.

Wendy reported that the Meeting is the sole devisee of the estate of James H. Gallagher from Monroe

who died on 10/03/2011 at the age of 92. The only asset of the estate is a lot worth an estimated \$20,000 on which there are two liens: for deferred taxes and for post-fire remodeling. The personal representative does not believe that there will be any money paid to the Meeting. Wendy asked anyone who knows who James H. Gallagher is or what his connection to the Meeting was to contact her.

Treasurer’s report was accepted.

Old Business:

CFM Ad Hoc Committee for Consideration of Scheduling Issues Report

The following recommendations resulted from the report and from the discussion prompted by the report. (Italics indicates changes in wording)

1. It was recommended that the Meeting’s pet and service animal policy statement be attached to the “Conditions for Use” document given to the users of the building. Users wanting to bring an animal into the Meetinghouse will require the permission of the Meeting scheduler based on the pet and service animal policy statement.
2. It was recommended that we call the larger room created by the removal of the kitchen and library walls the “fellowship room.”
3. The recommended wording for condition number 7 (regarding publicity) was as follows:

When a group other than a Corvallis Friends Meeting group publicizes a meeting or activity, the advertising shall indicate the location of the event as 3311 NW Polk Ave. *The name “Corvallis Friends Meeting House” may also be included with the address to indicate the location of the event but the advertising must not imply that the Corvallis Friends Meeting is hosting, endorsing, or sponsoring the event*

4. The recommend wording for condition number 12 (regarding Cancellation/Refunds):

The applicant is responsible for payment of fees for all times reserved unless a cancellation has been made in advance. If cancellation of a specific reservation is necessary, the user must notify the facilities scheduler at least 24 hours in advance in

order to receive either a refund or a credit for a future reservation. *If last-minute cancellations become frequent, future reservations may be denied.* As stated on the application, the Meeting reserves the right to pre-empt any facility use for its own use by giving two week's notice; the need for this is expected to be rare.

5. Institutional Use of Meeting House Facilities (Policy approved Nov. MFB)

Institutional use of the Meetinghouse facilities may be permitted for single day usage (e.g., a meeting or workshop, but should not be permitted for a multiple date schedule (e.g., weekly or monthly). Examples of such institutions would include Oregon State University, Linn Benton Community College, Hewlett Packard, and other organizations that have their own facilities or other resources for multiple-date events.

Rationale: Most institutions have their own facilities or other resources for classes or multiple date events. Compared to many other churches or locations that share their facilities with the community, the friends Meetinghouse has limited space it can make available. When the Friends Meeting was able to build the current worship room, in place of the previous converted garage, it wanted to have a space which was both more welcoming and could be shared with community groups. This intent has generally been successful in that there are several different community groups that have used the facilities, and a number of these use them on a continuing basis. These groups have expressed appreciation to the Meeting for being able to use the facilities.

6. On the document titled "Corvallis Friends Meeting: Policy on Meetinghouse Use for Non-Meeting Functions." April 10, 2005

Under the heading of Current Policy, it was recommended that we strike the following policy.

~~2. Reserve both Wednesday and Thursday evenings of the week prior to Meeting for Business for Meeting use.~~

Rationale: This policy is too cumbersome for scheduling, and in actual practice the Meeting has

not used both Wednesday and Thursday during the week prior to Meeting for Business.

Minute 2011.12.01 Corvallis Meeting approves the above recommendations, which include modifications and additions to the previous house use policies.

The committee will return to the Meeting at a future date with recommendations regarding the current fee structure for the use of the Meetinghouse.

Request for Clarification of Occasional Personal Use of Meetinghouse

Nina Joy Lawrence stated that traditionally members could informally meet with individuals at Meetinghouse without going through the schedulers, as long as there was no disruption of scheduled users.

Bob Henderson explained that members and attenders can schedule a time to use the facilities once a year without cost for a gathering with no fee. Nina Joy indicated that she was thinking more about spontaneous use. Bob responded that as the scheduler he felt a desire to know who was using the house and at what time. When the possibility of using the back room was mentioned, the potential for disrupting an ongoing event in the fellowship room was raised since that is the only access to the back room. When the question was raised about using the kitchen Friends were referred to the Meetinghouse use food policy.

Worship

Committee Reports

Pre-nominating Committee: The Pre-nominating Committee proposed Sid Rosen to fill the vacant position on the Nominating Committee.

Minute 2011.12.02: Meeting for Business approved Sid Rosen to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Ministry and Oversight Committee - Nina Joy

1. The committee suggests that people consider carpooling to encourage socializing and gas saving.
2. The committee wanted to know where we are with regard to improving the sign for the Meetinghouse. Bob Burton said he was willing to take on the responsibility for improving the sign and suggested it be considered later on in the agenda

along with other related tasks left over from the remodeling of the Meetinghouse.

3. One of the problems facing formerly homeless people is how to keep them from becoming homeless again. One of their needs is to be part of a community to help them keep them from returning to homelessness. Portland churches are thinking about activities that church members and formerly homeless people would enjoy doing together. The committee invites meeting participant to think about activities we could share with people who are formerly homeless. One suggestion was to revive the book group which was active in the past.

4. Sometimes during the holiday season individuals approach churches with requests for help that are scams. Remember that we usually refer people that needs to We Care.

Adult Religious Education

Several ideas have been suggested for future programs. They include Quaker history, PJ&E potlucks, and a report by Emmett Whitaker on trip by the Gaza Project children's art project. This last program might be scheduled during the PJ&E potluck times on January 29 or February 26.

Peace, Justice, and the Environment

It was reported that Partner's Place has now been completed and is operational. Peter Ewald sent us copies of a flier describing the updated HELP program. There are two ways you can help create an opportunity for those who need to work, develop a positive work record, and increase their feelings of dignity. One is by hiring someone from HELP to work for you, and the other is by contributing money so that nonprofit organizations can hire them to work.

Roger Weaver presented the following minute related to the death penalty for consideration and approval by the Meeting.

Minute 2011.12.03: Corvallis Friends Meeting affirms its opposition to the death penalty on the grounds that capital punishment is at odds with our belief that there is that of the Divine in each person.

Bob Burton suggested that PJ&E might also recommend specific actions that we could take as a follow up to the death penalty minute.

Worship

Volunteer Coordinators and Working Groups

Major Meetinghouse Maintenance Volunteer Coordinator

There is a list of tasks to complete as a result of the end of the remodeling construction. They include things like some painting, adding trim, finding permanent storage for some items, and improving the mail drop. Bob Burton and Charles Kettenring have volunteered to organize the meeting room closet. Bob Burton will be organizing the completion of the remaining tasks, as well as working to improve the signage at the front of the Meetinghouse (a need mentioned in the M&O report). There will be a work day scheduled in January.

Bob Henderson reminded us that we need to assess the amount of storage space we have so as to come to a decision as to how much storage space we can offer to other groups that use the Meeting house.

Worship

NPYM news:

Winter Quarterly Meeting Plans (2/4/12)

Nancy Ewald and Wendy Robinson: This year we will repeat the luncheon plan of providing sandwich makings and letting attenders assemble their own sandwiches. They will be asking people for contributions or accommodations for people who may need overnight hosting. Wendy will be the contact for child care and Esther will be the contact person for overnight housing needs. Other volunteers will be needed to help arrange the meeting room, bring food items for the potluck, and clean up in the afternoon. The clerk encouraged members and attenders to come to the winter Quarterly gathering.

Announcements:

Next Meeting for Business: January 8, 2012

Closing worship 12:52

Advices and Queries on Unity

Different ways of understanding the divine life may occur among us. These differences should not be ignored for the sake of a superficial agreement. They should be recognized and understood, so that a deeper and more vital unity can be reached. Convictions which might divide or disrupt a Meeting can, through God's grace, help to make it creative and strong. Friends should keep faith and fellowship with each other, waiting in the Light for that unity which draws them together in the love and power of God.

-- When problems and conflicts arise, do we make timely endeavors to resolve them in a spirit of love and humility? How do we use our diversity for the spiritual growth of our Meeting?

-- Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us to unity?

North Pacific Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*, p. 43

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