

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Eleventh Month 9th Day, 2008

Clerk: Barbara Esther

Co-Recording Clerk: Jen Rhode (jmrhode@yahoo.com)

Present: Jim Barton, Lynnora Bierce, Gary Briggs, Bobby Carter, Christy Gjelfriend, George Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Phil Neal, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Rob Waskom, Adrienne Weir, Nicholas Wells (baking cookies for us), Robin Wells.

Opening Worship at 12:15

We began with a short period of silent worship.

The Clerk shared the following reading:

To read the Scriptures is to look in a mirror and find our own inner life, both as individuals and as a community, reflected in the lives of our spiritual forebears. Reading the Scriptures is an experience of growing self-knowledge. The life experiences of Biblical characters are analogous to our own; their spiritual conditions are ours. Reading the Bible is therefore an event of self-discovery, as we are taught by the same Spirit that inspired the written words of Scripture.

This suggests a great richness of the interior life. To read the Bible is to realize that one is a participant in the great ongoing story of God's people. The Biblical story is recapitulated in the life of the believing reader. Each has his own exile, her own exodus. We have moments of feeling in exile, separated from the presence of God. We have experiences of exodus, of liberation from whatever it might be that holds us in bondage.

From *Mysticism and Activism: Learning from John Woolman*
Michael Birkel, Annual Michener Lecture 2002 SEYM

Agenda Review

No additions or corrections were made to the agenda as written.

Minutes of Tenth Month Meeting for Business

The Tenth Month Minutes, as published on our website, were approved.

Treasurer's Report (through Tenth Month 2008)

Adrienne Weir

As of the end of Tenth Month:

Total Expenses	\$16203.73	(59.34% of budgeted expenses)
TOTAL INCOME	\$16959.16	(62.11% of budgeted income)

Adrienne reminded us that, in the 11th month of the year, we had only met 55% of our expected contributions, and that now is the time to make end-of-year donations. She also noted that we had only spent 59% of our projected expenses thus far.

Katherine Kowal asked why we had only spent 59% of our budgeted monies so far, and whether this underspending was restricted to a single sector of our budget. Kitti Reynolds answered that Peace & Earth had \$2500 remaining for (mostly) end-of-year expenditures, and that this would be spent down by the end of the calendar year. Steve Livingston also noted that House & Grounds was still debating one expensive item (finishing of the Meeting Room floor), but that that item would be done in the spring. This is one reason that House & Grounds has underspent

their budget line. Adrienne noted that Childcare and SAYF underspent their budgets, and that these budget lines were high for this year (but might not be in the future); the RE committee has completely spent their budget.

The clerk asked whether we had paid out our full year's worth of SAYMA dues; Adrienne confirmed that we had done so.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as written, with thanks to Adrienne Weir for her work on this.

Committee Reports

No committee reports were brought to our attention this month.

Request for Transfer from Gerald and Eda Smith

Barbara noted that health problems have prevented these members from regularly attending AFM, then read the letter asking for transfer of their membership to Celo Friends Meeting. Alan reported to the Meeting that when they attended the dedication of the Celo Friends Meetinghouse, they stopped to visit the Smiths. At that time Eda looked quite well. He noted that this transfer of membership would be more convenient and sensible, and less burdensome, for both Gerald and Eda Smith, as the Celo Meeting is only a few miles from the Smiths' residence.

We approved, with love and well wishes, the transfer of Gerald and Eda Smith's membership to Celo Friends Meeting. Barbara Esther will draft a letter to the Celo Friends Meeting regarding this matter.

Joy Gossett expressed thanks to those AFM members and attenders who have maintained regular contact with Gerald and Eda Smith. She hopes that our Meeting as a whole will continue to be sensitive to the Smiths' needs even though they are no longer members of our meeting.

Before moving to the next agenda item, the clerk noted, with thanks, that Nicholas and Robin Wells stayed at Business Meeting to make cookies for us. The Meeting expressed their appreciation.

Memorial Minute for Alice Brown

Katherine Kowal

Steve Livingston read the Memorial Minute, written by Jim Cavener, to the Business Meeting. Katherine Kowal noted that this draft of the Minute had been revised after consultation with Ministry and Counsel Committee.

(The minute can be viewed at http://ashevillefriends.org/alice_brown/alice%20brown%20page.pdf)

Steve stated that he would be happy to continue to post any notes (sent to him via email) to the Alice Brown Memorial Page on our Meeting's website.

Phil Neal added a reinforcing remark. During his 70+ years as a Quaker, he has known many Quaker women reminiscent of Alice Brown, and he noted that we were blessed to have had Alice Brown as part of the Religious Society of Friends. The clerk said that there were echoes of others we have been honored to have in our meeting in the life of Alice Brown.

Those present approved the sharing of this Minute (with an amendment by Lynnora Bierce to note the name of the hospice facility) with Friends in the region, the *Friends Journal*, and Alice Brown's former Meetings. Barbara Esther will disseminate the memorial minute.

Those present also expressed appreciation for the Minute as written, and wanted their gratitude expressed to Jim Cavener for constructing the final Minute.

Holiday Gathering – Ad Hoc Committee

Barbara noted that December was just around the corner, and that the Hospitality Committee had declined to plan a Holiday Gathering.

Lynnora Bierce noted that she appreciated, in past years, doing a gift exchange with Young Friends in January.

Kitti Reynolds, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, and Gary Briggs offered to serve on an Ad Hoc Holiday Gathering Committee, and to assist others in planning such a gathering. We are grateful to those who volunteered for this task.

Robin Wells asked if there was a sense of the Meeting about the timing of this gathering. Various dates were explored so that the most Friends could attend the holiday gathering. It was suggested that the four people on the committee decide on a time convenient for them, and that the rest of us attend if possible. It was noted that a date closer to Christmas allowed college-aged Friends to attend.

The Ad Hoc committee will meet and report back to us with details about the planned Holiday Gathering.

Other

Rylin Hansen thanked those who have helped her in the very difficult process of moving. She said that she has received this help gratefully, and that it has saved her from the nightmare of wading through it alone.

The Clerks' Meeting will be November 21st at 6:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. The meeting will focus on budget planning for the 2009 calendar year. Barbara Esther asked that each committee forward the name of a committee representative (who will attend the Clerks' Meeting) to her as soon as possible.

Closing Worship at 1:04 p.m.

We ended with a few moments of silence.