



Salem Quarter News

Winter 2012

*This is the day
that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Mind the Heavenly Treasure

None worship God but who come to the principle of God, which they have transgressed. None are ploughed up but he who comes to the principle of God in him, that he hath transgressed. Then he doth service to God; then is the planting, watering, and increase from God. So the ministers of the spirit must minister to the spirit that is in prison, which hath been in captivity in every one; that with the spirit of Christ people may be led out of captivity up to God, the Father of spirits, to serve him, and have unity with him, with the scriptures, and one with another. This is the word of the Lord God to you all, a charge to you all in the presence of the living God; be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over [ie. above] the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you: then to the Lord God you shall be a sweet savour, and a blessing.

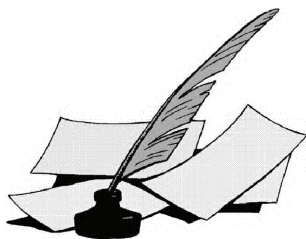
George Fox

Quaker children being glad there's a hill in Mannington Meadow to slide down, by Mary Waddington.

quote: Ps 118:24 English Standard Version

Choices

by Barry Sloane, Clerk of SQM



Dianne and I have during this summer spent more time at the beach than I had ever thought possible. I had some initial reservations about this, but finally succumbed to the wind, water and rhythm of nature's TV set to the point where I now have an app on my phone showing high and low tide times; this so I can determine where to pitch the beach campsite for the day.

Naturally at the end of these 'exceedingly stressful' days at the beach we would occasionally unwind at an entertainment establishment. One such evening was at a beachfront bar that had live music with a tribute band that was doing some incredibly awesome Grateful Dead covers.

The evening was warm with a gentle breeze coming off the ocean. The band wove its magic taking us back to our youth. There were a about a dozen groupies following this band and they were dancing; some like dervishes and others like bobbing corks on the sea – all in rhythm to the music. There was the man in the tie dyed suit, the woman in the cut off shorts and frizzy blond hair and the man with the Louis the XIV hair and bell- bottomed jeans and the woman in the slinky black jumpsuit with the long shiny black straight hair -- all, living for the moment, in another time. I felt like I was transported to a simpler world. If you have seen Woody Allen's movie "Midnight in Paris" you would have an idea how I felt carried to another time and space. In that moment, I could feel the love from these strangers and the love for them. I felt connected to the Universe. I was spellbound and in a truly enchanted moment.

One truth about life is that change is inevitable. Another is that sometimes it seems like the moments we truly get to touch with God are all too brief. Sometimes I feel like God is teasing us.

In the middle of this bliss I saw some police running from the beach to the board walk; then the red and blue strobes on the boardwalk searing through the evening. We really couldn't see much of the boardwalk because there was a screen between the bar and the boardwalk. So curious gawker that I am, I walked out to see what was happening. It wasn't pretty. Thirty feet from where we were sitting, there were about a dozen cops and EMTs, two kneeling on the ground tending to a man who had been seriously beaten and who was bleeding profusely. The man's

friend was babbling and staggering around in a wide eyed dazed panic. The onlookers were assembled in a Greek chorus. Even with the blazing lights, the pall of evil enveloped the scene in a heavy black cloud. Apparently the downed man had been drunk and let his anger out by using the 'N' word loudly, repeatedly and directly to five African Americans. They went after him with a vengeance before hurriedly departing the premises. It was questionable if the man survived the evening.

I rejoined the group at the bar and we partied on. Still, I couldn't get the contrast between the two scenes and the juxtaposition of the two realities next to each other out of my mind and even now, this gives me pause to think.

I occasionally wonder just how much free will we have. How much of our lives are affected by pre-destined actions or random occurrences and how much do we really control? Fortunes, God, circumstance, fate, whatever you call it, are things we cannot control. We cannot control, for example, who our relatives are when we are born. We cannot control someone running a stop sign at the wrong time or how others will respond to music or taunts. We can however, control who we are with and how we choose to act. In this vignette, these two realities were more a consequence of the players' attitudes and actions than the fates.

Fast forwarding to the present, we have choices about how we celebrate Christmas. We can be caught up in the mammon and the neurotic tension that brings, or we can rejoice in the birth of the Christ and the return of the light. Let's choose to seize the joy and pass it on! May you dance through life during these holidays and through the New Year!

Friends Foundation at Woodstown was established in 1976 to assist members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who are living at Friends Village at Woodstown.

In addition, the Foundation seeks bequests and contributions from individuals and memorials, and the income from these donations is used to assist Friends residing there.

Contributions may be sent to:
 Friends Foundation at Woodstown
 #1 Friends Drive
 Woodstown, NJ 08098

Indian Affairs Committee Report to Quarterly Meeting September 9, 2012

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Members of the committee have participated in the following **events** with members of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation:

1) The Gathering, 19th/20th days Fifth month; particular note was made for the hand-made quilts, etiquette for the circle, and naming ceremony protocol.

2) Anthropologist Dr. Cara Blume's presentation and reception hosted by the Friends of the Bridgeton Library, 20th day Fifth month.

3) A second joint meeting of this committee with the NL-L elders, 31st day Fifth month; of note is the new naming of the three familial tribes among NJ & DE – Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Confederation.

4) The 33rd Annual Pow-wow, 6th month, at the Salem County Fairgrounds and the 35th Annual Powwow yesterday in Millsboro, DE with the Nanticoke family.

5) This committee's work with the PYM Indian Committee helped move forward a NL-L presence at Annual Sessions 6th month. The theme of The Holy Experiment lent focus toward Penn's contact and intent with the original people. Rev. Dr. John Norwood, NL-L member, spoke of early friendship, historical governmental changes, and legal implications and impact, genocide of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape people. These facts give rise to the spirit led work being done today. He thanked Quakers for their recent letters to NJ legislators to pass NJ Senate Bill 2841. (The bill was not brought to the floor for a vote.)

The committee's work in the light moves forward in the following **tasks**:

a) To assist the NL-L as they continue to gather documentation to secure recognition criteria established by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. This committee is researching Quaker documents to show our continued relationship that was established as early as Fenwick's time in the mid 1600s. A NL-L member expressed that, "...we must show descent from identified Indians from at least 1787 to the modern era. Any connection to tribal ancestors identified in Quaker records could be crucial. Those proven to descend from identified Indians prior to 1787 is still crucial." The NL-L recognize and appreciate the outpouring of love from our Quarter and expressed a wanting to have Dr. Cara Blume involved in the research; we welcome her experience with research and the Lenape communities.

b) This committee recognized the importance of creating links from the Salem Quarter website to Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape (approved) web sites

c) Seasoning and discernment for the UNDRIP Resolution as shared work with PYM IC past request for a minute of support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Resolution 61/295 adopted in 2007 from MMs; Central Philadelphia MM recently drafted a minute of support for UNDRIP.

d) We are encouraged to be more familiar with the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs criteria for recognition, the Doctrine of Discovery (recently denounced by the World Council of Churches,) the work by the National Congress of American Indians, and Quaker resources such as FCNL.

e) We are invited to take part in Rich Joseph's Clearness Committee meeting set for 25th day Eighth month at Mickleton Monthly Meeting.

f) We are considering a mission statement representing our discernment and work in the light.

Salem Quarter Friends are welcome to worship 15th d 9th mo. in Fairton at 2:00.

In closing, the committee has three **requests** for Salem Quarter:

First, given that one member has withdrawn and the time needed to devote to intensive research, we invite members of SQ to prayerfully consider taking on this committee's work – reading Quaker documents.

Second, we ask the Quarter to accept this resubmitted **minute from Salem Quarter** indicating support for our friends, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, for the ongoing work toward state/ federal recognition, securing social justice, economic justice, and political justice.

Third, we respectfully ask the Quarter to consider financially support for direct research fees as work moves us to museums, state/federal agencies, libraries, and historical societies for admissions, memberships, and copying. These estimated expenses range from \$150-\$200 for the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Murphy, clerk revised 9/9/12

Report of Trustees Committee Meeting
10th day, 8th month 2012

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The meeting was held at the Woodstown Meeting House, attending were: Paul Somers, Torrey Reade, Gary Holmes. The meeting was begun at about 7:40 pm with silent worship.

Item one was damage and payment at the Port Elizabeth Cemetery. The front wall was more than 50% destroyed by a driver who fell asleep at the wheel of his automobile (this is the second time in two years for this same type of accident there). The driver's insurance company was contacted, estimates were gotten and payment made by a check for \$3500. That all being done, an estimate for demolition was obtained: \$3200 to remove the front wall, \$1600 for removal of the north wall (the contractor was very reluctant to deal with the south wall, as there are graves and grave stones very close there). At the meeting, trustees agreed that there was no great historical value to 1927 vintage concrete block, and that for safety and ease of maintenance, removal was the best option. So Trustees are in unity that the \$3500 should be spent on removal. If Quarterly Meeting could come up with the extra \$1300, the price is good and the opportunity is there to get the north wall done when the front wall is done.

Item two: cemetery policy. Quarter has three graveyards and no policy. Trustees are in unity with slightly re-wording the Salem Monthly Meeting policy to fit the Quarter, and adding a provision banning plastic flowers, wreaths etc. (As the sun degrades these they fall to pieces, but never fully decompose, thereby becoming a constantly increasing source of litter that is almost impossible to pick up and never goes away) If the Quarter is in unity with this, we will write it up and submit it to Quarter for final approval.

Item three: cemetery records. This is a plea to everyone in the Quarter. We currently have no records or plot plans for any of the cemeteries. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of them, please contact Trustees.

In the Light, for the trustees,
Gary Holmes

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Contributions to SQNews are needed.

SQNews is most interesting when it includes contributions from our members in addition to the minutes and other official news. We appreciate articles of opinion and reflection, poetry, book reviews and news of meeting activities or activities of individual Friends.

Electronic files are appreciated by the editor, including e-mail, and/or .doc, .txt, .rtf, and .odt files sent as attachments. Paper copy is OK. A printed page consists of 39 lines of about 490 words, plus the header.

Photographs and drawings that illustrate submitted content are welcome. Again electronic format is appreciated. The larger the file size, the better. (I.e. more pixels are better, set picture size to large when possible.) Although most will appear in black and white in SQNews, please submit photos in color. It is actually easier to get a good black and white reproduction in the SQNews from a color original than from a black and white original.

Send contributions to etherington.t@gmail.com. It will help if you start the subject line with SQNews. Mailing address is Tom Etherington, 5775 Irving Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109. Questions? Send to the above e-mail or call 609-206-5329. Deadline for the Spring edition will be January 23.

Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes

9/9/2012

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 9/9/2012 at Greenwich Monthly Meeting. Out of worship, clerk Barry Sloane (Mickleton) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and thanked Greenwich for their hospitality and Mullica Hill for their desserts. There was a Friendly presence for business of twenty-one representing six of the seven Monthly Meetings in the quarter. There were three guests from outside the quarter. Announcements were made and guests introduced.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 6/10/2012 were approved as they appeared in the Salem Quarter News.

Marsha Gaspar (Woodbury) submitted a treasurer's report on the 2012 Tri-Quarter Gathering scheduled for 10/5-7/2012. This year's theme is "Tending Our Sacred Gardens." The report included a request for continued funding.

Salem Quarterly Meeting approved continuing their financial support of the Tri-Quarter Gathering for 2013 as part of the 2013-2014 budget in the amount of \$500.

The finance committee report was presented by Michael Shapiro (Salem). Adjusted covenant figures for 2012-2013 have been received from all but two of the meetings and are reflected in the streamlined budget without coordinator costs. Presuming that all adjusted pledges are made we should be able to meet our expenses. We are making the adjustment to meeting our expenses through our own checking account rather than through the account at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. So far our expectations regarding expense and income have been accurate.

A timeline has been developed and distributed to the treasurers around the Quarter detailing the anticipated times for meetings, reports and payments. As indicated in the timeline, Monthly Meetings should currently be discussing and setting the amounts of their covenants for 2013-2014. The finance committee needs this information before they can develop the 2013-2014 budget for presentation at our next quarterly meeting. Quarter committees who anticipate expenses should forward these requests to the finance committee for consideration as soon as possible.

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) reported from Steering Committee as its

clerk. The report summarized the business of the last committee meeting with information on Salem Quarter News, the Annual Quarter Picnic, office transitions without a Coordinator, and news from around the Quarter. *(See report p. 12)*

A report was presented by Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton), clerk of the Indian Affairs committee. The report contained information regarding the events attended by committee members; goals and considerations set by the committee; and three requests made to Salem Quarter by the committee. *(See report p. 5)*

Friends accepted the following revised minute from Salem Quarter indicating support for our friends, the Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation for the ongoing work toward state/ federal recognition, securing social justice, economic justice, and political justice.

Salem Quarter declares a minute of support for our Nanticoke Leni-Lenape neighbors in their mission seeking federal and/ or state tribal recognition. The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation, once recognized as a tribe in the state of New Jersey, is experiencing a denial of existence as a tribe and as individuals. Although they were recognized by the state of New Jersey in the 1980's through concurrent legislative resolutions, the form of that recognition needs to be specifically reaffirmed by legislative statute to meet modern requirements for some federal programs and protections provided to American Indian Tribes. Even with a government study and executive order urging legislative action to correct the issue, the tribe still waits; new and continued effort goes on today. Let us recognize the importance of this tribe's community cultural diversity gifted to us through the lives of the Nanticoke Leni-Lenape. Let us acknowledge that these families were here before European colonization, through European colonization, and in NJ ever since European colonization. Ever since our Quaker forefathers, families and friends settled in the southern Jersey region we have maintained friendly relations with this tribe. This Declaration affirms our testimonies of peace, equality, social and economic justice. The complex legal ambiguities must not arrest the recognition of any individual's light nor our truth.

Salem Quarterly Meeting approved \$200 in financial support during the 2012-2013 budget year for the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs committee for the purpose of direct research fees as their work moves to

museums, state/federal agencies, libraries and historical societies for admissions, memberships and copying. The finance committee should include consideration of this line item as part of the 2013-2014 budget as well.

The Worship & Ministry committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening, heard reports on the Gifts Working group, the prayer group, and considered budget needs for 2013-2014. The committee discussed possible workshops/ retreats for the future and discussed at length the Gifts Working Group and the development of recognizing gifts. **(See report p. 15)**

The Quarter Trustees report, submitted by Gary Holmes (Woodstown) and presented by Paul Somers highlighted the damage to the wall at the Port Elizabeth cemetery by yet another collision. The Trustees recommend removal of the wall. They also asked for assistance in locating records for the various graveyards and unity in developing a graveyard policy. **(See report p. 7)**

Salem Quarterly Meeting approved the Trustees recommendation to add \$1,300 as needed to the insurance payment of \$3,500 to remove the front and north walls of the Port Elizabeth cemetery. They are encouraged to seek a second estimate.

Bill Carrigan (Mickleton) sent a report from Friends School at Mullica Hill which highlighted the continuing search for a permanent Head of School; the completion of the solar panel installation, and the activities associated with the beginning of the school year. Thanks were extended to the Quarter and to all the individuals who made contributions to the Annual Fund. Worship is held at the school every Thursday at 9:00 am for the lower grades and at 10:20 am for the middle school. Friends are welcomed and encouraged to join the students and staff.

As a Friend, Roshan Dinshah (Mullica Hill) has been involved in prison ministry at South State Prison for many years. He has been able to support the travel expenses of this ministry from other sources, which have now been exhausted. He requested financial support from the Quarter.

Salem Quarterly Meeting approved reimbursing Roshan Dinshah (Mullica Hill) for annual travel expenses associated with his prison ministry of \$1,000 with our deep gratitude for his many years of service and his continuing commitment. The finance committee is directed to include this line item in the 2013-2014 budget as well.

Additional announcements were made and the meeting was closed in worship.

Rebecca Shapiro, recording clerk

Steering Committee Report to September 2012 Quarterly Meeting

Salem Quarter News. Tom Etherington reported that all processes went smoothly especially with three proofreaders. Tom is working on the database of names for the mailing list. News from meetings or articles is requested. Tom would like to make a web edition available.

Around the Quarter: updates on Monthly Meetings by Steering Committee representatives.

Mickelton: September 30 – Memorial for Lester Heritage. The status of Richard Joseph is a concern of Mickleton. Mickleton is proceeding with the installation of their new roof.

Mullica Hill: They are planning a Saturday presentation by Doug Gwyn, author of *Conversations with Christ*. The Song Circle continues on the first Thursday of the month. They continue to hold mid-week worship at Friends Village. Currently, they are considering the status and future of their children's first day school program.

Salem: Salem Worship & Ministry recently hosted worship at the LAC meetinghouse. Our children's first day school continues on a bi-monthly basis and our active adult class meets weekly. Salem and Seaville recently had a joint committee meeting regarding a shared concern. It was a unifying and productive time.

Woodstown: Woodstown is pursuing an intergenerational first day school program on a monthly basis. They will be having a Halloween party with PYM Young Friends who are having their Halloween Gathering at Woodstown October 26-28 (the weekend before Halloween).

Quarter Picnic at Seventeen Farms. The Quarter picnic was held at Ken Thompson's farm in Tuckahoe. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by all in attendance. Pictures are on the Quarter Facebook page.

Quarter Trustees Report and Recommendation. At their last meeting, the trustees agreed that removal was the best option for the wall at the Port Elizabeth cemetery which has been hit by a car for the second time in as many years. They asked the Quarter for unity on developing a graveyard policy based on the policy used by Salem Monthly Meeting. The Trustees are in search of records/plot plans for any or all of the

cemeteries under the care of the Quarter. Friends with knowledge are asked to contact the Trustees.

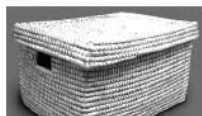
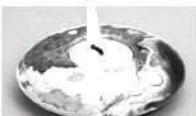
Steering committee members raised some questions regarding the wall at the Port Elizabeth cemetery and its proximity to gravesites and the protection that it provides to the headstones and grave markers. Those with concerns were encouraged to go down and take a look.

Life after Phil – Office and Mail/Messages. To keep himself busy, Phil is talking with Friends Journal and Quaker Life about writing book reviews for them. The office space has been utilized to house books belonging to the Quarter, which will be available for lending. We're making a list, which will be posted on the Salem Quarter web site. Mail is being picked up. It is mostly junk mail; we are changing the address on the few bills we get to go to Dianne Sloane.

If you have business for Steering Committee, please talk with your Steering Committee rep. or with the Steering Committee clerk.

December 6, 7, 8, 9

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*Worship and Ministry Report
to Salem Quarterly Meeting
September 9, 2012*

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The committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening. Ten Friends were present with four out of the seven meeting represented. We began with worship and heard reports from the Gifts Working group, the prayer group, and considered committee budget needs for 2013-2014. Plans for a daylong workshop this fall with Viv Hawkins on Spiritual Accountability have not materialized and were postponed indefinitely. Other workshops/retreats include the possibilities for a gathering of PYM Worship & Ministry for extended worship/worship sharing and the development of a quarter wide book discussion/review to support multiple Monthly Meetings' study of *Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way*, by Steve Chase. A tentative plan was made to offer a workshop/book discussion after the first of the year when study has had time to take place. The evolution of a workshop at PYM Annual Sessions or at next year's Tri-Quarter Gathering growing out of a quarterly level event was mentioned.

Arrangements are being made for the next two gatherings of the prayer group with interest in publicizing the event to the local community and the college where the gatherings are held.

The bulk of the evening discussion was focused on the Gifts Working Group and their request for direction. A report sent in absentia by Christine Greenland described the continuing transitional status of the group and their sense of integrating their work into the life of Salem Quarterly Meeting. They intend to try and meet on a quarterly basis with their next meeting on 10/20/2012.

Peggy Warner (Mullica Hill) provided some background to W&M on the formation and work of the Gifts Working Group and her sense of the needs of the Quarter with particular attention to the Quarter Nominating committee, especially in view of the cessation of the coordinator program and the void left by the absence of the specific gifts of our last coordinator. Friends offered thought on the purpose, expectation and sustainability of the Gifts Working Group; the fundamental concepts of outreach; and the methods by which we can all improve our ability to identify our own gifts and those of others. We noted that strength and knowledge are built on familiarity with one another.

As Friends, we often move cautiously and slowly. When neces-

sary, we must swiftly rise to the call for action. As we held these thoughts in the Light, a way opened and a plan developed to strengthen our individual meetings and thus the Quarter. There are among us, individuals trained in the presentation of *Faith & Play* which includes a story on gifts. This presentation will provide the opportunity to learn to recognize the gifts within our meetings and help us to effectively utilize the gifts, talents and strengths that already exist. It is the hope that each meeting or pairs of meetings will host a presentation of this *Faith and Play* story, not just for nominating committee members, but for everyone. Peggy Warner (Mullica Hill) and Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton) have contact information on program presenters.

Friends were energized and uplifted by this deep, productive gathering. The meeting concluded with worship, holding in the Light several Friends in need of prayer.

Rebecca Shapiro
SQM W&M clerk

Will You Display Art at Quarterly Meeting?

Salem Meeting hopes to have a variety of art work for the upcoming Quarter exhibit on December 9th. We are asking that all entries be submitted by 5 pm on Saturday the 8th. The Annex will be open and staffed for receiving that day from 9 am until 5 pm. For entries that can not be delivered that day, please contact Mary Waddington at 935-0683, Dana Gayner at 935-7934 or Molly Carpenter at sculptress@mollycarpenter.com for possible pickup earlier that week. Four 2-D ready-to-hang pieces or 1/2 a table for 3-D pieces are suggested, more can be shown if space permits. Any work brought in Sunday morning the 9th would need to be displayed by the artist by 9 am. All work can be removed after 1 pm. Michael Gibson's very large collection of frames will be available for purchase on both the 8th and 9th.

What Do Quaker's Believe?

Sandra Boone Murphy

How do you reply when someone asks, "What do Quaker's believe?" One universal position contends there is that of God in each of us. One blessing that enunciates this basic belief is the "Gifts" story, created by the Religious Education Working Group of Friends General Conference. This story encourages the discovery of each person's gift(s) by listening with our hearts and for God.

During a recent Salem Quarter Worship and Ministry Committee meeting the sharing of "Gifts" became evident and deemed rightly ordered. Quakers have long understood work being led by spirit; this story can help individuals discover their gifts, meant not only for them, but also for their whole meeting community.

While many Quakers within our unprogrammed quarters recognize the light of their individual and collective foundations, gifts are in continual revelation. Refining our discoveries by caring for one another we enlighten and empower each person, the monthly meetings, and our quarterly meeting.

Many of us in Salem Quarter have been blessed to witness gifts working through Michael Gibson in songs, photographs, and spiritual retreats. Michael is also the primary author of the "Gifts" story. He has been instrumental in presenting *Playing in the Light* workshops at Pendle Hill that have prepared others within our quarter to teach our Quaker faith and practice.

With joy, Salem Quarter Worship and Ministry invites meetings, committees, or religious education classes to hear the "Gifts" story by contacting Rebecca Shapiro, 856 358-2385, or e-mail <heddwch@comcast.net>.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

To Be Broken and Tender by Margery Post Abbott

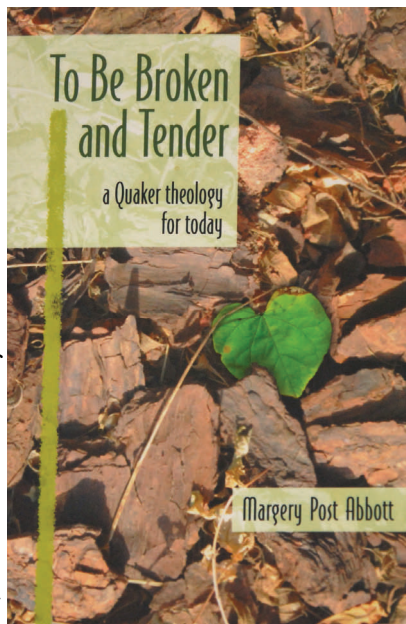
The bold subtitle of this book announces its importance. During their heyday, Quakers had a robust theology that challenged individuals and the churches, both Protestant and Catholic. Nowadays the best most Friends can usually muster in the way of theology it is to say "There is that of God in everyone." If asked to elaborate we usually explain, "There is a little bit of God in everyone," then try to change the subject. Margery does a good job of putting the modern Quaker experience into words.

Marjorie Post Abbott has given us a book for modern Quakers in modern times in a modern Society of Friends that is very much in the Quaker journal tradition. It is a first person account of her life growing up in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as a confused young person who faithfully attended meeting for worship and got nothing out of it, until, in her early forties, she felt a call to the

Quaker ministry that transformed her life. But, whereas earlier ministers travelled as led, calling special meetings and preaching at length, her modern ministry has been that of leading workshops as requested by Friends meetings and writing books.

The book addresses how an encounter with God heals one's brokenness and opens up new paths of blessing to oneself and others. It talks of following leadings, how you recognize a leading and what that involves. The book is divided into 29 chapters on such topics as waiting and attending, the Light in us all, being present to others, suffering, justice, solitude, being gentle with yourself, and being healed. Mullica Hill used this book in the adult forum for almost a year. The variety of the chapters kept each week's study fresh and interesting.

The book is available from FGC Books at www.quakerbooks.org or by phone at 1-800-966-4556.



You are invited to worship with Friends School

Friends of Salem Quarter are invited to worship with the students and faculty of Friends School Mullica Hill every Thursday that school is in session. Your Friendly presence will help the school provide the Quaker experience to the students.

Lower school meets at 9:00 AM
Middle School meets at 10:20 AM

A Sense of Purpose *Paul Mack Somers*

The Salem Quarterly Steering Committee spent much of its October meeting considering the challenge of no longer having a coordinator.

I shared my own experience sixteen years ago of being challenged as the climactic moment of a three-day retreat (Landmark Education Forum) to put my defining self-purpose into one sentence. This was something that all the participants did, each working out their own and then stating it firmly to all the others. It was phrased as “I stand for ...”, a wording so resonant with Martin Luther’s “Here I stand, I can do no other.”

The committee members considered during the a long, spontaneous, very Quakerly silence which ensued, what each would find to be their one-sentence purpose in life. Then the possibility of creating such a stand for the Steering Committee was considered. Tom Etherington spoke of the historic spiritual role of the committee as uncovering and nurturing the gifts of Friends. Though no “We stand for ...” sentence was developed at that meeting, it will be an ongoing matter. Tom’s ministry certainly raised the word “nurture” as important as we continue.



Reflections by Tom Etherington

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It's Christmas time again, and once again the Christmas story gets a lot of attention. We all grew up with the story from the books of Matthew and Luke and just sort of it absorbed it when we were children. When we grew up we learned it wasn't quite that simple. Questions abounded about its historicity and its scientific accuracy. Was Jesus really born in December of the year 0? Was there really a star? How did it move? And the big one, Was Mary really virgin? Some people take the story quite literally, others believe it a complete fabrication, with many somewhere in between.

Over the years I have come to see it as more or less as a parable of the spiritual life. I see the birth story of Jesus as a way of understanding the spiritual birth that Jesus referenced when he spoke of being born of the Spirit. The Spirit enters with little fanfare, often not recognized by the world and often in the most unlikely corners of our lives. It seems never to be a part of the physical riches or political or social standing. In fact, it seems often to be the opposite of these common measures of importance. It comes as a leaven in ordinary day-to-dayness of our lives till it spreads throughout all we do and are.

When the life of spirit comes, it comes as vulnerable as an infant that needs constant attention to keep it alive. It has to be protected and nourished, lest it fail to survive. New birth is wonderful, but to realize its potential it has to survive to maturity. Robert Frost has written

But God's own descent
Into flesh was meant
As a demonstration
That the supreme merit
Lay in risking spirit
In substantiation.

I now see this as the essence of the story of Jesus birth. We are called not to keep the Spirit deep inside us like a babe in a manger, but to let it mature and walk abroad in the world, letting our light so shine before men that they glorify our Father in Heaven.

Directions to Salem Meeting

East Broadway and Walnut St, Salem

From the southernmost parts of NJ, take Route 47 north to Route 49. Turn west on Rt. 49 which takes you in to Salem.

The traffic light at East Broadway and Walnut Sts. is directly in front of the meetinghouse.

Turn right into the Salem Mtg. driveway.

From northern South Jersey, take Routes 40 or 45 to Woodstown.

Take Route 45 from Woodstown to Salem.

Route 45 dead ends into Broadway.

Turn left onto East Broadway, then left at the first traffic light (one block) into Salem Mtg. driveway.

Salem Quarter News is the official publication of **Salem Quarterly Meeting** of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and appears four times a year. Please address all comments and questions to Tom Etherington, editor.

Electronic files are appreciated by the editor, including e-mail, and/or .doc, .txt, .rtf, and .odt files sent as attachments. Paper copy is OK. A printed page consists of 39 lines of about 490 words, plus the header.

Photographs and drawings are also preferred in electronic format. The larger the file size, the better. (I.e. more pixels are better, set picture size to large when possible.) Although most will appear in black and white in SQNews, please submit photos in color. Send contributions to etherington.t@gmail.com. It will help if you start the subject line with SQNews. Mailing address is Tom Etherington, 5775 Irving Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109. Questions? Send to the above e-mail or call 609-206-5329. Deadline for the Winter edition will be October 22.



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Salem Quarterly Meeting meets in session for business four times a year and carries on activities at other times. It is made up of the southernmost Quaker congregations in New Jersey. The monthly meetings gather for business once a month and meet in worship every Sunday. Many also provide children's or adult First-day School (religious education). The worship groups schedule their meetings differently. Call the listed numbers or visit the websites for information. The monthly meetings and worship groups making up Salem Quarter are:

Greenwich: Upper Greate Street P.O. Box 18, Greenwich, N.J. 08323
856-451-8217, 15 Sep–15 Jun, Lower Greate Street 15 Jun–15 Sept,
Worship 9-9:45, 9:45-10 After-words and general fellowship, 10:00- no
longer than 11:00, First Day School, children and adults.

Mickleton: 413 Kings Highway, Mickleton, N.J. 08056 856-845-7682
www.pym.org/salem-qm/mickleton www.meetup.com/mickletonmeeting/ Worship 10:00 am, children's First-day School 10:15

Mullica Hill: 2 Woodstown Road (Route 45 just south of Route 77), P.O. Box 67, Mullica Hill, N.J. 08062 856- 478-2184 mullicahillfriends.org
Sunday School 9:45 am, worship 11:00 am Sep–May; worship 10:00 am Jun–Aug

Salem: East Broadway at Walnut Street, P.O. Box 7, Salem, N.J. 08079
Worship 10:30; First Day School 9:15 am Sept.-May

Seaville: 3088 South Shore Road (Rte. 9, 1 mile S. of Rte. 50), Ocean View, N.J. 08230 609-624-1165 seavillequaker.tripod.com
Worship 10:00 am; Children's First Day School 10:00 am. Beach meeting (weather permitting) Grant Street beach, Cape May, May–Oct, 9:00 am

Southern State Worship Group: Call Roshan Dinshah for info 856-694-3025

Woodbury: 124 North Broad Street, Woodbury, N.J. 08096, 856 -845-5080
www.pym.org/pym_mms/woodburynj_salq.php www.meetup.com/Woodbury-Friends-Meeting/ First-day School 10:00 am, worship 11:15 am

Woodstown, 104 North Main St., P.O. Box 13, Woodstown, N.J. 08098,
856- 769-9839 <http://www.woodstownfriends.org/> First-day School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am

Salem Quarterly Meeting
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society
of Friends
PO Box 55
Woodstown, NJ 08098-0055

Salem Quarterly Meeting
December 9, 2012
at Salem Meeting House
(Directions on p. 22)

9:00 Gather

9:30 Christmas Carol Sing

10:30 Worship

***11:30 Lunch (Use the extra half-hour to
view the art objects on display.)***

1:00 Business Meeting

Child care, beverages and dessert provided.