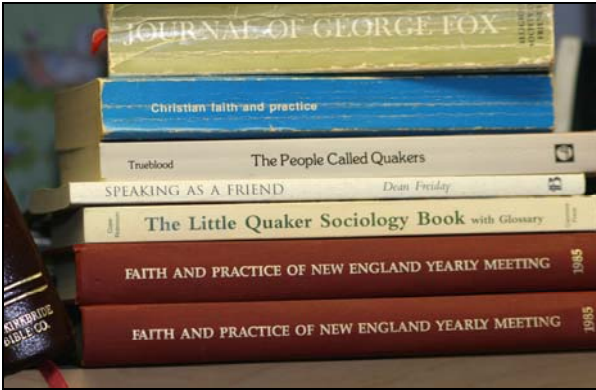


Westport Monthly Meeting Newsletter

November, 2009



**Quakerism is hard.
And that's why I like it.**

- Buddy Baker-Smith

Clerk: Betty Ann Lee, 508-994-1638
Friends In Residence: Emily and David Sutton, 508-636-4963

Ministry and Counsel Clerk: Mark Bauer, 401-228-8386
Web: www.westportquakers.org

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Property Committee, 8:30
- Ministry and Counsel, 11:45 AM
- 3 Peace and Social Concerns Committee
7:30 PM in Community House
- 6-8 JHYM Retreat at Woolman Hill
- 8 **Fall Cleanup Day** (first of two choices)
12-3 PM. Pizza lunch provided. See details
- 12 Interchurch Council 70th Anniversary. See details
- 13 **Dine and Discuss Potluck**. See details
- 15 Finance Committee, 8:30 AM
- Monthly Meeting for Business, 11:45
- 17 Market Ministries
- 19 Religious Ed. Meeting, 6 PM at the Lee's
- 20-22 JYM Retreat at Westport Meeting
- 22 Donations for Oxfam America will be accepted following worship
- 22 **Fall Cleanup Day**, (second of two choices)
- 28 Memorial Service for John Jennings, 2 PM, in the Meetinghouse

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Addison Cox
- 12 Betty Ann Lee

Notice: Friends are reminded that a memorial meeting to celebrate the life of John Jennings will be held Saturday, November 28th at 2 PM in the Meetinghouse. All are invited. Ministry and Counsel will be overseeing arrangements. Deana Chase will lead the service.

To keep the lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it. - Mother Teresa

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Two years ago our Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee was laid down for lack of named members able to meet on a regular basis. However, several of our Meeting members, along with a core group of Friends from other area meetings, continued to remain faithful to the witness, ministry and outreach of attending to peace and social justice issues that came before them. Monthly meeting, at the request of Nominating Committee, revisited this matter and determined that even though Westport Friends are now part of a combined effort with Friends from other meetings, that we, as a monthly meeting, would recognize them as regular standing committee from this point forward. Members of this committee will be called "representatives" and the committee, as a whole are empowered to expend funds, etc. and will be given a budget at the beginning of the new year along with other standing committees. Larissa Correia, Deana Chase and Emily Sutton were formally named to this committee as well. Peace and Social will meet next on Tuesday, Nov 3, 7:30 PM in the Community House.

The need to identify who may have documents and committee minutes belonging to Westport Monthly Meeting on their home computers, and a plan to consolidate these documents into one place was discussed.

Friends approved to place all minutes and Meeting documents temporarily on a USB thumb drive and to upload all files to the Meeting's Web site. If you have



committee minutes, or other documents belonging to our Meeting, please get in touch with Emily Sutton, Recording Clerk, so that she can arrange to get these from you. Sensitive information would of course be omitted from posting to the Meeting's Web site.

The Book Fair Steering Committee (BFSC) recommended that the [former] Book Sorting Committee be laid down. Friends approved. Friends also approved that Greg Marsello would serve as the clerk of the BFSC for three years.



Nominating Committee's slate for 2009-2010 was reviewed and approved by Monthly Meeting. Please see sheet as attached. A copy will also be posted on our site.

Ministry and Counsel Committee reported a pastoral care concern for one of our Meeting members that will require an expense in excess of the committee's remaining budget for the calendar year. Friends were in unity that the expense would be met from other unrestricted funds under the care of the Monthly Meeting.

Finance Committee was reported by Buddy Baker-Smith. The complete, and thorough, report is available from Greg Marsello, clerk of Finance, but in a nutshell this is it: Donation income is down this year, but expenses are down too, as Finance anticipated this revenue projection because of the economy.

Starting in 2009, Finance Committee recommends that our Meeting begin distributing to New England Yearly Meeting's Racial, Social, Economic, and Justice Fund the yearly interest and 10% of the Olive Macomber Race Relations Fund. This is a restricted fund under the care of our Meeting, which governs how the funds are used. Friends approved this recommendation.

Religious Education Committee reported that they plan to raise funds for Oxfam America. Friends are encouraged to consider donating to this worthy cause following worship on Sunday, November 22. Snack packages and luncheon items will be offered.

For years, many Friends have attended to the essential function of providing hospitality (goodies, coffee, planned baked goods, etc.) following meeting for worship each Sunday. So that this function does not continuously become the duty of one or two Friends, Nominating Committee recommends that this function become a standing committee, known as the Hospitality Committee, so that several Friends can be named to it. Friends approved. Gretchen Baker-Smith will convene this committee and welcomes help from Westport

Friends willing to help provide hospitality following worship.

Property Committee: Property Committee is offering two dates for Friends to choose from for participating in Fall Cleanup Day. (We know you're excited!) Friends are asked to choose between Nov 8th and Nov 22nd. Pizza lunch will be provided and chores needing to be attended to will be posted. Please speak with Buddy Baker-Smith, clerk of Property, for additional details.

Dine and Discuss Program and Potluck: Friends are encouraged to sign up for the next Dine and Discuss series, which will take place on November 13th. The signup sheet is posted in the Community House. If you have not hosted previously and would like to do so, please feel encouraged! The discussions to date have been rich and varied. Ministry and Counsel Committee urges us to continue discussing the following; how do we as a Meeting community best nurture, name and support the many gifts of ministry within our Meeting? How do we, as members of Westport Friends Meeting, feel about Sandwich Quarterly Meeting's history and present practice of formally recording ministers? And, what brings you, keeps you and (hopefully) sustains you as an individual who attends Westport Friends Meeting either as an attender or a member? Please come, please share, and signup soon!



The **Morning Wings Bread Project**, a ministry of service by Gretchen Baker-Smith, is launching a fundraising effort for Westport Meeting's Hope Fund. Different breads and/or baked goods will be available to pre-order every few weeks.

Current, raisin, and dried cranberry scones, \$6.50 for 8, will be delivered to Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 15. If you are interested in ordering a ring of 8 scones, be in touch with Gretchen Baker-Smith or watch for an emailed order form coming to your Inbox in the coming week.

Interchurch Council Celebrates its 70th Year! As members of ICC, Westport Friends are warmly encouraged to attend this special dinner and program which will be held at New Bedford Vocational Technical High School. November 12 at 6 PM. Contact Deana Chase for tickets (\$25 each) at 508-636-8980.

Photos: Friends enjoying our First Day School Cookout in September (page one, lower right. First Day School class (page two, upper left. Both photos by Sara Mercer-Medeiros.

**“At the end of worship
the service begins”**

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