

# Westport Monthly Meeting Newsletter

## December, 2009



If they say to you,  
"Where did you come from?"  
Say to them,  
"We came from the light,  
The place where light came into  
being..."

- Gospel of Saint Thomas \*

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### Advent Potluck! Please Join Us!

December 13<sup>th</sup> after Meeting. Come for the great food, program, carols and a "surprise" by Greg Marsello!

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 6 Property Committee, 8:30 AM
- Ministry and Counsel, 11:45
- 11-13 Young Friends Retreat, Wellesley Mtg
- 13 **Advent Potluck** after worship. See details.
- 15 Market Ministries
- 20 Monthly Meeting for Business 11:45
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service** followed by fellowship and refreshments in the Community House. See details in next column.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Marge Bilodeau
- 8 Phoenix Olivier
- 9 Cooper Tatman
- 19 Jacquelyne Cox
- 20 Ruth Jennings
- 26 Jeff Gonsalves
- 27 Lucy Ann Lepreau
- 30 Charlie Bullis

### **ADVENT POTLUCK CELEBRATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

At the rise of Meeting for Worship, our Meeting community will have their annual Advent Potluck Celebration. At this wonderful occasion, we celebrate

the Advent season with good food, fellowship and singing.

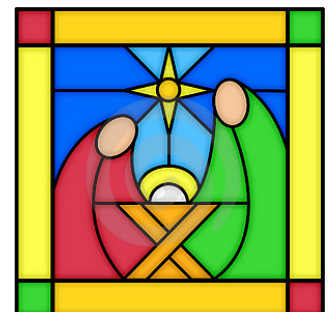
There will be a ham and beverages provided. Friends are asked to bring complimentary dishes and/or desserts for sharing. After lunch, there will be singing and SURPRISE entertainment by Greg Marsello.

Help will be needed setting up at 8:30 AM, meal prepping at rise of meeting (11:30), and cleanup for our shared Advent Potluck. Please sign up on sheet provided in the Community House.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Dec. 24 at 7:00 PM**

Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve Service. The program for worship will consist of readings, storytelling for all ages, Christmas hymns and a period of silent worship.

We welcome children at our Christmas Eve Worship during which the children's story, "On the Night You Were Born", written by Nancy Tillman, will be read. The children will be making some simple props to accompany the story in First Day School.



At the rise of Meeting for Worship, the meeting community is invited to our Christmas celebration in the Community House with sweet treats and Christmas cheer. Punch is provided. Friends are asked to bring treats for sharing. Please add your name to the signup sheet located in the Community House if you are able to help. We also need specific help with setup and cleanup, too.

### MEETING NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

With the help of special donations, Westport Friends recently purchased a new Yamaha Arius digital piano for the Meeting House. The Korg keyboard it replaces served us well for many years but was recently held together by clamps, 2x4s and all sorts of adaptations by our accompanist. We enthusiastically look forward to more music!



Religious Education Committee: The Religious Education Committee would like to thank the JYM Retreat Program and all of those Friends who made donations to raise funds for Oxfam. The kids did a great job with the snack bags. We raised over \$125.00!

We would also like to express our appreciation to those folks who have volunteered to help with First Day School and childcare this fall. The children really enjoy meeting and interacting with the various adults who share time with them.

Morning Wings Bread Project is continuing to raise money for Westport Meeting's Helping Fund, selling baked goods every few weeks. Last month's sale of scones netted \$122. December's sales will include Norwegian Cardamom Bread, Cinnamon Swirl, Pumpkin Bread, and Scones (wreath-shaped and packaged for gift giving). Watch for emailed announcements or be in touch with Gretchen Baker-Smith.

Finance Committee The Finance Committee reported the following:  
Income for the year is down \$3,000 from last year. A contribution letter was mailed in early November and announcements about end-of-year contributions will be made during Meeting announcements.

Business Meeting approved spending up to \$750 for a new organ. Gretchen Baker-Smith is finalizing the purchase.

The proposed FY10 Budget will be ready for the December Business Meeting. A few points to be aware of:

- With the newsletter being emailed to more people (saving on US Postage), Fincom is recommending

the Printing & Postage budget line be reduced by \$250.

- In order to do the best job of identifying local organizations to contribute money to, Fincom is recommending the \$600 "to be determined for local organizations" in the budget be added to Peace and Social Concerns budget.
- The Hospitality & Flowers Committee has asked for an increase of \$50 and Fincom is recommending the increase be approved.
- Since the Library Committee is inactive and the Committee's money in the budget has not been spent, we are recommending the Library Committee's budget line be reduced from \$200 to \$50.
- In an effort to get the Meeting to focus some resources on increasing Membership, Fincom is recommending that business meeting also discuss including a budget line for Membership. We would need to decide a) if we want to focus some resources on Membership and b) if we do, who would be responsible for the monies?

The Finance Committee will work with Ministry & Counsel to figure out the best strategy for financing the Helping Hand Fund. This will include deciding how much money we want in the Helping Hand Fund for next year. Presently, Gretchen Baker-Smith is coordinating the sale of baked goods to fund the Helping Hand Fund and we encourage everyone to support the effort by making a purchase. – Greg Marshall, clerk of Finance

Hospitality Committee has created checklists of tasks involved in the set up and clean up of coffee hour and posted them on the inside cabinet doors in the kitchen. Committee members will be primarily responsible for set up, but volunteers are needed each week for clean up and for donating items to the food table. Hospitality members cheerfully assure Friends that all sorts of food (home baked or store bought) are welcome and eaten, and that the general clean up is not difficult and can be done by noon. It is very helpful to the committee to get sign ups ahead of time. Please see the sheet on the bulletin board or be in touch with Gretchen Baker-Smith. Thank you!

Betty Ann Lee, Clerk of Meeting, would like to remind members and attenders that Monthly Meeting for Business is held on the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 and all are welcome to attend. If you are wondering what MMfB is all about, this is your chance to experience it! It is hoped that an earlier start time may be more convenient for some. Please come even if you are not able to stay for the entire time.

\* Quote on first page: adapted from translations of the Gospel of Thomas by Anthony Duncan, in Jesus: Essential Reading (Crucible Press, 1986).

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