

## Quakers of Orlando

# Quaker Commons

Volume 2011, Issue 3

March/Third Month



*Clerk:* Bill Carlie

**Committees/Groups and  
Contacts:**

**Ministry and Clearness**  
Stephanie Preston

**Peace and Social Concerns**  
Nelson Betancourt

**First Day School**  
Judy Schmalstig

**Finance**  
Dean Engstrom

**Property**  
Dean Engstrom

**Hospitality**  
Vicki Carlie

### *Calendar for the Month*

**March 6, 13, 20, 27**  
*Meeting for Worship 10am*

**March 12**  
*Meeting for Healing 11am*

**March 13**  
*Meeting for Business 11:30*

**Remember:** Lunch Bunch  
gets together after each  
Meeting for Worship

**Submit information to**  
bhumphrey2@earthlink.net

### **Contributors to This Issue**

Bill Carlie  
Liz Jenkins  
Kate Joseph  
Jerry Knutson

**Thank You!**

## **“Whither Quakerism?” Transcript 2011 SEYM Michener Lecture**

**Lloyd Lee Wilson:**

Friends are fond of using the metaphor of a journey to describe our individual spiritual experiences over time. The same metaphor can be applied to Quakerism itself over three and a half centuries. In the spirit of that metaphor I'd like to consider the question every traveler must face over and over: where to now? What direction should I head? What path to choose? In short, “Whither Quakerism?” We have freedom in the present moment to move in any of several different ways. We could choose rationally, thinking through the implications of each change; we could take a “random walk” approach and see where that takes us, or we could allow ourselves to be swept along by the currents of the dominant culture around us. We could also renew our commitment to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The consequences of each choice—or our failure to choose consciously—are highly significant.

The first step in deciding where we might want to go now is to determine where we are, to get our bearings by assessing where we've been and who we've been as a faith community. Rich Square Monthly Meeting, where Susan and I are members, recently had an unexpected opportunity to do this while studying the Declaration of 1660 in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of its publication. That shared study led to several reflections in our meeting about how much has changed in and around Quakerism since 1660.

We were reminded that like all the other parts of Christianity, Quakerism has developed and adapted to changing conditions and varying social contexts over decades and centuries. Any religious faith, including our own must be continually changing to remain a living and vital faith in continually changing circumstances. Modern Friends sometimes forget how much Quakerism has changed over its history. If we think about early Friends at all we assume their testimonies were ours, and their faith experience was ours. This can happen in two ways: those of a conservative mindset assume that they have adopted early Friends' faith and practice, and those of a more progressive mindset assume that early Friends believed and practiced what they themselves do in the present day. Both, of course, are wrong.

The Friends who published that Declaration 350 years ago this week were sure that there could be only one true kind of Christian—people like themselves—and that everyone else who claimed to be Christian was really an apostate, fallen away from the true faith.  
**(to be continued)**

**This is the first installment of a serialization of Lloyd Lee Wilson's Michener Lecture. The rest will appear in the following issues of the newsletter.**

# Orlando Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report 2010

by Bill Carlie

## As approved and submitted to SEYM

This has been a year of corporate and spiritual growth for Orlando Friends. Our fellowship has been enlivened by new activity and many new Friends. Attendance at Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship with attention to business has easily doubled over the last two years. Vocal ministry at Worship has both deepened and broadened with the addition of new voices among us. It is now not uncommon to have more than 40 in attendance at Meeting for Worship and rare for there to be less than 30 Friends in attendance.

Meeting for Worship with attention to business is in good order and consistently amicable as each seeks to listen to the Spirit that guides us and to one another. Our focus has been on building and maintaining a sense of spirit led community among us and we are pleased to report a measure of success.

Many activities have contributed to this growing sense of community.

Our "Conversation to Explore" invites deeper sharing among Friends on a variety of topics to include Friends Testimonies. Leadership of this conversation is rotated among Friends to assure a diversity of topics and approach. Duties with announcements at Rise of Meeting are also rotated among us to also allow this diversity to come forward. Periodically we have short presentations by Friends at Rise of Meeting termed "4 minutes with" that allow Friends to introduce themselves and their activities away from Meeting. At the end of First Day activities, Friends as led gather for "lunch bunch" to patronize a local restaurant and socialize.

We are pleased to have re-initiated publication of our newsletter and find it well supported with many Friends contributing articles and matters of interest.

The sense of Friends has called for the initiation of Quaker Bible Study before Meeting for Worship twice a month and will start Second Month 2011.

A great many enjoyed "intergenerational fun day" with games and activities for Friends of all ages.

Children of several families continue to grow in care of the Meeting and of members who faithfully lead First Day School.

We continue our support for those in need with food drives for a local pantry as well as cooking and serving meals monthly at the Christian Service Center's Fresh Start shelter as we have now for over 10 years.

We joyfully welcomed Michael Luke as a new member of the Religious Society of Friends, and welcome the many new Friends who join us in attendance each First Day. We look forward to celebrating the Marriage of Friends April Hunt and Tammy Foley under care of our meeting fifth month 2011.

There is a new sense of community, growth, and liveliness among us; we look forward to a promising year.

Bill Carlie, Clerk  
Orlando Friends Meeting

## SEYM Yearly Meeting Gathering

The Southeastern Yearly Meeting annual gathering takes place April 20-24 at the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center 4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, Florida (about 35 miles NW of Orlando, north of Leesburg).

This year's theme is "Furthering the Work of John Woolman and

Lucretia Mott: Healing, Racism, & Testimonies". The Walton Lecturers this year are the authors of **Fit For Freedom, Not For Friendship**, which is discussed by Liz Jenkins in this issue.

This year's program will include significant peace and environmental discussions, as well as social

opportunities.

There will be an extensive youth program and activities.

Online signup is available at [www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org), where there is also a downloadable registration form and other Meeting information.

Mail-in forms are available at the Orlando Meeting House.

# Fit For Freedom, Not For Friendship

Noted by Liz Jenkins

*Quakers, African Americans And the Myth Of Racial Justice*  
By Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye

## Brief Description:

There is a common misconception that most Quakers assisted fugitive slaves and involved themselves in civil rights activism because of their belief in equality. While there were Friends committed to ending enslavement and post-enslavement injustices, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* reveals that racism has been as insidious, complex, and pervasive among Friends as it has

been generally among people of European descent. The book documents the spiritual and practical impacts of discrimination in the Religious Society of Friends in the belief that understanding the truth of our past is vital to achieving a diverse, inclusive community in the future.

**Quaker Press of FGC 2009**  
**576 PP. Paperback \$28.00**

This authors of this book will be the Walton Lecturers at South-eastern Yearly Meeting (April 20 - 24, 2011.) The library committee plans to purchase this book during the

week of March 26 - April 2, 2011 to add to our collection. You are invited to:

- propose additional recent Quaker books to be added to the library at this time,
- donate designated funds for the purchase of contemporary Quaker books,
- donate contemporary Quaker books to the OMM library collection.

Please contact Liz Jenkins at 407-803-2110 or email [elizabethjenkins1@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethjenkins1@gmail.com) for further information.

**We are being distracted into waste and scarcity. Our job is to awaken to abundance and the common good.**

—Nelson Betancourt

## Friends General Conference Gathering

The next Friends General Conference Gathering, **Meeting at the Center**, will take place in Grinnell, Iowa, on July 3 through 9.

From the FGC flyer:

"The Gathering is a dynamic, Spirit-filled week for all ages. Meetings recognize that Friends return from the Gathering spiritually nourished and excited, with a full sense of what it means to be a Quaker."

Financial aid in attending the Gathering is available in the form of scholarships to Meeting members and attenders directly from the FGC Gathering. Individual Meetings may directly

supplement FGC assistance in order to support their attendees. FGC also may provide workgrants to FGC volunteers in key positions, although most of these will be returning attenders.

First-time Gathering attenders are eligible for FGC scholarships if their Meeting also provides them with aid, or if their Meeting provides FGC with a statement of financial inability to assist and attests that the attender is active in that Meeting. FGC provides matching funds up to the limits of available funds and may provide assistance otherwise up to established limits set by the Conference.

Returning Gathering attenders may

apply for a scholarship without regard for any assistance they may or may not receive from their own Meeting.

Scholarship requests are awarded based on the individual's registration date. Early registration occurs from April 1 to 10.

The maximum limit on scholarships is 50% of the Gathering's basic fees. Fees range from \$610 for a single attender to \$1760 for a group of four. Refer to the scholarship flyer available in the Meetinghouse.

If you have questions, contact Traci Hjelt Sullivan at 215-561-1700 x3009 or write

[tracis@fgcquaker.org](mailto:tracis@fgcquaker.org).

# A Few of the First Testament Passages That Relate to Quaker Worship

Collected by Jerry Knutson

**From the Conversation to Explore on February 27, 2011.**

May my meditation be pleasing to God for I rejoice in the Lord.  
**(Ps 104:34)**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.  
**(Ps. 130:5)**

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."  
**(Isa 30:15)**

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be

weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

**(Is 40:3)**

Truly my soul silently waits for God; From God comes my salvation. God only is my rock and my salvation; God is my defense.... My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from God. God only is my rock and my salvation; God is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

**(Ps 62:1-2 5-7)**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God,

the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

**(Deut 6: 4-7)**

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**(Num. 6:24-26)**

## What Spoke to Me

by Kate Joseph

Our Conversation to Explore this month, led by Jerry Knutson, was in a different format from usual. Rather than a free-for-all discussion based on ideas or readings present-ed by the coordinator, Jerry handed round seven First (Old) Testament quotations for us to read in turn. Then we were to continue round the circle and, in turn, discuss which of the passages most "spoke to us". As always, I found the observations expressed ranged from surprising to obvious, but all thought provoking and even the most mundane spoke a truth worthy of reconsideration. The structure, the requirement and restriction on expression made each person's declaration meaningful and attention getting. Please find these quotations at the end of the piece since they are worth reading in their own right and give the conversation context.

I have captured some of the things said, and recorded (without attribution) those which *Spoke to Me*.

*"The experience of centering down, finding strength in quietness rooted in the ground"*

*"What am I doing here? I am working out my salvation in the crucible of silence"*

*"God give me strength" - (My Mother would say this when one of us had Gone Too Far, so this brought back sweet memories)*

*"I know about Salvation. When things are done for the glory of God it is inspiring"*

*"The central theme is waiting. Waiting for the Lord helps me to center and re-center"*

*"The Key is to wait UPON the Lord, God is always present but waiting to hear the voice of God"*

*"The theme is like fine music, introduce a theme then there are recurring variations on that theme"*

*"..an understanding is what saves me, a moment of the expression of God"*

*"The love of God is never apart from me"*

*"I don't think I am a Christian, it is hard to think of God as a separate being, but is part of all of us"*

*"Love is something that has different stages, relationship with God is like that... keep it in your heart...hold on to it, put it in your life"*

A beautiful few phrases of Hebrew "Hear, O Israel" Truly much is lost in translation.

*"It is difficult to wait patiently, to act not react"*

*"Few times in your daily life when someone wished you peace ... like Campbell soup for your journey"*

If I have misquoted anyone, I beg forgiveness, but this is what I heard, whether you said it or not! I want to thank everyone for the experience.