

# Quaker Commons

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November/Eleventh 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

**November 14**  
*Meeting for Business*  
*Potluck Day*

**Meeting for Healing**  
*resumed on the second*  
*Saturday in November.*

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

## Contributors to This Issue

Nelson Betancourt  
Karie Brown  
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**Thank You!**

## Spotlight On: Peace and Social Concerns Committee

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee (PSCC) acts to promote the Quaker conviction opposing war and reaches out to resolve differences through communication, understanding and support.

The Committee seeks to address social needs (feeding the needy, supporting the underprivileged) and challenges (the environment, imbalances among peoples) by communicating with and supporting groups working in diverse aspects of society. Some areas of PSCC concern include

- Interfaith understanding
- Conscience, militarism and war
- Death penalty issues
- Nuclear armaments
- Peace and reconciliation
- Conflict resolution

At times, the PSCC works at local, national and international levels with other groups and with Committees of other Quaker meetings.

Nelson Betancourt is the clerk of the PSCC. He may be contacted at  
leafstormpictures@yahoo.com

### PSCC-related activities:

On October 14, Arlene Kelly, Chair of the Board of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), met with a group of Friends at the Orlando Meeting House. Arlene had just returned from Africa, where she turned over a project AFSC had worked on for the past 30 years. The project taught village people how to work for themselves, develop leadership skills, and create a project based on their needs: a school, with teacher housing, a health worker, and water pumps for families.

Arlene asked for comments or ideas for initiatives to bring AFSC and local Meetings closer. Three ideas stood out:

- AFSC should become more deeply involved in the passage of the DREAM ACT, enabling graduated high school students whose parents are undocumented to attend college.
- "Training camps" on conflict resolution that could travel throughout the country.
- Our Meeting's children could raise funds for tangible and riveting AFSC projects.

## Focus for Giving: Winter Park Day Nursery

Recently, the Hospitality Committee of the Quakers of Orlando has begun contributing collected food donations to the Winter Park Day Nursery (WPDN).

The WFDN is a preschool care and teaching facility primarily servicing lower income families. With 70 students and 10 teachers it is a small institution, but with ambitious goals:

"The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life."

In pursuit of this vision, the WPDN provides a range of support:

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## Fair Trade Basics by Karie Brown

Did you know October was Fair Trade month?

Fair Trade is best described in contrast to Free Trade. Free Trade provides cheap products for consumers and big dollars for large companies at the expense of the poorest, most disenfranchised people on the planet. There is no respect for producers, their land, or their community. Fair Trade is a vision of equity between producers, sellers, and consumers.

The nine principals of Fair Trade are:

- opportunities for marginalized producers,
- transparent relationships,
- building capacity,
- marketing support,
- prompt and fair payment,
- support for democratically-organized workplaces,
- children's rights,
- environmental stewardship, and
- respect for cultural identity.

Fair Trade commodities can be found

locally at Whole Foods Markets, Ten Thousand Villages, or Publix. They include handcrafted items, coffee, tea, wine, olive oil, fruit, sugar, cotton, cacao, and bananas.

To find out which items you can get and where, check out

<http://theFairTradeProject.com> and click the "Where to Buy" link at the top. Learn more about what the Fair Trade movement is doing and how they are supporting equitable and just trade at

<http://transfairusa.org>

A "Fair Trade Certified" flier is available at the Meeting House.

### November 6th Fair Trade media advisory:

The Seed Art Alliance is having a fall harvest festival to raise money for the art program for Memorial Middle School, a Title 1 school in Orlando. "Title 1" means at least 40% of the kids attending are on free or reduced lunch

## Giving: WPDN Continued from page 1

- Providing breakfast, lunch and two snacks to its students.
- Hosting a library of five thousand books.
- Offering income-based yearly fees, to make it uniquely affordable.

Recognizing the services provided by the WPDN, the Hospitality Committee is contributing food for WPDN students and for a food pantry run by WPDN.

In addition, the WPDN is looking for volunteers to assist in classrooms and work with the children in the areas of reading, art, drama, music and sports.

For more go to

<http://winterparkdaynursery.org/>  
or call Heather at 407-647-0505

plan. Contact Karie Brown at [brown.karie@gmail.com](mailto:brown.karie@gmail.com) for details and much more information regarding Free Trade and Orlando area activities.

## Quaker Tapestries Tell Tales by Mary Ellen Meagher

Between 1982 and 1996, 77 Quaker tapestries were made around the world by some four thousand people. For consistency, they all use the same backcloth, and also a new cross-stitch was created: the Quaker Stitch.

The project came into being as a result of a chance remark by an eleven-year-old boy attending the children's class of a small Quaker Meeting in the South West of England in 1981. They tell the Quaker story, depict Quaker beliefs,

and show famous Quakers.

To view the tapestries, go to

<http://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/>  
Future issues of the newsletter may show and discuss some of these.

## Fresh Start: a Long-Term Commitment

### by Vickie Carlie

On the first of each month Orlando Friends bring a home-cooked dinner to the men in the Fresh Start program at the Christian Service Center. We serve the dinner and dine with the men, listening to their stories and sharing a few laughs. There can be as many as 20 men in this live-in facility. The Fresh Start program takes in homeless men who will work and stay drug- and

alcohol-free, providing them with shelter, food, counseling, classes, and round-the-clock support. We also provide brown-bag lunches and breakfast food. The men are always friendly and welcoming, and appreciate our home-cooked "comfort food".

Orlando Friends started this ministry over 10 years ago when we wanted to do some regular hands-on service together. Currently there are about 8 of

us who regularly participate on a somewhat rotating basis. For any given month, there are typically between three and five who can make it. Space issues limit attendance by more than five Friends, so some Friends participate by bringing dishes and supplies to the meetinghouse. We would welcome more participation. Friends who bring food may be reimbursed by the Meeting. Friends may also provide financial support.