

# Haddonfield Quarter

Pastoral Care

October 2012

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## *Newsletter Changes*

As we mentioned in September's newsletter, we are implementing themes for each month and welcome both articles and responses to articles from the Quarter. This month's theme is pastoral care and contains articles on diverse parts of this important aspect of our community.

We would love to continue the dialogue about pastoral care next month; if you are willing, please write and tell us how you have handled a crisis or need in your meeting, perhaps, or how someone in your meeting made a difference

when you were in need. These after-thoughts would be included in our "Continuing the Dialogue" section. Or perhaps you are moved to write to a different theme; November's theme is peace and social concerns, and we welcome any stories, thoughts, or articles about this topic that you would like to share with the Quarter. Just to remind you, the proposed themes are:

Dec.-meetings' care for children  
Jan.- religious education

Feb.- stewardship

Mar.- outreach

Apr.- worship & ministry

May- following our leadings

Jun.- nuts & bolts of a meeting (clerking, recording, etc.)

If you have ideas for other themes, please be in touch.

Just as a reminder, articles about Quakers past & present, reports from Meetings and committees, and upcoming events are welcome in all issues.

In addition, we would like to help move the newsletter to more volunteer organization. If you would like to help produce or edit the newsletter - or to submit news or articles - please contact Priscilla at [peacepc@aol.com](mailto:peacepc@aol.com)

*Karen Nulton, Personnel Committee*

**Quarterly Meeting Date Change! Please see page 6 for more information.**

## *From the Clerk – Opening the Heart of the Meeting*

How do we learn that someone is in need of pastoral care? In my experience, favored individuals or families are showered with care, while others with similar difficulties slip past our notice or receive perfunctory assistance.

Some time ago, I was present when a meeting discussed concern over the uneven treatment Friends received in times of trouble. A committee observed that a certain member going through hard times had been isolated and neglected. A weighty Friend who had served many years on what is now called Care Committee (then Overseers) responded impatiently, remarking that some people put themselves into the heart of the meeting, and naturally get more attention. Those in need should speak up; we can't read minds.

True, but the people who need care most are often least

able to ask for it. Many factors contribute to the inability to share our troubles, including shame, grief, chronic pain, lack of mobility and depression.

Unfortunately, most meetings have limited energy to devote to obvious needs, let alone hidden problems. Understanding when to ask probing questions or offer assistance requires keen observation and genuine concern for others. If a meeting feels called to provide pastoral care, someone must pay careful attention to the quiet and absent members.

Do we know who in our meeting has the ability to approach and engage others in a non-threatening and meaningful way? How can we encourage such a gift?

In the meantime, simple announcements about the kinds of pastoral care that are available may encourage Friends to ask for help. Everyone belongs in the heart of the meeting.

*Rose Ketterer, Newton Meeting*

## *Listening As A Quaker Practice*

**A**s Quakers, we accept some responsibility to provide pastoral care to each other as part of being in a faith community. Whether we are serving on our meeting's Care Committee or not, we all try, in our own ways, to support and care for each other.

Listening is a sometimes neglected and under-rated way we can show that caring. We often say things like, "I can't do anything but listen." It seems inadequate in the face of members' troubles and cares. Yet Douglas Steere wrote, "To 'listen' another's soul into a condition of disclosure and discovery may be almost the greatest service that any human being ever performs for another." When we listen to each other, we provide the attention that can convey our love, help clarify the problem, and dispel loneliness and despair.

Arlene Kelly cautions that we are not called to solve the problem: "Except for those few

situations in which provisions of some material aid is needed, we are not likely to be able to resolve the situation, but rather to be with the person or family in the midst of it." (Pastoral Care Newsletter, January 2007)

To me there seem to be two types of listening we can participate in, hopefully simultaneously: "Active Listening", which is familiar to many of us, and "Deep Listening," which is Spirit-led.

During "Active Listening," we are fully present to the person. Patricia Brown (Pastoral Care Newsletter, September 1001) outlines some steps: "A simple and very potent practice for listening is simply to be still. Being still in ourselves, quieting the inner chatter of our minds, we can open up to a way of being present where we are.... We can let the person know that we are interested by showing our interest in our faces and bodies – leaning toward the person, making eye contact, when appropriate reaching out and touching the person's hand or arm. ...We can improve our ability to hear by listening with our whole self, by using all of our senses – our eyes and touch as well as our ears."

"Deep listening" seems to me to be closely related to how we worship: we wait in expectant silence, listening for "that still, small voice" of God. We believe Spirit is present among us, and wait for its movement. When I am able to trust that Spirit is moving me while I am listening to another person, I can relax, stop worrying, and trust that I am part of something mysterious and large. I may be imperfect and unable to give the best advice, but I can convey God's love and my trust that healing will occur.

Listening is a skill we can learn, and one that improves with practice. It is a basic part of pastoral care, and a way we can show our love for each other.

In another article I will share some further ideas about resources for those of us wanting to support each other through difficult times.

*Judy Owens, Haddonfield Meeting*

## *Pastoral care in a very small Meeting*

**W**e don't have a Committee for the care of members, but I am designated Clerk for that purpose.

A small Meeting can travel! We've have held Sunday worship in a nursing home, at the house of a member and at an attender's place of business. (She had to work on Sunday, but things were quiet and we were mostly uninterrupted.) We are careful to be sure someone stays at the Meetinghouse to avoid having anyone find an unexplained locked door. It's fun to hit the road, and we can do it in one or two vehicles.

Visiting, a fundamental activity of pastoral care, has been a major activity. Sometimes it falls into a pattern (weekly, perhaps) and sometimes minor errands and deliveries are included. Some assistance has been offered during medical emergencies.

We use both e-mail and Facebook to keep in touch. At this point, I would say the e-mail works better. In the past, a member took responsibility for phoning non e-mail users to pass along messages, but no one is doing this systematically right now. I seem to be almost the only person who posts on our Facebook page.

We scored a wonderful techno-breakthrough last year to help a member who is deaf. (We have an assistive listening system, but it only works for some people). We have found that sitting beside our dear Friend and typing (on a laptop) as individuals speak works just fine. It doesn't matter if the typist can't keep up or gets things wrong—every intelligible word is more than what she would otherwise have caught, and the gist of messages gets through. Our relationship with our Friend has deepened. Several of us share the “responsibility” of typing. I find it to be a cheerful undertaking. My typos can be funny. Sometimes the typing continues after Worship, through “afterthoughts”, announcements and

social time.

One problem we have is getting people to express their needs. So often they “don't want to bother” anyone, and we find out later that Friend X has been in the hospital or at home with an injury. Possibly doing more visiting when people aren't sick would help to overcome this. There's something to be said for a little knowledge of each others' spaces and non-Meeting lives. And we need to do more that's just for fun. A Meeting can be too serious.

*Alice Gitchell, Atlantic City Area Meeting*

## *Resources from Pastoral Care Newsletter*

**D**id your Meeting subscribe to “PCN”? Pastoral Care Newsletter was published for 19 years by a PYM working group, and many of those generating ideas, editing and producing the four issues per year were members of HQM. Many, many topics were covered in one or more of the four issues for a year's subscription written for members of care committees in non-pastored meetings. Hang onto your copies if your meeting subscribed because June '12 was the last printed issue.

*Grounded in God: Care and Nurture in Friends Meeting* edited by Pat McBee and published 2002 by FGC is still in print (@\$16) and brings together the first 9 volumes of the PCN as a resource every meeting could use several times each year. Articles are organized into categories\* and the Resources section points the way toward further guidance. This handbook is vitally important for Meetings to provide their committees on care and nurture because our Meetings expect untrained leadership to provide nurturing solace and constructive counsel and penetrating clearness committees for significant life transitions of their fellow Friends.

Just reading the four-page introduction

would relieve the anxiety of many a Friend asked to serve, and then they'd be acquainted and know where to turn when specific challenges arise. A tiny quote: *Pastoral care is...as practical as casseroles, and as ephemeral as prayer. It is hard questioning and it is tender touch.* (p. v)

\*Sections: "Role of Pastoral Caregiver", "Membership", "Marriage and Divorce", "Care of Meeting Community", "Persons with Mental Illness", "Illness and Death", "Facing Conflict in the Meeting", "Welfare of Each Member" - children, parents, troubled families, singles, men, disabled, aging.

*Suzanne Day, Westfield Meeting*

## ***Greenleaf Fund (and other resources) Assist Friends***

**O**lder Friends who don't move into intentional retirement living may come to need help to remain at home. Others incur health-related expenses that aren't covered by Medicare or insurance. Westfield has been able to assist many families over the years, both with financial assistance and by organizing rides or visits. Pastoral care help which makes material difference in how a Friend lives strengthens our Meeting community.

The Greenleaf Fund is administered by PYM and especially welcomes applications from HQM members or meetings for a member. The 2-page application process is quite simple, the financial need demonstration very straightforward, and if help is needed, PYM aging services social worker George Schaffer is available. We also have within HQM the Michener Fund which is not solely for elderly Friends, and which exists to reduce burdens. Meetings are encouraged by the Michener will to seek out potential recipients. Being alert to unspoken need for financial assistance is one way of reaching that of God in others - an unexpectedly welcome spiritual gift

when it meets a need.

*Suzanne Day, Westfield Meeting*

## ***Pastoral Care Community***

**M**embers of our Quaker community have an abundance of many riches. We have our families and our faith community, which are filled with faith and caring - many people have never had the gifts that our Quaker faith gives us and never had people who genuinely care about them. Most of us have our fundamental needs met - food, shelter, health care, etc. We can be outdoors and enjoy our planet. We have abundance.

At the same time, all of us go through hard times - difficulties with people, material resources, needing help with caring for ourselves or caring for others with illnesses, etc.

It is so important that we feel empowered to reach out to others in our community - to listen as Judy writes in her article, and to help people find their own leading and give them options of resources to help them follow their leading.

For example, some members of our community have financial needs and there are a variety of PYM funds to help. These are listed on the PYM website. The Quarter also has more limited funds and Les Hopton, treasurer, is the person to contact about these. Some Friends have difficulties with work or relationships or something in their Meeting. They may need a listener, a clearness, or an ongoing support group that will stand beside them as they go through the difficult times. Sometimes Friends need help connecting to another person with a specific skill they need. With our large community, our collective wisdom and contacts can help in many more situations than any of us could do alone.

Sometimes needs are easily visible - such as when someone has surgery. Sometimes we find them when if we open the door for someone else to talk. I encourage us to reach out to others and

see how we each can help other people around us. We are all strengthened by this deepening of our connections and community.

*Priscilla Adams, Haddonfield Meeting*

## *Quaker Quest*

**Q**uaker Quest is the most important In-Reach-Outreach effort Medford Meeting will have undertaken in all its 253 years! We invite you to come and witness this exciting endeavor as we tell the story of what it means to be a Quaker.

Yes, it's daring and it's different. That's why we hope you'll want to come and observe what could be a transforming experience for your meeting as well as for those who come to hear the Quaker story. Our meeting will be welcoming our neighbors from throughout the greater Medford area. Some members will tell about how they came to the Quaker faith and why they cherish it. There will be refreshments and conversation, Q&A and a worship time.

Three subjects--Quakers and God; Quakers and Family; and Quakers and Peace--will be explored and each topic will be repeated.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Quakers & God: Oct. 10 (6:30) & Oct. 14 (2:00)

Quakers & Family: Oct. 17 (6:30) & Oct. 21 (2:00)

Quakers & Peace: Oct. 24 (6:30) & Oct. 28 (2:00)

From England, where this program was born and where it has been conducted without interruption for more than a decade, and across the US and Canada, meetings that have offered Quaker Quest tell us that the most important effect has been to refresh and renew the faith of those already in the meeting family. They tell us how inspiring it is to hear members they have known for years tell their faith stories--often for the very first time.

Be looking for our Quaker Quest road signs as you drive around. Check our meeting's website ([www.medfordfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.medfordfriendsmeeting.org)) for more news.

Watch for a catchy banner on Main St. You may even hear folks you know talk about a brochure that's going out by mail. If you like, bring along a friend who is curious or who is pondering his/her own spiritual journeys.

QUAKER QUEST IS COMING TO MEDFORD MEETING! DON'T MISS IT!

*Quaker Quest, Medford Meeting*

## *Communication in the Quarter*

**I**n response to HQM's desire to create and revitalize Quarterly committees, Personnel committee has focused attention on communication in the Quarter. Our Quarterly consultant has revised and expanded the role of the Quarterly newsletter, and we have had conversations about the distribution of the newsletter and other (more time-sensitive) announcements. We hope to spend some time at the November Quarterly meeting to discuss specifically how we communicate as individuals and meetings within the Quarter--how effectively, for instance, do we use the newsletter and other forms of communication to reach our members? Are the email lists that we use current--and if not, how do we ensure the lists are regularly updated? Do we need a website? How do we link to PYM's resources while maintaining a sense of our identity as Haddonfield Quarter? We look forward to a lively and informative discussion.

*Karen Nulton, Clerk, Personnel Committee*

## *PYM Threads*

**P**YM is starting newsletters and convening gatherings on a number of components of our community, such as worship and ministry, First Day School, finance and development, communications, peace and social concerns, and pastoral care. To find out more, go to the PYM website ([pym.org](http://pym.org)) for "Threads" newsletters and gatherings.



## *PYM Interim Meeting*

The schedule for PYM's Interim Meeting is changing. Interim Meeting and Junior Interim Meeting will meet on the second Saturday of September, November, January, March and May from 9:30-1:30 at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch Meeting in Phila. Junior Interim Meeting will also meet on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

## *Feedback Needed*

Rose Ketterer, clerk of Haddonfield Quarter, is looking for feedback about what to name Haddonfield Quarter's newsletter. What should our newsletter be called?

- Haddonfield Quarterly News
- The Newsletter of Haddonfield Quarter

- The Peace Piece
- Haddonfield Quarter
- Other ideas

Please reply to Rose at [roseket@aol.com](mailto:roseket@aol.com)

Please send all information for the newsletter to [peacepc@aol.com](mailto:peacepc@aol.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.