



# The Arboretum

## Wilton Monthly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends Newsletter, Eleventh Month 2007

### Meetings

Meetings for Worship are held the First Day of each week (Sunday) at 10:00 a.m. at 317 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897, (203) 762-5669. Adult Religious Education precedes Meeting for Worship at 9 a.m. Children attend the Meeting for the first 15 minutes and then attend First Day School.

### Clerk's Corner

#### *Clerk's Corner*

If you are interested in Quakerism and spirituality you will inevitably be drawn into reading the Bible and perhaps even into reading about its origins. Doing so can be quite discouraging as you begin to realize that biblical scholars cannot agree on the translation of many words in the Bible, the order in which the various books of the Bible were written nor by whom they were written. And who decided which writings to include or exclude from the Bible?

One can become so discouraged as to think of just tossing it out or one can begin to look at it from a new perspective, trusting in the light within ones self to extract meaningful leadings from the bible in ways that affect one's every day life. It might be helpful to look at a different *version* of the Bible from the one you have been using. Below are two translations of John 3:5-8; one

from the *King James Version*, one from *The Message* (a translation completed in 1993). If you have access to the internet, it's easy to compare various parts of the Bible at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born

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# 12th Month, 2007

1st Day Sun	2nd Day Mon	3rd Day Tue	4th Day Wed	5th Day Thu	6th Day Fri	7th Day Sat
2 <b>R—First Day School, Gillespie House</b>	3 <b>CFS Board of Directors Meeting</b>	4 [CFS B of D meets First Second Day]	5 [Gillespie House Meeting provides dinner, every 1st 1st Day]	6 <b>Finance, 7:30 pm</b>	7 [Finance meets Thursday before MFWWCFB]	8
9 <b>Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business</b>	10 [MFWWCFB meets every 2nd First Day]	11	12	13	14	15
16 <b>R—Clerks R—Peace &amp; Service Quaker Inquiry</b>	17 <b>Ministry &amp; Counsel</b>	18 <b>11:30 am Nursery School Committee</b>	19 <b>Meeting for Healing 7-8 pm, Meeting House</b>	20 [Peace & Service meets the third First]	21 [M&C meets First Second Day after MFWWCFB]	22 [Nursery School meets 3rd 3rd Day]
23 <b>P-House &amp; Grounds</b>	24 [House & Grounds meets the fourth First Day]	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29

Committee meetings are held at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**P**—Committee meeting held **Prior** to Meeting, 9 a.m.; **R**—Committee meeting held after **Rise** of Meeting  
**Please call the committee clerk if you plan to attend a committee meeting to verify time and location.**

Please note: new clerks may have been established for the year commencing 7/1/05

Connecticut Friends School—Deedie Dominicali (914) 273-4807

Finance—James Hamilton (203) 854-5256

First Day School—Judy Mickle (203) 325-2334

Helen Gander Friends Nursery School—Martha Gurvich (203) 843-3433

Hospitality—Doris Munger (203) 966-1710

House & Grounds—Jim Holdsworth, (203) 831-0070

Nominating—Jeff Menoher- (203) 866-5610

Norwalk Clergy Association—Missy Conrad (203) 847-9790

Peace & Service—Diane Keefe & Regina McIlvain (203) 846-4403), (203) 682-6432

Ministry & Counsel—Jeff Menoher (203) 866-5610

Overseers—Sean Higgins, Tom Martin (203) 849-0012, (203) 222-0442

## Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Eleventh Month 11, 2007

Attending: Frances Salant, John Steere, Kim Tsocanos, John Black Lee, Rich Frances, Winnie Keane, Michel Loth, Marilyn Atkin, Virginia Perry, Dana Raphael, Diane Keefe, Virginia Auster, Jeff Menoher, Ed Shaw, Missy Conrad, Woody Schempp (Clerk), Laura Higgins (Recording Clerk).

In a Quaker meeting, for worship or for business, there is more than waiting and silence. There is also speaking for one's self and feeling the weight of the words of others. The quest for truth among Friends is meant to be corporate, not a private reverie. The leading of the gathered group is to be trusted, and when you or I speak we must be willing to test our truth against the truth received by others.

Here is where Friends can contribute to community by refusing to follow the religious individualism of our times. Behind these new movements lies the assumption that truth is totally subjective — one truth for you, another for me, and never mind the difference. But when we understand truth that way then the truth we are given will have no chance to transform society or ourselves. If we affirm community we must take the risk that our partial versions of truth will be enlarged or even made uncouth by the light given to others.

*—A place Called Community, Parker Palmer*

Meeting opened with a reading from Parker Palmer at 11:55 AM:  
FINANCE

Rich Frances gave the Treasurer's Report. Helen Gander Friends Nursery School gave its first payment. In response to the mailing, contributions have been good.

### Signature Cards

The financial institutions holding our assets have been adding signatories whenever we send new signature cards. In order to clean up the situation and clarify for all institutions, Meeting approved the following Minute.

**2007-11-01** Wilton Monthly Meeting at its regular Meeting for Business on 11 November 2007 approved a minute to have the bank remove all prior signatures of Wilton Monthly Meeting to be replaced by signatures of our officers: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer. It is understood that the signature authority is attached to the office.

Rich mentioned that the current Wilton Meeting policy is that for checks amounting over \$3,000, two signatures are required. The Physical Stewardship Committee is directed to consider the issue of two signatures and other checks and balances, such as someone other than the person signing checks should balance the checking account.

### Connecticut Friends School

Kim Tsocanos, Co-Director, reported on the status of White Barn property purchase. Kim

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Minutes (Continued from page 3)*

asked us to visualize a fund-raising thermometer – so far, money raised represents \$500K for going to contract; \$900K sale of Westport property; \$200K for design process to submit request for special permit; \$250K Open Space funds received from the City of Norwalk (contingent on CFS closing); \$450K from State of CT Dept of Environmental Protection. The next hurdle is to launch fund raising for construction costs. Barker Foundation gave a grant to CFS for working with consultations on feasibility for a capital campaign. However, the Board needs to be comfortable that they can carry for mortgage for at least two years (approximately \$4 million remaining to own the property). At this time, the Board is not comfortable closing on the property. The property owner is willing to discuss possibilities to help CFS.

At rise of Meeting for Worship on December 2, we will hold a special Friendly Forum to consider ways Meeting can support CFS.

Having no other business, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business closed with the reading below and a period of silence at 12:55 PM.

Membership carries with it spiritual obligations. Each member is called to participate in the Meeting's spiritual life and to attend worship regularly. Members need to nurture each other's God-given gifts and talents. They seek guidance from one another and the Meeting in discerning God's will for themselves. They pray for one another.

The basic spiritual commitment creates practical obligations. The vitality of each Monthly Meeting depends on its members' investments of time, energy and financial support. Friends put practical meaning into their spiritual commitment through regular participation in Meetings for Business, service on committees or as officers, regular financial giving, taking part in service projects under the care of the Meeting, assisting in maintenance of Meeting property, and representing the Meeting in community and wider Friends' organizations.

-- *Handbook*, Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Higgins

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*Clerk's Corner (Continued from page 1)*

of the Spirit.

– *King James Version*

Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

"So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next.

*(Continued on page 5)*

That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God."

*The Message*

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Wilton Monthly Meeting</b>			
<b>Sources and Uses of Cash 9 Mos 2007 vs. 2006</b>			
	<b>2007 vs. 2006 Year to Date Comparison</b>		
	<b>9 Mos. thru 9/30/2007</b>	<b>9 Mos. thru 9/30/2006</b>	<b>Favorable/ (Unfavorable)</b>
<b>SOURCES OF CASH</b>			
Gift Received	20,000.00	-	<b>20,000.00</b>
Connecticut Friends School	-	525.00	<b>(525.00)</b>
Nursery School Rent	-	-	-
WMM Contributions (note * below right)	10,279.06	12,550.83	<b>(2,271.77)</b>
<b>TOTAL Sources of Cash</b>	<b>30,279.06</b>	<b>13,075.83</b>	<b>17,203.23</b>
<b>USES OF CASH</b>			
<b>House &amp; Grounds Expenditures</b>			
Electricity	1,540.16	1,525.04	<b>(15.12)</b>
Heating Oil	2,524.43	2,178.98	<b>(345.45)</b>
Insurance	2,935.50	3,088.00	<b>152.50</b>
Janitorial Cleaning	4,542.75	4,512.25	<b>(30.50)</b>
Maintenance (Plumbing, repairs, etc.)	-	1,319.11	<b>1,319.11</b>
Security & Fire Alarm	222.00	105.00	<b>(117.00)</b>
Snowplowing	520.00	525.00	<b>5.00</b>
Telephone	369.59	374.70	<b>5.11</b>
Water	354.02	301.01	<b>(53.01)</b>
<b>TOTAL House &amp; Grounds Expenditures</b>	<b>13,008.45</b>	<b>13,929.09</b>	<b>920.64</b>
<b>Program Expenditures</b>			
Childcare	-	-	-
First Day School Supplies	72.22	-	<b>(72.22)</b>
Hospitality	47.06	198.83	<b>151.77</b>
Library	29.00	55.00	<b>26.00</b>
Communications and Internet	239.00	-	<b>(239.00)</b>
M&C Other	100.00	-	<b>(100.00)</b>
M&C Scholarship Expense-General			
<b>Silver Bay</b>	1,155.00	1,020.00	<b>(135.00)</b>
Newsletter, Publicity, Communications	320.14	778.47	<b>458.33</b>
Overseers	-	-	-
Peace & Service Gillespie Center	-	-	-
Peace & Service Other	109.00	-	<b>(109.00)</b>
Peace & Service Scholarships to ABCD	-	-	-
Treasurer Misc.	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL Program Expenditures</b>	<b>2,071.42</b>	<b>2,052.30</b>	<b>(19.12)</b>
<b>Quaker Organization Donations</b>			
New York Yearly Meeting	10,180.00	10,902.16	<b>722.16</b>
Powell House	-	-	-
Purchase Quarterly Meeting	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL Quaker Organization Donations</b>	<b>10,180.00</b>	<b>10,902.16</b>	<b>722.16</b>
<b>TRANSFER to Capital Fund</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>722.00</b>	<b>3,278.00</b>
<b>TOTAL USES OF CASH</b>	<b>29,259.87</b>	<b>27,605.55</b>	<b>(1,654.32)</b>
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF CASH</b>	<b>30,279.06</b>	<b>13,075.83</b>	<b>17,203.23</b>
	<b>1,019.19</b>	<b>(14,529.72)</b>	<b>15,548.91</b>

<b>Operating Account</b>		
Checkbook: 12/31/06 Balance		\$21,447.69
9 Mos Net Inflows		\$1,019.19
From Peoples Securities		\$0.00
<b>Checkbook 9/30/07 Balance</b>		<b>\$22,466.88</b>
Peoples Securities: 12/31/06 Balance		\$1,505.43
Contributions		\$0.00
Appreciation/Income Net		\$333.87
Distributions to Checking		\$0.00
<b>Securities 9/30/07 Balance</b>		<b>\$1,839.30</b>
<b>Operating Account 9/30/07 Balance</b>		<b>\$24,306.18</b>

<b>Capital Account</b>		
Pax Fund 12/31/06 Balance		\$93,248.07
2007 Interest		\$3,271.87
2007 Contributions		\$4,000.00
<b>Capital Account 9/30/07 Balance</b>		<b>\$100,519.94</b>

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## **Friendly Forum—Support of Connecticut Friends School**

This weekend on Sunday, Wilton Friends Meeting is hosting a Friendly Forum at the rise of meeting (probably will start sometime around 11:45am) on the topic of how Meeting can signal support for CFS as it works towards the possibility of acquiring the White Barn Theater property.

Now that all approvals seem to be in place, there is still the enormous task of raising money to buy the property. Is there anything we can do to signal our financial support in CFS's efforts to raise funds for the purchase? If the school is able to raise the funds to make the purchase what will we do? What will we do if the school is unable to raise the funds? This Friendly Forum meeting is for brainstorming but not for making decisions (that would happen at a business meeting ---held 2nd Sunday of every month).

— Woody Schempp

## Meeting for Healing

Meeting for Healing  
Third Wednesdays, 7-8 PM  
Wilton Friends Meetinghouse

We hold a meeting for healing every Third Wednesday evening from 7-8 PM at the Meetinghouse.

A meeting for healing takes place when two or more friends gather together with the intention of Meeting for Worship for Healing under the care of the Inner Light.

The intention is to help someone who wants to be helped. It is important to have the individual's permission.

The intention is to hold Meeting for Worship for Healing as a gathering for Wholeness rather than as a time for despair, grief or anger. Often friends are under stress, worried and frightened and then we can lose sight of the potential and power of the Spirit through prayer and love.

It is suggested that friends sit fairly close together.

Vocal ministry may or may not come concerning an individual. Silence is OK!

Vocal ministry may take such forms as prayer, sharing of insight as to how healing may progress, song, sharing potentially helpful information and emphatic statements.

Keep it simple.

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## Letter from Quarterly Meeting

Dear Friends,

I have several items that I would like your monthly meeting to consider between now and Quarterly Meeting on February 3.

February is when we generally finalize the Quarter's covenant donation to NYYM. At Fall Sessions on November 10, the 2008 budget was approved. It is balanced with a 1% to 2% increase over this year. This was achieved by making cuts to all YM committees. NYYM operating budget provides financial support for Powell House and Oakwood Friends School, among its many other activities. YM committees promote Quaker values and testimonies in the world, and keep us in touch with wider bodies of Friends. Christopher Sammond, our General Secretary, visits meetings and quarters regularly, nurturing emerging gifts and listening to joys and concerns. The rest of the staff produce Spark, Infoshare, the Yearbook, and answer inquiries from people who are interested in finding out more about Friends – among their many other responsibilities. These and a myriad of other activities are costly. I ask that your meeting consider how much it has available to support our yearly meeting.

NYYM Nominating Committee has two openings for Friends from Purchase Quarter. Roseann Press serves, but we need two more. Be in touch with Roseann if you want more information about the

work involved.

NYYM Nominating Committee is particularly looking for young Friends – high school age and beyond - to serve on YM committees. Talk to your teens and young adults about committee service. Starting them out on committees in your meeting that match their interests is a good way to help them learn about Quaker process, and a good way to expand their understanding of the work we do in the world.

Our Quarter has a number of active committees: Advancement, Ministry & Counsel, Nominating, Prison Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns, Scholarship, Peace Tax Escrow Oversight, Youth and Finance. These committees should have a representative from each meeting who feels led to serve.

I would like to spend most of our business time in February considering the minute from Scarsdale Meeting on our relationship with Friends United Meeting. If each monthly meeting considers it, and can perhaps send a minute in response, the discussion could be focused and at a deep level.

The minute is below:

*Friends noted that Scarsdale Meeting has been engaged for some time with the questions raised by FUM's policies toward gay and lesbian Friends whom we dearly love. Scarsdale Friends Meeting is in unity in finding these policies abhorrent. Although the meeting agreed that NYYM should remain affiliated with FUM, it recommended that NYYM communicate to FUM that it considers the personnel policies of FUM related to gays and lesbians contrary to the inclusive ministry of Jesus. The Meeting approved this minute. The clerk will send this minute to Purchase Quarterly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting and request that it be put on the agenda of New York Yearly Meeting fall sessions. The clerk will also respond to Montclair Monthly Meeting, thanking them for sharing their concerns.*

If you have questions, please be in touch.

The first Meeting for Discernment will be held on Saturday, March 15, in Rochester from 9 to 4; the second, on Tuesday of Summer Sessions at Silver Bay. Each monthly meeting is asked to appoint at least one representative to these gatherings. All are welcome, and we will especially be looking for a range of ages. The meetings will be a time for extended worship together, to share seasoned leadings from individuals and minutes from monthly and regional meetings. You will receive a letter from Lee Haring, Clerk of the Meetings for Discernment, and I will be calling you in the next few weeks to follow up. Some funds to help underwrite travel expenses will be available from the yearly meeting, and your meeting should consider assisting as well if needed.

I realize this is a busy time of year, and I hope this letter doesn't get lost in the busy-ness. If you have ideas about how Purchase Quarter can function more effectively to meet the needs of meetings and Friends in the Quarter, or if I can provide support for you, please let me know.

Have a blessed holiday season.

In peace,

Debby (Clerk)

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# Wilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

317 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897

(203) 762-5669

**Web Site:** <http://www.wiltonfriends.org>

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Please note: Any editorial comments expressed herein are solely the opinion of the newsletter editor, unless otherwise noted, and are not intended to represent the opinion of Wilton Monthly Meeting.

## Editorial

All the leaves are now gone.

## Letters to the Editor

Wow - 60 bucks a class at FDS! Based on my estimates of my FDS teaching in the 80's and early 90's, I am applying for \$13,440 in back pay. My, how times have changed. – Peter Murchison (from out of the country where wage rates are...)

### Our Name

The Newsletter has been named **The Arboretum** in acknowledgement that trees thrive in the Light and, through photosynthesis, use it to convert suffocating carbon dioxide to life-giving oxygen for other life forms. They might serve as a metaphor for Meeting. Trees play a dominant role in the changing appearance of the acres on which the Meeting House rests. Our memorial garden is nestled amongst them. We trust you find the name agreeable.

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