

Smithfield



Friends

Newsletter SUMMER 2005
Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends
108 Smithfield Road Woonsocket, RI 02895

Vol.17

No.170

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Clerk: Richard Frechette

Recording Clerk Connie Bair-Thompson

Pastor: Marnie Miller-Gutsel

Treasurer: Cindy Keene

Ministry&Counsel Diane Gauthier

Newsletter: Randy Oftedahl

CALENDAR FOR Summer

EVERY SUNDAY

10:30 am: MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Child Care Available

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH: Unprogrammed Worship and Pot Luck Lunch
Children's First Day School during worship (2nd & last Sundays)

OTHER WORSHIP UNDER THE CARE OF SMITHFIELD MEETING:

SECOND SUNDAY OF MONTH 4:00 PM: Unprogrammed Worship at Uxbridge Meetinghouse, Uxbridge, Mass

Worship Schedule for June & July:

June 19 – Programmed worship led by Connie-Bair Thompson

June 26 – Unprogrammed worship (followed by pot luck lunch)

July 1/10/17/24 – Programmed worship led by Marnie Miller-Gutsel

July 31 – Unprogrammed worship



Following the Journey of Job Scott:

The travel journal of Marnie Miller-Gutsel

Is online at www.smithfieldfriends.org and
copies are available at the meetinghouse.

Letter from Marnie

Dear Friends--

Last week, I saw Reeve and Sabina off on their flight home after a wonderful trip around much of the south and west of Ireland. They were wonderful travelling companions. Then I downsized the car from what seemed like an enormous Toyota Corolla Verso to an itty-bitty Opel (itty-bitty by US standards anyway). Now when I encounter one of the gigantic tour busses that infest these teeny-weeny Irish roads, I feel like I have room to edge over without losing the side mirror to the nearest stone wall.

And I've been in Ballitore, where Scott visited twice, and eventually died of smallpox. R & S and I stopped there briefly one afternoon to scout out the place. It's a small village going through the throes of recovery from serious depression--partly by presenting itself as a tourist center--the QUAKER VILLAGE, founded (and for a while largely populated) by Quakers. But also, for good or ill, it's close enough to Dublin to serve as a bedroom community; a new housing estate of 50 units will soon go up right next to the old Meeting House. It clearly needs some help as a village--much of its previous extreme shabbiness still remains--the organization which has nicely restored one 18th century house puts a good face on it, suggesting that the village looks "much as it did" when the Quaker owner of the house lived there. (Just ignore the fact that several of these nice old stone buildings have no doors, windows, or roofs.) But one can only hope that someone in the planning department has a good grip on the principles of appropriate development.



I returned to the area to make a better study of the place. But I didn't stay in the village--partly because the only B&B was a bit expensive. However, it was also, oddly enough, because I had a negative reaction to the Meeting House. I expected to like it. And I didn't. It looks like a tiny fortress--an ell shaped building with slit windows on the lower floor, and a small courtyard enclosed by a high wall--a very high wall--all very tight and closed in. I later learned a possible reason for the slit windows at least--they open into the room where people left their cloaks and pattens (the wooden clogs that served as overshoes). Glass was expensive in the early 1700's and good practical Quakers might have thought it was

wasteful to install large windows in a room used mainly by overcoats. However, I have no explanation for the wall--you don't need an 8 foot wall to keep out straying cows. It's rather uninviting. Fortunately, the present Ballitore Friends are very welcoming, as I discovered when I went to Meeting on Sunday, and the old Meeting room is quite light and open.

But now that I know something of the history of Ballitore, I wonder if there may have been actually two streams of Quakerism running there--reflecting a national trend. One was represented by the Shackleton family, who for several generations ran one of the most notable boys preparatory schools in Ireland--it was open to the world--even (except for one brief period) to non-Quakers. It's most illustrious graduate was the great statesman Edmund Burke. The Shackleton headmasters, especially Abraham II, a contemporary of Job's, were Enlightenment men, intelligent, thoughtful, progressive. When Job visited, he became very friendly with the Shackletons, and in fact was staying in the home of the widow Elizabeth Shackleton when he died. They very much admired and liked him, and Abraham collected and published various peoples' recollections of Job's last days.

I don't know how strong the other stream was in the village, though it was very prevalent elsewhere. This stream was conservative, self satisfied, and not outreaching. Job felt they emphasized the "letter" over the crucial union of the worshipper and the Spirit. He recalled 2 Cor. 3:6, regarding the 'letter that killeth' and the 'Spirit that giveth life.' Somehow the Ballitore Meeting House reminds me--symbolically at least--of that failure of openness. A major clash between these streams was brewing when Job arrived in Ballitore--and the legacy of Scott's ideas among the Shackletons and others was a major factor in that conflict when it came in the early 1800's. This is becoming a much bigger story than Job Scott.

So--more to come. A hundred thousand blessings, and I'll see you soon--

Love,
Marnie

From Building and Grounds Committee: Volunteer Opportunities at the Meetinghouse and Parsonage

Most of the critical work on the parsonage has been completed. But there are a number of once-only and regular tasks for which volunteers are sought: Supplies and tools can be provided. Contact Elaine Bello (401-766-7434; Elaine.Bello@the-bac.edu) or Suzanne Frechette (401-769-4433; SFreche105@aol.com).

- Painting the garage: Includes some scraping, priming where scraped, and a finish coat. All latex paint.
- Painting the eaves of the parsonage – front and back. Scraping, priming and finish coat. For those who are comfortable with heights on a ladder (which is available).
- Repairing above the windows in the meetinghouse basement. Requires some work with carpentry and drywall.
- Repairing the wall in the dining room next to the kitchen. B&G has decided to leave most of the rubble wall exposed, so the task is to finish where the inside wall and ceiling currently end. Mostly carpentry .
- Mowing the parsonage and meetinghouse lawns. Every one to two weeks, depending on weather. Mower is in the garage.
- Maintaining the garden in front of the meetinghouse.

Thought About Going to Yearly Meeting?

New England Yearly Meeting will again be held in Rhode Island, at nearby Bryant College, On August 6-11. Yearly Meeting provides an opportunity to gather with a wider circle of Friends in worship, in workshops, in recreation, and in business. One can attend for the full 6 days, or for any portion. Registration forms and information are available in the meetinghouse lobby, and online at www.neym.org. Equalization is available for anyone who would like to attend, but for whom the full cost is a challenge. If you haven't been to YM before, talk to any Friend who has.

Marnie Returns on June 20!

Marnie returns from her sabbatical leave – sojourning in England and Ireland, following the Job Scott's last journey among Friends in those locations. There will be plenty of opportunities to hear about her journey – beginning informally at our last Sunday pot luck lunch (June 26) following worship.

Worshipful Reading Group beginning in September:

Ministry & Counsel Committee announces a Sunday morning pre-worship reading group, beginning September 11. Each Sunday we will gather at 9:30 and will have a group reading of a pre-selected inspirational book. The first selection will be *A Testament of Devotion* by the renowned Quaker teacher Thomas R. Kelly, which will be read for several weeks. If anyone has a copy of this book in their own library, please let Jeanne Kinney or Diane Gauthier know. All are welcome to come.

Find a Hymn?

So you've found a hymn in the "*Worship in Song*" book; the words seem wonderful, and you're wondering whether this might be something the body should sing some 1st day. Our musicians, Ron Belliveau and Paul Klinkman, are more than willing to work out the music end – just call them or see them some time.

Quaker Yard Sale Coming June 25:

The traditional Meetinghouse yard sale will be held on Saturday, June 25, from 9:30 to 3 PM. We still need contributions for the sale (bring them the evening before) and can always use more volunteer sellers.

National Rally Against the Iraq War

A massive weekend anti-war rally will take place in Washington, D.C. Sept 24-26. An inter-faith service will be held on that Sunday at the national cathedral. For more info, people can log onto <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>. There are Smithfield Friends who plan to attend.

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: June 5, 2005

2005-42 Opening Minute Smithfield Monthly Meeting met for a regularly scheduled meeting for worship with attention to business at 12:00 Noon on June 5, 2005. Richard Frechette served as clerk, Connie Bair-Thompson as recording clerk, and there were five other Friends present. We began with a period of waiting worship.

2005-43 Travel minute - Karla Moran The clerk read a draft travel minute for Karla Moran for the purposes of her upcoming trip to the World Gathering of Young Friends in England this August. With one minor change, Friends approved the following minute.

Sunday, June 5, 2005

Dear Friends:

Please consider this travel minute for our beloved Friend, Karla Moran. Karla is a member of the Friends Evangelical International - Eastern Region. She and her family are currently living in Rhode Island in an area in which there are no member Churches of the FEI, so for the last several months they have joined with Friends of Smithfield Monthly Meeting. During her time with us, Karla has become an important part of our family; hence we have asked her to serve as our delegate as well to WGYF.

Karla has personally been part of more than one Friends' tradition, and we believe that her experiences in both worlds provide her with insights that may prove beneficial to the gathering as a whole.

We have asked Karla, as a delegate to the WGYF, to bring you our warmest greetings, to carry our concern for the continued need to find common grounds both among Friends of different persuasions, and among all of God's creation, and to observe and bring back to us that which she has learned at the gathering.

*In the Light, Richard J. Frechette
Presiding Clerk Smithfield Monthly Meeting*

2005-44 Travel minute - Kara Price The clerk read a this draft travel minute for Kara Price for the purposes of her upcoming trip to the World Gathering of Young Friends in England this August. Friends approved.

Sunday, June 5, 2005

Dear Friends:

Please consider this travel minute for our beloved Friend, Kara Price. Kara is traveling to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends at Lancaster University in the UK as a delegate both of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends and of our Monthly Meeting.

Kara spent many of her formative years in our Meeting family. As a young adult, she has served in various capacities at both monthly and yearly meeting, especially as a resource person to younger Friends at yearly meeting. She has also had several opportunities to dialogue with Friends of various Quaker traditions from various parts of the world.

We have asked Kara, as a delegate to the WGYF, to bring you our warmest greetings, to carry our concern for the continued need to find common grounds both among Friends of different persuasions, and among all of God's creation, and to observe and bring back to us that which she has learned at the gathering.

In the Light,

*Richard J. Frechette Presiding Clerk
Smithfield Monthly Meeting*

2005-45 Request to transfer membership - Bruce Kay The clerk read a letter from Bruce Kay requesting his membership be transferred to Storrs Meeting in Connecticut. Friends approved of the transfer.

In his letter, Bruce also requested that we consider creating a new category of membership for those people who

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2005 New England Yearly Meeting Sessions Schedule

Saturday, August 6	Sunday, August 7	Monday, August 8	Tuesday, August 9	Wednesday, August 10	Thursday, August 11
<p>9:30 Permanent Board (Janikies Auditorium, Unistructure)</p> <p>9:30 Ministry & Counsel (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for location)</p> <p>10:00 Registration begins (Hall 16 Lobby)</p> <p>(Bring your own lunch or eat off campus. The Dining Hall is not available)</p> <p>1:00 – 2:45 Committee meetings (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for locations)</p> <p>3:00 – 4:15 Parent/Sponsor & Youth Orientations for all youth programs and childcare (See Saturday's YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for locations)</p> <p>4:30 – 5:00 Orientation for first-time attendees (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for location)</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 Dinner (Salmanson Dining Hall, Unistructure)</p> <p>5:00 Registration closes</p> <p>6:45 Opening Session (all ages) (Location TBD)</p> <p>7:30 (approx.) Children & youth staff leave</p> <p>7:45 Keynote Address Skip Schiel</p> <p>9:00 – 10:00 Registration continues (Hall 16 Lobby)</p>	<p>6:30 Early Worship**</p> <p>7:00 – 8:15 Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 Meeting for Worship (Location TBD)</p> <p>Worship & Singing (all ages) Young Friends Junior YM leaves (9:45)</p> <p>Bible Half Hour Max Carter</p> <p>Unprogrammed Worship</p> <p>11:30 – 1:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 – 2:30 Discernment Groups I (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for locations)</p> <p>2:45 – 4:00 Discernment Groups II (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for locations)</p> <p>4:15 USFW (United Society of Friends Women) Program (Janikies Auditorium)</p> <p>4:15 – 5:15 Open meeting to hear concerns sponsored by Ministry & Counsel (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for location)</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 Dinner</p> <p>6:15 Orientation for first-time attendees (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for location)</p> <p>7:00 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business (Janikies Auditorium)</p> <p>9:00 Interest groups (See YEARLY MEETING NEWS* for topics and locations)</p>	<p>6:30 Early Worship**</p> <p>7:00 – 8:15 Breakfast</p> <p>8:30 Bible Half-Hour (Janikies Auditorium)</p> <p>9:30 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business (Janikies Auditorium)</p> <p>11:30 – 1:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 – 1:30 Free Time</p> <p>1:30 – 2:30 Worship Sharing Groups</p> <p>2:45 – 4:15 Workshops</p> <p>2:45 – 4:15 Workshops</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 Committee Meetings</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 Open meeting to hear concerns</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 Dinner</p> <p>7:00 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business</p> <p>9:00 Interest groups</p> <p>Contra dance</p>	<p>6:30 Early Worship**</p> <p>7:00 – 8:15 Breakfast</p> <p>8:30 Bible Half-Hour</p> <p>9:30 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business</p> <p>11:30 – 1:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 – 1:30 Free Time</p> <p>1:30 – 2:30 Worship Sharing Groups</p> <p>2:45 – 4:15 Workshops</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 Committee Meetings</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 Open meeting to hear concerns</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 Dinner</p> <p>7:00 Intergenerational Event Seeds of Peace</p> <p>9:00 Interest groups</p>	<p>6:30 Early Worship**</p> <p>7:00 – 8:15 Breakfast</p> <p>8:30 Bible Half-Hour</p> <p>9:30 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business</p> <p>11:30 – 1:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 – 1:30 Free Time</p> <p>1:30 – 2:30 Worship Sharing Groups</p> <p>2:45 – 4:15 Workshops</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 Committee Meetings</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 Open meeting to hear concerns</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 Dinner</p> <p>7:00 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business</p> <p>9:00 Interest groups</p> <p>Coffee house</p>	<p>6:30 Early Worship**</p> <p>7:00 – 8:15 Breakfast</p> <p>8:00 Check-out begins (Hall 16 Lobby)</p> <p>8:30 Bible Half-Hour</p> <p>9:30 Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business</p> <p>11:00 Closing worship (all ages) Epistles of all NEYM groups (Janikies Auditorium)</p> <p>12:00 – 1:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:30 Permanent Board (Janikies Auditorium)</p> <p>2:00 Check-out ends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business agenda is available upon arrival. For advance information, go to neym.org or call the NEYM office 508/754-6760. Additions to the schedule during Sessions announced in the YEARLY MEETING NEWS.



Youth Program Schedules

* **YEARLY MEETING NEWS** is published Sat., Mon., Tues., & Wed. mornings.

** **Early Worship** programmed, healing, unprogrammed, unity with nature. (For locations see the YEARLY MEETING NEWS)

Childcare

Su: 8:30-11:45 AM, & 1:15-5:00 PM
 M-W: 8:15-11:45 AM, & 1:15-5:00 PM
 Th: 8:15-11:45 AM

Young Friends day & evening program

Jr. YM only, Su-W: 1:30-4:30 PM &, by special arrangement, Su-W: 4:30-5:45 PM

Junior YM & JuniorsHighers meet

Sa: 7:30-9 PM; Su: 9:45-11:45 AM, & 7-9 PM
 M-W: 8:30-11:45 AM, & 7-9 PM
 Th: 8:30-11:45 AM

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wish to remain formally connected to our meeting in some way - perhaps called associate membership. We are aware that Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Revision Committee is considering this topic. Friends agreed that this should be addressed, but we ask that Ministry and Counsel Committee take up the topic first and report back to us upon review.

2005-46 Delegates to Yearly Meeting Sessions Friends wish to ask Eunice Strobel, Marnie Miller-Gutsell, Richard Frechette, Rhoda Mowry, Kara Price and a Young Friend (to be named later) to be our representatives to Year Meeting Sessions this August.

2005-47 Meeting Outing We plan to hold a meeting outing in September. Cathy Sleeth, Diane Gauthier and Jeanne Kinney will serve as coordinators for this.

2007-48 Second Meeting Retreat on Gifts We ask the ad hoc retreat committee to begin planning our next meeting retreat on gifts, to be held next fall.

2005-48 Closing Minute No further business arising, Friends closed with a period of waiting worship, intending to meet again for business on September 11, 2005, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Bair-Thompson Recording Clerk

Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends
108 Smithfield Road
Woonsocket, RI 02895

