

Fort Collins Friends Newsletter  
Fort Collins Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends  
2222 W. Vine Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521  
(970) 491-9717      www.fortcollinsquakers.org

October - November, 2011

Meetings for Worship  
Sundays, 10am

*We welcome visitors  
and guests*

### Upcoming Dates

#### Meeting for Worship for Business

November 13, rise of Meeting

#### Potluck

November 20, rise of Meeting

#### Fall Cleanup Work day

Sunday, November 6, rise of Meeting until 3pm.

#### Colorado Regional Meeting

Friday – Sunday, **October 21- 23**  
YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park  
Registration information enclosed.

#### First Day School Halloween Celebration

Sunday morning **October 30**  
Emily Northam's mountain cabin.

#### Older Young Friends

**Sleepover** with movies and games at the First Day School, Saturday night/Sunday morning **November 12/13.**

#### Cardboard Box Sleep Out

for the Homeless Prevention Initiative, Saturday night/Sunday morning **December 3-4.**

#### Gourmet Dinner

Friday, **December 2**  
River Rock Community Room

#### Holiday Crafts Fair

Saturday, **December 10**  
Friends Meeting First Day School

#### Advices:

Each of us has a particular experience of God, and each must find the way to be true to it. When another's words are strange or disturbing to you, seek to understand where they come from. Listen patiently and seek the truth that other people's thoughts may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Be careful not to be too firm in your position; allow for the possibility that you may be mistaken.

#### Queries:

How well do we respect that of God in every person, even though the Spirit may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? In what ways do we welcome diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in our monthly meeting, yearly meeting, and the world community of Friends? Do we seek to gain from the range of rich heritages and spiritual insights that diversity presents?

*From IMYM Faith and Practice, pgs. 124-135*

### God, gods and the Inner Light

The Religious Education Committee held a series of three evening sessions on belief in God/gods and the experience of the Inner Light. The sessions, combined with dinner, were designed as an aid to understanding our individual and collective spiritual life. We were led by Todd Swanson, a member of Mountain View Meeting, who has led a number of workshops on mysticism and is himself a former brother of the Benedictine Order.

Todd's letter summing up our experiences is included in this newsletter on page 9. The focus in the first session came from the Book of Mark. The second and third sessions included study of George Fox and William Littleboy. We had valuable opportunities to share and to listen to Friends' beliefs and experience. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> session, Friends shared, through writing, their responses to three queries: "What does it mean to you when we say 'there is that of God in every person?'" "What does it mean to you when asked to 'hold someone in the Light?'" and "How does a belief or non-belief in God (or gods) influence your experience as a Quaker."

The responses to these queries were rich in their variety and depth. After reading them aloud, the group held a quiet and moving discussion. The responses have been posted on our web site [www.fortcollinsquakers.org](http://www.fortcollinsquakers.org).

On the final night, after a most excellent potluck which featured everything from Friday Night Chicken to couscous and great dessert, we held small group discussions. Judging from the after-discussion discussion and smiles, the fall series added to our seeking as individuals and as a community.



Marie Reilly, LeAnn Larson, and Carol Reilly share a photo-op on the last Friday night session.

## Job Announcement - Friends First Day (Sunday) School Teacher

Enjoy interacting with young children in a supportive, community oriented, and fun environment? Interested in getting to know more about a local religious community dedicated to Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and the Environment?

Our Meeting is seeking a teacher for our younger Friends' First Day (Sunday) school. The children in this young Friends group are 2 to 12 years of age. The individual that we are seeking for this position will be energetic and fun, yet responsible and safe - and, will love being with children and helping them to grow spiritually. The First Day School is held every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:00. This person will teach for three Sundays a month; which Sundays will be flexible. The responsibilities include: meeting with the Religious Education Committee two or three times a year for an organizational meeting, planning the "lesson and activities" for each Sunday, and engaging the children in the lesson's activities.

We have a dynamic teacher for the older youth, ages 13 - 18, and look forward to finding such an individual for our younger youth. To learn more about our community, visit our website at <http://www.fortcollinsquakers.org/faith.html>.

The teachers and Religious Education Committee members work in collaboration in the scheduling of each Sunday and the overall curriculum. The salary for this position is \$75 per month (\$25 each Sunday). The position will start when filled. If you are interested in interviewing for this position or have questions, please contact Patti Davies ([pdavies@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:pdavies@lamar.colostate.edu) or 970.493.3377).

## May Peace Prevail on Earth

### PEACE POLES

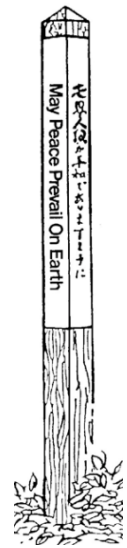
Symbolize the oneness of humanity and our common wish for a world at peace

Remind us to think, speak and act in the spirit of peace and harmony

Stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth

The fence project along the north border of the property has been completed, leaving two fence posts taller than the fence. The youth asked Business Meeting for permission to make those taller fence posts into peace poles, which Friends approved.

More information about peace poles can be found on line at [www.peacepoles.com](http://www.peacepoles.com) and [http://www.worldpeace.org/activities\\_peacepoleproject.html](http://www.worldpeace.org/activities_peacepoleproject.html)



## Holiday Crafts Sale – Saturday, December 10 First Day School

Our second annual holiday crafts fair will be held December 10<sup>th</sup>, a change in date, at the Meeting House. A small group of dedicated Friends has met regularly for months to make jewelry, decorative pillows, etc. There will be additional crafts-making opportunities on Saturdays October 29 and November 19.

If any Friends feel moved to make a large item for silent auction purposes ... e.g. a quilt, a painting ... please let Mary Carol know by emailing [ibis\\_soar@juno.com](mailto:ibis_soar@juno.com) or calling 970-407-0153. Receiving special items by early November will allow Friends to have time to look them over.

## Young Friends Activities

A number of Young Friends activities are coming up over the next few months, including:

**Oct. 30 (Sunday) Games in the Mountains.** We will be going to Emily Northam's place in the mountains to prepare for Halloween with games, crafts, and good food. We will leave from the Meeting House at 10am and young friends will be returned to their homes by mid afternoon.

**Nov. 12 (Saturday) Movie Night.** Young Friends will gather for an evening of movies, snacks, games, and general hanging out. Movie night will extend, then, into Sunday morning. Details and a movie list are still being compiled.

**Dec. 2 (Friday) Gourmet Dinner.** Young Friends will help to serve meals at the annual gourmet dinner. They will have a "tip jar" set up...funds raised will go for the Homeless Prevention Initiative which will on the next night....

**Dec.3 (Saturday) Annual Sleep Out for the Homeless.** For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Young Friends (well, some of them) will sleep out in cardboard boxes to raise funds for the Homeless Prevention Initiative. The event is organized by the young people of Plymouth Congregational Church and has participants from a dozen different congregations in Fort Collins. On the following Sunday morning, a survival breakfast will be held for the Young Friends who participated.

## 9th Month 2011 Treasurer's Report

September 30, 2011 balances totaled \$11,112, down \$422 from August 31. Reserves are about \$5,000 of this total. (I now keep some of our reserves in our checking account, so it will have a higher balance, and avoid bank service charges.)

Regular contributions for September were \$2,424. This is just over the expected contribution (\$2,333). Including interest and rent, regular income was \$2,699.

Fundraising proceeds were \$278, including \$258 from King Soopers gift card rebates. Total income was \$2,977.

Regular expenses (mortgage, utilities, supplies, Religious Education, etc.) came to \$1,283.

Significant other expenses included \$882 for new appliances for the caretakers' residence, \$482 to repair the fence, and \$212 for carpet cleaning.

Total expenses were \$3,419. Expenses exceeded income by \$442.

We received and passed along \$200 for Mike Gray's ministry.

In October, we received a generous gift from the estate of Jeanne Nash, the proceeds of an annuity left to this Meeting.

Contributions may be left in the Quaker Oats container, sent to our Meetinghouse (2222 West Vine Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521-1500), or sent to the treasurer at: 3826 Galileo Dr. #A, Fort Collins, CO 80528-3222.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Greg Shubert*  
Treasurer

## Two Ways to Remember



Tarah, Rosalind, Jed, Deb and Crystal stand beside an apple tree planted in front of the Meeting House in memory of Jeanne Nash, who died earlier this year. Jeanne had requested in a directive that such a tree be planted in her memory. The "official" planting took place on September 18<sup>th</sup> after Meeting for Worship on a bright sunny morning.



And a few weeks later, Joan Dardine's daughter-in-law, Kate, delivered boxes and boxes of books from Joan's old apartment. Joan had passed on a month earlier than Jeanne. Interested to go through the novels, the cookbooks, the travel books, the books on religion she had collected. She had wide-ranging interests. As the boxes were outside on Sunday morning, an impromptu yard sale was held and many volumes are now in other Quaker homes. Other books will go into the library and others kept for a future yard sale.

Thus these Friends are still traveling with us.

## Buildings and Grounds Activities, October 2011

The Buildings and Grounds committee has continued to accomplish tasks for our Meeting House and Grounds. The committee has decided to rotate the job of convener among the committee members. They are currently working on the following projects, already approved by Business Meeting:

- Paint front porch and ramp floor and back (north) door stoop, led by Tom and Jonathan Brenner.
- Replace south window, led by Richard Smart, with Kaley Construction
- New dishwasher and stove were purchased for the caretakers' residence. The committee thanks the Treasurer for his assistance and flexibility in helping with this purchase.

**Friends approved** the following new projects proposed by the committee:

- Get new contract for snow removal this winter. Our prior contract, for \$100 per episode, was limited to only removing snow when more than 6" had fallen. This resulted in no snow removal in the 2010-2011 year. The prior contractor customarily sets that limit at 4", and has declined to do the work for 2011-2012.
- Look into replacing the upstairs bathroom carpet floor with vinyl or ceramic tile, led by Brad Brown.
- Get the First Day School main room and main bathroom floors professionally cleaned and waxed.
- Dispose of the washing machine and two old lawn mowers now located in the shed by donation or recycling. One Friend will look at the mowers with the possibility of taking one of them.
- Families participating in the chicken coop plan to enlarge the outdoor fenced area and roof of the coop at their own costs, with no cost to the meeting.

A fall workday is planned for Sunday November 6 from after Meeting to about 3pm. All are asked to help with raking, pruning, window washing, storm window work, gutter cleanout work, and cleaning out the shed. Those with trucks are asked to be available to take discarded items to the dump or recycling as needed.

**Friends agreed** that the front room be kept for Meeting's use on Sundays by committees and others, including dedicated use of the front room closet for Meeting's storage. With the correct furnishings, and advance conversation with the caretakers, this room can also provide temporary guest space for the caretakers' visitors. Friends discussed furniture possibilities including a day bed or couch/hide-a-bed and small desk.

We note that we have capacity to house Meeting's guests such as travelling groups in the First Day School building, and that several friends have listed their own homes in the Travelling Friends Directory.

Carol Reilly distributed a copy of B & G's plan for 2011 that was part of the budgeting process at this time last year, showing all that had been accomplished and what is yet to be done.

**Friends minute hearty gratitude for the continuing good work of the Buildings and Grounds committee.**

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## Focus on Committees

*Committees constitute an effective means of facilitating the monthly meeting's business because much of the work can be done more appropriately in small groups than in the meeting for business or by individuals.*  
*IMYM Faith and Practice, 2006*

We are featuring the mission of various committees in this and upcoming newsletters. Attached at the end of our newsletter is a listing of all committee and special appointments in our Meeting for the current year.

**Ministry and Counsel: Foremost in the mission of Ministry and Counsel is the spiritual care of the Meeting, including the care and spiritual wellbeing of the Meeting as a whole and of individual members and attenders of Meeting.** This includes care for the spiritual grounding and growth of the Committee members themselves. M & C stays mindful of the depth and quality of the Meeting for worship, the sharing of spiritual experience among members and attenders, and the appropriateness of messages (or lack thereof) in both Worship and Meeting for Business. M & C reports its activities and recommendations to Meeting for Worship for Business, as appropriate while keeping private counsel private.

**Buildings and Grounds:** The mission of the Buildings and Grounds committee is to oversee development, improvement and maintenance of all physical structures and grounds on the Meeting property.

## IMYM Continuing Committee Queries

The deadline of November 1 is fast approaching for Friends to give input to Intermountain Yearly Meeting on two important questions: a proposed restructuring of IMYM's committees, and recommendations for IMYM stewardship matters.

Friends who feel a leading to give input on these questions are asked to go to the following websites, read the material presented, and consider submitting your own ideas. The websites are:

<http://imym.org/2011annualgathering/stewardship>

and

<http://imym.org/2011annualgathering/restructure/restructureproposal/view>.

Those who prefer may forward their thoughts to our clerk, Rebecca Morris instead of responding directly to IMYM.

## Gourmet Dinner – Dec. 2 – River Rock Common House

Fort Collins Friends will hold their annual gourmet dinner on December 2 at the River Rock Common House. Charlotte Miller, Tom Brenner and Trace Martyn are busy organizing the menu, table settings, and cook staff. Fort Collins Young Friends will provide the wait staff. In addition to food and beverage, there will be a silent auction as part of the fund raising effort.

Tickets will be on sale at the Meeting House on Sundays. Prices will be \$30 for single individuals and \$50 for couples. An effort will be made this year to bring friends and neighbors to share the event...so think about the possibility of hosting an entire table of your friends.

More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Ways to help:

- Buying a ticket or tickets
- Selling tickets to friends, family and others
- Publicizing the event
- Cooking on the day of the event at the Common House
- Preparing food in advance for the event and delivering it
- Suggesting foods for the dinner (vegetarian, meat, and chicken entrees)
- Serving at the dinner
- Donating wine or beer
- Donating an item for a small silent auction at the event
- Helping set up the dining room the day of the event
- Helping clean up after the event

Friends who wish to help can contact Charlotte Miller at 970-218-6141.

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**Did you know** that we have current subscriptions to *Western Friend* and *Friends Journal* available in the Meeting library for Friends to read or check out?

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## Reports received at 10th Month business meeting

- **Ministry and Counsel:** Jonathan Taylor reported their Mission statement (shown elsewhere in this newsletter), along with a detailed plan of work. Rich Harter will convene M & C this year.
- **Library:** The committee presented their mission statement and plan of work for the coming year, which will be featured in a future newsletter.
- **Peace and Social Concerns** is looking for a few more Friends who may feel a leading to serve the Meeting though this committee. If you feel so led, please contact the Nominating Committee. The committee received a kind thank you note from the organizer of Loveland's Peace in the Park, where we had a presence in September. We had donated "War is not the Answer" signs to the event.
- **Religious Education Committee:** The committee is planning lots of children's activities (see item elsewhere in newsletter). They have met with Buildings and Grounds to explore the possibility of getting wireless Internet in the First Day School. Brad Brown is looking into the cost of a second line. Friends discussed swapping the landline for an IP phone, since most of the calls received are solicitations and the cost of the landline is roughly equivalent to the cost of wireless Internet service. Some expressed concern that we maintain our telephone listing in the phone book. Friends will continue to research this question with retaining our position in the phone book in mind.
- **Clerk:** Jennifer Piper from AFSC Denver will join us for Worship and Potluck on November 20.
- **Nominating Committee:** Several Friends' names were presented for first or second readings. The finalized list of committee and position assignments is attached to the end of this newsletter. Business Meeting expressed the Meeting's gratitude to the Nominating Committee for all their work compiling the committee and position assignments in an especially busy year.
- Reports and current information from **Treasurer, Buildings and Grounds, Finance and Fundraising Committees** are all presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Friends are invited to submit articles for the newsletter to either or both of the co-editors at [robwerge@comcast.net](mailto:robwerge@comcast.net) or [michelle.l.bellows@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.l.bellows@gmail.com)

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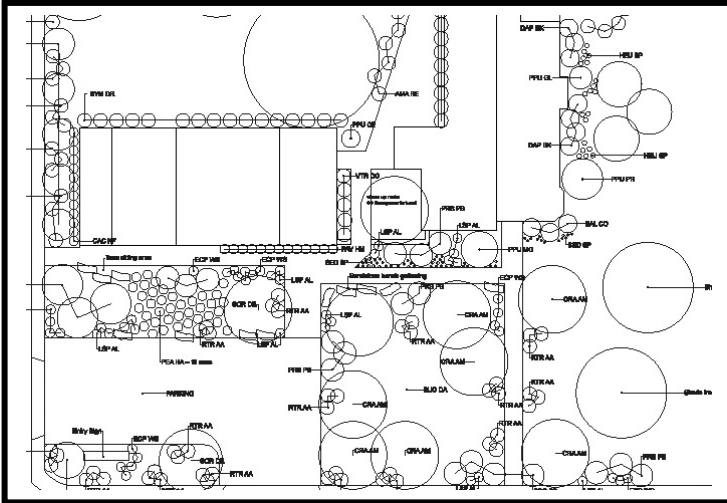
## Budget Time!

All committees are asked to submit 2012 budget numbers ASAP to the Finance Committee. We need your budgets soon so that the Finance Committee may compile a budget for first reading in the November business meeting, with final approval in December.



## Proposed Landscape Plan for Fort Collins Friends Meeting House

After graduating from CSU with a graduate degree in landscape architecture, Shannon Harker was asked to develop a landscape plan for the Meeting property. Having been the Meeting House's caretaker for two years, she had intimate knowledge of our current conditions and future possibilities. In October, she presented the business meeting with a conceptual landscape plan.



Partial view of landscape plan

The Fort Collins Friends Meeting meets in a small 1920s bungalow at 2222 West Vine Drive. The Meeting purchased the Meetinghouse in the 1990s from Shirley Aaronson, the long-time owner of the large lot and farmhouse that once was part of a larger acreage. Neighborhood lore tells us the current subdivision of small brick ranch homes, called "Shirley Heights," was once a small apple orchard and farm. Evidence of this past is found in the gnarled, aged apple trees scattered around the neighborhood, as well as the Meetinghouse's setting in a quickly disappearing rural landscape.

Friends, over the years, have expressed with love and gratitude their appreciation for the history of the

land and Meetinghouse. Friends have consistently considered the history of the function of the land and house when looking forward for decisions for its future. Many Friends have expressed the general sense that they would like to preserve the heritage of the farm and orchard in its use and aesthetic.

Now, Friends have would like to make improvements to the property in an effort to save water, plan for the future, and make the Meetinghouse look more welcoming. Friends would appreciate a design sensitive to historic uses, as well as a plan that is easy to care for. Finally, Friends would like to create a landscape that will be long-lived for all ages to enjoy.

The plan makes use of the following Design Elements:

- Water wise landscaping-- properly situated plantings that will require moderate to low amounts of water
- Low-maintenance and long-lasting plantings and materials
- Planning that can be implemented in stages as the budget allows
- Design that is sensitive to cultural and historic precedent
- Conceptual drawings for "parking" area directly in front of the first day school



Design Intent: The initial, conceptual, design incorporates the historic land use patterns of the Meetinghouse and neighborhood. Also taken into account are water needs of landscaping, durability of materials, and the fact that Friends will perform most upkeep and maintenance of the landscaping themselves. Therefore, shrubs and trees make up the majority of plantings used, while more maintenance intensive, short-lived perennials have been kept to a minimum. The design presented incorporates plants, forms, and materials that are in keeping with the historic uses of the Meetinghouse property and the cultural landscape of Fort Collins and the Colorado prairie...

Apple orchards are planted in distinct patterns—orchards are ‘hinted at’ in the plan for the grounds represented by groups of hawthorns to be located in what is now the front yard of the Meetinghouse. Hawthorns were chosen because they are considered drought tolerant once established and share similar characteristics to apples. Like apple trees, hawthorns are smaller, ornamental in form, flower in the spring, and bear fruit that attracts birds. Yet the fruit of the hawthorn does not drop like apples, making them easier to care for.

Ornamental grasses are planted in rows, suggesting furrows for crops and alluding to the golden prairies east of Fort Collins. One particular species used (*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal') is found on the prairies of eastern Colorado.

Rows of a low-elevation, hardy *Populus* species are planted in a ‘wind-break’ pattern found on the edges of farms along Vine Drive and elsewhere in Fort Collins.

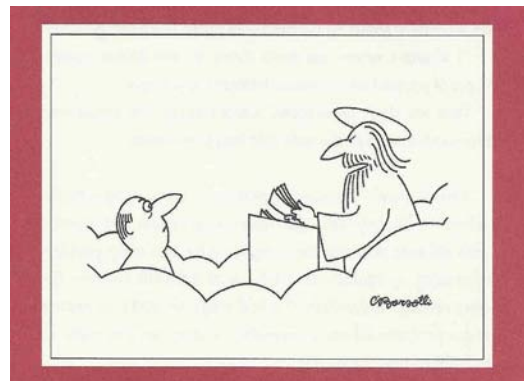
Buff sandstone, historically quarried in Stout Colorado (now under Horsetooth Reservoir), and brought by train to Fort Collins, will function as benches while directing circulation. Buff sandstone was used for the sidewalks in Old Town Fort Collins. The sandstone echoes nearby foothills and hogbacks.

Emphasis is placed on shrubs, vines and trees rather than short lived, maintenance intensive perennials. Flowering trees and shrubs with four-season interest and wildlife value are maximized in this plan.



Finally, permeable pavers are suggested for the parking lot rather than petroleum based materials to maximize water infiltration and minimize heat reflection. Alternative materials such as crushed gravel are suggested as well. In addition, an alternative plan for a larger parking area is offered if Friends would like to use more of the front lawn area for additional off-street parking.

The plan is designed to begin a conversation within Meeting about the long-term landscape development of our land. And the conversations should reflect the values of the Meeting that we want to be expressed by how we use our land and share it with the community. Any work on the land would be phased in over time. Infrastructure, such as an irrigation system would be a top priority. Friends are asked to view the conceptual drawings and elevation renderings on display in the First Day School. Please direct your responses to the Buildings and Grounds Committee or to anyone who might be standing beside you looking at it.



You picked the wrong religion, period.  
I'm not going to argue about it.

**Fort Collins Friends Positions, Committees, and Representatives**  
**2011 – 2012** (suitable for cutting out and posting on refrigerators or walls or tv screens.)

**Positions**

**Clerk**

Rebecca Morris

**Corresponding Clerk**

Greg Shubert

**Historian**

Karen Fleming

**Newsletter Editors**

Michelle Bellows

Rob Werge

**Newsletter Distribution  
& Database Maintenance**

Carol Reilly

Mary Carol Randall

**Recording Co-Clerks**

Erin McCowen

Roz Doak

Michelle Bellows

**Treasurer**

Greg Shubert

**Web Servant of Meeting**

Greg Shubert

**Committees**

**Buildings & Grounds**

Richard Smart

Carol Reilly

Bob Doak

Tom Brenner

Jonathan Brenner

Bob Stucklen

Matt Schwieterman

Jed Shively

Brad and Kristina Brown (ex officio)

**Caretaker Liaison**

Bob Doak

Rich Harter

Erin McCowen

**Finance**

Treasurer (ex officio)

Richard Smart

David Zimmerman

**Finance, cont'd**

Carl Judson

Natasha Walter-Fisk

**Fundraising**

Mary Carol Randall

Alicia Randall

Roz Doak

**Hospitality**

Deb Stucklen

Natasha Walter-Fisk

Crystal Yates-White

Rosalind Larsen

**Library**

Bob Stucklen

Emily Northam

Betsy Munson

Deb Stucklen

**Ministry and Counsel**

Rich Harter

Don Smith

David Zimmerman

Rosalind Larsen

Jonathan Taylor

**Naming**

Rebecca Morris

Shari Due

**Nominating**

Shari Due

Charlotte Miller

Bob Doak

Patti Davies

**Peace and Social Concerns**

Tom Brenner

Deb Stucklen

Betsy Munson

**Religious Education**

Patti Davies

Rob Werge

Bob Shively

Tarah Shively

Zach Hill

Trace Martyn

**Trustees**

David Zimmerman

Bob Shively

Charlotte Miller

Shari Due

**Representatives**

**AFSC – Denver**

Charlotte Miller

**Colorado Regional (CRM)**

Heather Montrose

Erin McCowen

**CRM Clerk**

Rich Harter

**CRM Co-registrar**

Natasha Walter-Fisk

**CRM Nominating**

Erin McCowen

**CRM Treasurer**

David Zimmerman

**FCNL**

Shannon Harker

**FCNL General Committee**

Charlotte Miller

**FCNL Nominating**

Charlotte Miller

**Interfaith Council**

**Representative**

Bob Doak

**Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM) Continuing Committee**

David Zimmerman

Shannon Harker

**IMYM Nominating**

Jonathan Taylor

**IMYM Watching**

David Zimmerman

**Liaison to Rapid City Preparative Meeting**

Jonathan and Suzanne Taylor

## A Note from Todd Swanson

Before we went to press with this newsletter, I received a letter from Todd Swanson, our guide in the adult education series. Todd was unable to come to our final session due to illness. The accompanying photo shows how he felt about not being with us that Friday.

He wrote to those who had attended the sessions as a way of summing up his experience with us. We are sharing part of his letter with all of our Friends as a way of communicating some of Todd's experience with us and our experience with him.



Friends,

During our first evening, we primarily focused on Jesus as portrayed in the Gospel of Mark. There were two primary reasons for doing this; first, Mark presents one of the earliest conceptions of Jesus, and primarily as a very human healer. Primarily however, we focused on Jesus' conviction that the Kingdom of Heaven was being brought forth on earth by his agency, the centrality of the Kingdom of Heaven to his thought, the fact that nothing was more important in anyone's life than to bring it into being and the fact that the Kingdom would come during his listeners' lifetime. We discussed how in Jesus' parables he described the Kingdom, a radical reorganization of society where the first would be last and the last first. Second, Quakerism has a strong Christian foundation and to understand Fox's experiences and those of the early Friends, it is important to go to the roots.

During our second session, we juxtaposed George Fox's mystical experiences with that of an early twentieth century Friend, William Littleboy. We connected the way Fox's experiences, some of which came out of a great despair, were utilized as a form of healing for himself, the early friends and English society. In much the same way, Jesus performed healings, both physical and spiritual, as a way of demonstrating the imminent coming of the Kingdom.

We discussed the prophet Ezekiel's vision of the chariot under merkavah mysticism – powerful mystical experiences and a way many sense how mystical experiences “should be.” Equally as valid, equally renowned is the still silent voice where the experience of the sacred comes not as a booming, thundering voice, a violent wind, but through a whisper, a sensation. This was an experience of the prophet Elijah and continues to be shared in community worship by Friends. We, as a group, shared some of our experiences of the Light and of holding and being held, in the light. Quakers are known as "practical mystics" and that is a designation that I find useful. What members of our group wrote and shared in response to the queries indicated a strong experience of this. I hope the recommendation of one of the group to put the quotations in a banner flowing on your website is considered.

As we continue our journey together, as individuals and communities, I hope we continue to share and strengthen each other and come to find that peace that passes all understanding.