

*Buckingham*  
(215) 794-7299



MONTHLY MEETING  
P.O. BOX 76  
LAHASKA • PENNSYLVANIA 18931

## 12th Month 2009 Calendar

**6th** Singing 10:15 AM

Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

**Quaker Conversations: Materialism**

**13th** Singing 10:15 AM

Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

**12 noon Meeting for Business**

**20th** Singing 10:15 AM

Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

**Pancake breakfast 8:30-10 and children's program at rise.**

**27th** Singing 10:15 AM

Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

### Committee meeting schedule:

Overseers and Worship and Ministry 1<sup>st</sup> first day 9:15 am.

Trustees and finance 3<sup>rd</sup> first day Noon

Property Committee 4<sup>th</sup> first day noon

Social Concerns Working Group will meet on the 5th Sunday of every month that has five Sundays after meeting for worship.



### December Scheduling:

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** - 6pm BFS is hosting an OxFam dinner.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Quaker Conversations: Materialism

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** - Candlelight Service will be held at 7:00 pm . Katherine and Robert would like to host a reception after the event.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** - The children's holiday pageant will be at rise of Meeting.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** - Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-10:00 am .

**Worship at Chandler Hall each First Day in December.**

#### Buckingham Friends Meeting

Welcomes all

Worship is at 10:30 am every Sunday

**Clerk:**

Pam Caprio

215-862-9312

[pamcsa@ctr4financialstrategies.com](mailto:pamcsa@ctr4financialstrategies.com)

**Assistant Clerk:**

Keila Gilbert

215 348 8586

[kgilbert@alpharesourcecenter.com](mailto:kgilbert@alpharesourcecenter.com)

**Treasurer:**

Tim Cunningham

76 Woodland Ave Elkins Park PA 19027

[tcunning@comcast.net](mailto:tcunning@comcast.net)

(Submissions for the web site should go to Tim)

[www.buckinghamfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.buckinghamfriendsmeeting.org)

**Newsletter Editor:**

John Bailey

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[John.Bailey50@gmail.com](mailto:John.Bailey50@gmail.com)

Suggestions are welcome.

Reflect upon your present blessings  
— of which every man has many —  
not on your past misfortunes,  
of which all men have some.

- Charles Dickens



Buckingham Friends Meeting  
Presents:

## *Peace & Social Justice Film Series*

Wednesday, December 9, 2009  
**Brother's Keeper**

Ten years after mesmerizing audiences and critics everywhere, BROTHER'S KEEPER--one of the most successful nonfiction films of all time--is back to grip the nation with this 10th Anniversary Edition. From award-winning filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky (Paradise Lost), BROTHER'S KEEPER is a real-life murder mystery as suspenseful and compelling as any Hollywood whodunit. 105 min.

*Free Admission Starting Time: 7:30 p.m.*

### **Bucks Quarterly Meeting**



## **ANNUAL BUCKS QUARTER SKATING PARTY**

**NEW YEARS DAY ~ NOON TO 2PM**

Don't be left out in the cold or inside with nothing to do, come inside! Join Bucks and Abington Quarter Friends and our Friendly school children and parents as we skate, smile and stumble. Come enjoy the decade's long tradition of the Annual Skating Party, the fellowship and great fun for the entire family.

Since many Friends will be up late welcoming the new year, we will not begin

until noon, so you'll have plenty of time to sleep in and still get to the party!

**\$8 Adults, \$5 Children 14 and under  
Includes Skate Rentals**

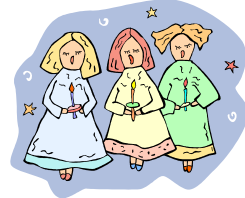
**1185 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974.**

**Telephone 215-674-1345.**

**Call or email Holly Olson for more info:**

**215-860-9747 ~ [hollybqc@verizon.net](mailto:hollybqc@verizon.net)**

*\*\*Also Bethann Morgan will be having an open house after the ice skating. Light beverages will be served.\*\**



**Dec 24 7:30pm Candle Light Worship  
and Caroling at Plumstead Meeting**

**Philadelphia Yearly News**



**50th Annual  
Nazareth to Bethlehem**

## **Christmas Peace Pilgrimage Saturday, December 12, 2009**

Begun in 1960 as a Christian witness for peace. We welcome all persons of any age to join the Pilgrimage, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph. In the 10-mile trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in the rally, we seek to reflect the non-violent life of Jesus Christ and his truth of forgiving love. **Walk with your family and friends and make new friends with others who seek a more peaceful world.**

This year's speaker, the Rev. James A. Forbes, Jr. Rev. Forbes is President and Founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation of New York and Senior Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church. His presentation is entitled: **"Get on the Path and Stay on the Path."**

Pilgrimage participants meet at the parking lot at 520 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem before

10:45 AM. Buses transport pilgrims to Nazareth Moravian Church on Center Square where the Pilgrimage begins. The Pilgrimage follows PA #191. Persons join at any point along the way. Support vehicles assist those not able to walk the entire way. Dress appropriately for the weather; pilgrims walk in sun, wind, rain or snow. Pilgrims arrive at Christ United Church of Christ, Market & Center Streets, Bethlehem, around 5:30 for a light meal and to hear this year's speaker, the Rev. James A. Forbes, Jr..

**For more information call:**

Fran Dreisbach at 610-258-7313

**Philadelphia Yearly  
Meeting  
Middle School Friends  
Christmas Gathering**

**Third Haven Friends Meeting, Easton MD**

**Friday, December 4th - Sunday,  
December 6th, 2009**

**Buckingham Friends School**



**Gift of Giving VIII  
November 15 - December 9**

2009 Children's Gallery Exhibition  
James A. Michener Art Museum  
featuring works by students of  
United Friends School & Buckingham Friends  
School

*You are invited to come and see our students' beautiful artwork, support their community outreach, and enjoy the fun at the opening on Sunday, November 15 from 2 to 4 pm. See details below. Admission to the Children's Gallery and Reception is free. We hope you will join us there!*

At the close of the exhibition all works will be gift wrapped and delivered to Trinity Episcopal Church, to be distributed to area residents who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

*Join us for the exhibition opening on Sunday, November 15 from 2 to 4 pm for refreshments, entertainment and art activities. Scott Baytosh will be delivering opening remarks.*

The exhibition will be on view during World AIDS Day, December 1 and at the Holiday Open House, December 9.

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**OXFAM HUNGER BANQUET AT**

**BUCKINGHAM FRIENDS SCHOOL**

On December 4th at 6pm, Buckingham Friends School in cooperation with the area Meetings is sponsoring an Oxfam Hunger Banquet to help raise awareness about hunger and the distribution of wealth in the world.

Questions such as "What is a normal meal for the majority of people around the world" will be addressed. Participants are served a simple meal that reflects access to food around the world. The Hunger Banquet is designed to inform participants about the daily reality of the world's population in terms of food resources. Attendance is \$5/person. Please R.S.V.P. to: 215-794-

7491. Proceeds will go to Oxfam USA. Food and additional monetary donations at the event are appreciated. Food donations will go local food banks.

# 2010 AGLI WORKCAMPS

BURUNDI, KENYA, RWANDA,  
UGANDA

Saturday, June 19 to Saturday, July 24, 2010

## Mission of the African Great Lakes Initiative

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the Friends Peace Teams strengthens, supports, and promotes peace activities at the grassroots level in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda). To this end, AGLI responds to requests from local religious and non-governmental organizations that focus on conflict management, peace building, trauma healing, and reconciliation. AGLI sponsors Peace Teams composed of members from local partners and the international community. We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

1) *Burundi Workcamp – Kamenge* Host Partner: Friends Women's Association (FWA) – <http://aglionline.org/Program/fwa.htm>.

**Location:** Kamenge, Burundi - On the outskirts of Bujumbura

**Objective:** The Workcamp Peace Team will work at the FWA Clinic which primarily serves HIV+ women and their children. The team will build a security wall around the plot behind the clinic where there will be a dormitory for patients so that, in due time, the Clinic can become a hospital. Tour the clinic online at <http://www.fwaburundi.com/>

**Housing:** Workcampers will stay in an apartment at the Friends Center in downtown Bujumbura.

2) *Kenya Workcamp – Lubao* Host Partner: Friends for Peace and Community Development (FPCD)

**Location:** Lubao, in western Kenya near Kakamega – Lubao Peace Centre

**Objective:** The Workcamp Peace Team will construct a 3 bedroom staff house and a gate to the plot and hopefully begin the wall surrounding the compound. Learn more about the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Kenya at <http://aglionline.org/sub/avp.htm> and <http://aglionline.org/PDF/Winter%202007.pdf>.

**Housing:** Workcampers will live at the Peace Centre – dormitory style, along with African team members.

3) *Rwanda Workcamp – Gisenyi*

**Host Partner:** Gisenyi Friends Church

**Location:** Gisenyi, Rwanda. On the northern edge of Lake Kivu, west of Kigali.

**Objective:** plan in process - The Workcamp Peace Team will begin construction of a conference hall.

**Housing:** Workcampers will stay with local families

4) *Uganda Workcamp – Bududa*

**Host Partner:** Bududa Vocational Institute & Children of Peace - See <http://bviuganda.org/index.htm>

**Location:** Bududa, Uganda about 20 miles north/northeast of Mbale.

**Objective:** The team will build a classroom structure for the Vocational School

**Housing:** Workcampers will stay in the new guest house.

**General Requirements:** We accept all ages: workcampers have been as young as 8, as old as 84 and have included entire families. Our goal is for each team to include 6 international (non-African) and 6 local workcampers, plus professional builders.

**Physical & Skill requirements:** Good health and willingness to do manual labor. Construction skills and experience are not necessary.

You could contact Dawn Rubbert [aunt dawn@charter.net](mailto:aunt dawn@charter.net) if you are interested.

Thanks, Elaine Fettig



### Zach's summer fun

Zachary Wszola had a fun summer this year. Zach loves Camp Onas and was blessed to spend four weeks, in July and August, having fun at this Ottsville Quaker camp. He stayed in both the Rancoke and Cherokee tents with ~ 10 other campers and their counselor. Zach enjoyed archery in the woods, perfecting his canoe steering techniques and general camp life! All campers have

chores and Zach did his share by cleaning up the grounds & paths of trash (his favorite job) and being on shower house duty (his least favorite). While away he was missed by not only his friends at Buckingham Meeting but also by his awesome friend "Sammy" the guinea pig! We are glad you had a great summer Friend Zach. *(Bethann Morgan)*

## Finding God in Dog

Anyone who knows our family will agree we've become obsessed with dogs, particularly our own. My daughter has channeled her passion into dog obedience shows; my husband thinks his doggiebabytalk is a secret. Perhaps the most eye-raising development is that my take on Quaker testimonies is now intertwined with my impression of how dogs view the world. Yes, it's true Quaker testimonies are the theological foundation of the Religious Society of Friends and, yes, it's also true I'm neither a theologian nor a pet psychic. So you've been warned about my spin on things.

### The Testimony of Community

This Quaker's Interpretation We're all connected, so why not live that way?

A Dog's Reality *When I sniff this tree, I can pinpoint who was here when -- and that makes me happy.*

### The Peace Testimony

One Quaker's Opinion Peace -- non-violence -- is our shot at a global future.

If You Ask a Dog *Encouragement, treats, and consistent behavior get way better results than a smack with a newspaper.*

### The Testimony of Integrity

A Quaker Says It's way too confusing to live a lie.

Dogs Know *You can't fake unconditional love.*

### The Testimony of Service

One Quaker Viewpoint Helping others is a highlight on the path to being a better person.

Dogs Tell Us *Therapy dogs can help kids learn to read and be more confident because dogs listen without judgment.*

### The Stewardship Testimony

A Quaker's Goal Make choices that will make you proud 200 years from today.

The Dog's Unspoken Request *Pick up that dog poop, please.*

### The Testimony of Simplicity

A Quaker Thinks Life isn't about stuff.

What a Dog Knows *Nothing pleases a dog more than when you come home.*

### The Equality Testimony

A Quaker's Central Belief There's God in everyone.

All Dogs Probably Agree *Every person's smell is appealing at all times.*

If you prefer cats to dogs or want a more deeply spiritually-centered explanation of Quaker testimonies, visit [www.bfs.org](http://www.bfs.org) and read the new brochure about Quaker & Spiritual Life at Buckingham Friends School. Meantime, think about this bumper sticker/mantra: Wag More. Bark Less.

Joyce Rivas

Clerk, Buckingham Friends School Board

## QUAKER HISTORY

### Friends and Christmas

by Bill Samuel

Originally published December 1, 1998 at Suite101.com

What do Friends (Quakers) think about Christmas? Do they celebrate it and, if so, how? To try to answer these questions, I did some research into Quaker sources and solicited comments and experiences from other Friends.

### Testimony on Holy Days

In the major published sources readily available to me, I found no statement from any of the first generation of Friends explaining their testimony regarding "Christmas" and other days on the church calendar. However, I did find the following reference in the Journal of George Fox, often considered the founder of Quakerism:

"When the time called Christmas came, while others were feasting and sporting themselves I looked out poor widows from house to house, and gave them some money."

This quote is about his early years, before the Quaker period. The reference to "the time called Christmas" implies that it was so called by others, not himself. The main concern here seems to be about frivolous amusements, and his attitude at this early point in his life may well reflect his Puritan upbringing.

It seems the general consensus of those knowledgeable about Friends history that there was long a testimony against the celebration of special days. Friends schools remained open on Christmas day, and Friends in business were expected to keep their shops open.

PH 7



From <http://www.quakerinfo.com/quakxms1.shtml>  
*Vince Schueler, Olympia (WA) Friends Meeting:*

### **Christmas Morning, 1997 Olympia Meeting House**

Five of us waited in the cool, still air  
Surrounded by a small sea of unfilled chairs  
We came in response to an impromptu call  
To gather on Christmas Morning  
Mostly we sat, not much was spoken  
And waited for hearts to open  
Daughter and her mother  
    Enfolding each other  
    Feeling blessed to share the day together  
    And honoring their bond  
Another felt the world in pain  
    Brought to focus by a homeless man  
    Passed on the way to meeting  
Alone  
Shown our gifts and what needs giving  
Found in the stillness as we listened  
Feeling the Spirit moving  
And softening our hearts  
We held each other as we ungathered  
Brought together  
On this day like any other

*Mary Ellen Chijioko, Swarthmore, PA:*

My father had his own solution to the Quaker problem with Christmas. Since Christmas should not be tied to the calendar but can - and does - occur any and every day of the year when Christ is born in the hearts of individuals, he used "Merry Christmas" as his year-round greeting. Whenever he walked down the streets in our town, where he was a very prominent personality, the merchants all tried to forestall him with a "Happy New Year."

Go to: <http://www.quakerinfo.com/quakxms1.shtml>  
For many more Quaker Christmas stories

## **Buckingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business Eleventh Month, Eighth Day, 2009 Draft**

Meeting began at 12:04 pm with a reading from Faith and Practice followed by a period of silent worship. There were 14 members and 3 attenders present.

Minutes from October's Meeting for Business were approved with corrections.

Worship and Ministry: Tim Cunningham.

The committee met to discuss the quality of meeting for worship and to plan for several upcoming events, including Chandler Hall services during the month of December, the Candlelight service, and Quarterly Meeting registration. The next in the series of Quaker Conversations, to be held after meeting on the first First Day in December, will be on the topic of Materialism.

Overseers: Marcia Angermann.

Closer Caring Groups were established many years ago and Overseers is seeking feedback from the Meeting as to whether we should try to revive them. In the past they served two purposes, an emergency phone tree and a means of building community. Friends do want them to be brought back, and think having email now will help make them more viable. There was some discussion of how we can best maintain them. Overseers hopes that the groups would meet at least twice a year, and that volunteer group leaders would host or organize gatherings. It was suggested that Closer Caring Group leaders should be a committee that meets to discuss how groups are going. It was agreed that group membership be voluntary. As Friends feel comfortable proceeding; Overseers will carry on. Nominating: Carla Davis Cunningham.

The Nominating Committee has asked Bethann Morgan to continue as co-clerk until June 2010. The appointment will be up for approval next month at the corporate meeting.

Report of the Peace Fair Committee: Tim Cunningham.

The Peace Fair Committee thought fair was successful although attendance was somewhat lower due to the questionable weather. It just about broke even financially, including contributions from

Buckingham Monthly Meeting and Bucks Quarterly Meeting. The Fair paid Peter Ray a stipend to organize many aspects, which has been very well worth it. The committee is concerned that as of this 10<sup>th</sup> Peace Fair, all of the Friends working on it have been doing it for 10 years and some are looking for a lesser role. There haven't been enough volunteers to plan and to work to carry out the fair. Next month at Quarterly Meeting, the Peace Fair Committee will be asking for the Quarter's continued financial support and volunteers, and may decide to seek other partners for the fair, perhaps Buckingham Friends School. Holly is planning to meet with each of the Peace and Social Concerns committees of the Quarter's meetings to seek additional volunteers. Other meetings could also be asked for financial contributions. It was suggested that perhaps having Peace Fair committee meetings at other nearby meetings could help inspire volunteers. Our meeting can further discuss the fair after the Quarter considers the report of the committee. The committee was thanked for all of their hard work.

Outreach Working Group: Elaine Fettig. Outreach would like to invite BFS alums to our meeting's December events. They have applied for and received a grant for outreach from PYM that would cover the cost of the mailings. A Friend suggested that we also promote our events within the Quarter. The Meeting approved sending the letter. Elaine attended a workshop on press releases, and hopes to do more. Outreach was thanked for their work.

#### Other Business

Our positions on two Quarter Committees are open: the Quarter Oversight Committee meets here once a month, and Budget and Nominating meets once a Quarter. Nominating is asked to fill these positions. Friends were asked to sign up for December Chandler Hall services.

Trustees and Finance: Tim Cunningham. Our Meeting has an annual Accounts Reconciliation performed by an external accountant. In order for it to be completed this year, we need to adopt an investment policy. Tim distributed a proposed policy to the meeting. The policy was approved and will be brought to the corporate meeting next month.

Joann Maclatchie attended a meeting of monthly meeting treasurers and one of the topics was why to have an internal audit. Trustees and Finance asked the Nominating Committee to fill the Auditing Committee for the coming year.

Bethann Morgan read a letter from PYM's Financial Stewardship Committee, asking monthly meetings to schedule our covenant decisions for the next few years at a business meeting in the next couple of months; that we as a meeting report to the Quarter the amount by February; and we can contact PYM at any time. She charged Trustees & Finance with beginning that discussion.

Peter Ray was thanked for his efforts as caretaker.

The Meeting closed at 12:55 pm with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted by Carla Davis  
Cunningham, Recording Clerk



**Buckingham Friends Newsletter**  
**c/o John Bailey**  
**86 Rocktown Rd**  
**Ringoes NJ 08551**