

WOODSTOWN FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

Meeting for Worship for Business September 13, 2009

Following opening worship, clerk **Frank Lenik** open the Ninth Month Business Meeting. The minutes of July 12, 2009 were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Jack Mahon presented the Treasurer's report for July and August. Friends asked a few questions, and then accepted the report.

Building Committee:

Our contractor, **Jeff Sickler**, has received the building permit from Woodstown. A condition of the Building Permit is to install a janitor sink. We have identified a location in the small room off the right side of the kitchen, where we have sewer and water access immediately available. The committee will relocate the counter to make room.

We have a pre-construction meeting on September 21 at 3 PM. Construction should begin shortly thereafter. Questions to be addressed at the pre-construction meeting:

1. Any access limitations to the building?
2. Construction schedule
3. Will we have access to the Annex from the parking lot for Ten Thousand Villages in December?

We could use more pledges and payments.

Priscilla Lamont asked the Building Committee to add an item to the pre-construction meeting regarding the Tutoring program which takes place Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 4 PM. We will need walking access to the annex down the driveway. **Patti Burns** suggests using stakes and caution tape to outline allowable access.

Meeting minuted our thanks to those who emptied the closets which will be eliminated during construction.

Property and Finance:

Tree maintenance is scheduled to remove dead trees and limbs, and some branches that overhang the annex.

Will we have a bat maintenance line in next year's budget? It will be a regular expense. We have a proposal to seal holes around the chimney for \$1,800 + cost of the lift rental (50 foot cherry picker), which includes cleaning up what's there now. We might be able use the tree company's cherry picker. Property & Finance will try to coordinate the tree work and the bat work. The contract includes reviewing the entire building for other areas that need repair, and to install a bat preventer to prevent bats from returning once they leave. Bats leave scent trails, so when they migrate back in the Spring, they try to do whatever they can to find their way in. Others advise leaving a light on 24 hours a day in the attic. Our building is old and they are like mice: they will find their way into the building some way. A strobe light with sound may also be effective. Other suggestions should be given to Frank Lenik or Jack Mahon. Our colony in the attic has spawned a sub-colony above the drain pipe on the porch. They are also hiding behind the shutters.

Friends approved the \$1800 contract with Mr. Hoffman (exterminator).

Meeting suggested we install an electrical outlet and light in attic (for a bat preventer). Perhaps if we leave a light on 24 hours a day in the attic, the bats may want to find a darker place to hang out.

Peace & Social Justice:

We will form a support group for the **Kareem family**. It's taken 2 ½ years, but the family has been notified by the State Department that they have been issued visas to enter the US. They need to receive the actual visa documents before they can make travel arrangements. Assuming this is a momentary delay, they will now arrive around the end of September. They will live in the apartment above **Linda Jeffrey's** office. Dr Kareem and his wife, a daughter, and two sons. The housing part is shaping up well; we've had a wonderful flurry of activity about beds and bedroom furniture. Rowan University is offering full tuition scholarship for daughter, **Demah**, and oldest son, **Abdullah**. Friends School in Mullica Hill is still offering youngest son (15) a spot which might be a supportive environment while he learns English. We need to build support network communities. Transportation will be needed.

Worship & Ministry:

W&M has taken over the Superintendents list for the 9:5 a.m. opening before each First Day class. Music has been arranged for each Sunday. Friends suggested we have a little shorter opening session on the first Sunday because of business meeting.

Adult FDS:

An ad hoc group is looking for volunteers to lead adult FDS sessions. First Day School starts at 9:15 every Sunday. Business Meeting is from 9:30 to 10:25 generally on the first Sunday of every month.

Ten Thousand Villages

The committee needs to meet and choose a new convener/clerk for this year. Assuming we can figure out the Annex access, does Monthly Meeting approve holding our Ten Thousand Villages sale this year from December 2 through December 6? Candlelight Tour will be Saturday, December 5. We should have no issues with Meetinghouse access.

Irene Darpino was suggested as clerk. **Mike Ayars** will contact her.

New Business

The **Pettit family** will donate replacement carpet in the nursery. They've taken up the old carpet.

Frank Lenik discussed a letter requesting funds for him to travel to Vietnam & Cambodia as part of the Mine Detector program. He wants to send the letter to churches, civic groups, and other meetings, and would like to send it on the Woodstown Meeting letterhead. Friends approved, and suggested that donations can be sent to Woodstown Friends Meeting.

George School has an "Art for Relief" project that funds selected relief projects. They will donate all the proceeds of this year's project to Frank's Mine Detector project. Patti Burns will keep us informed of George School's project.

We closed with worship.

Mike Ayars, recording



Welcome back to First Day Classes

Opening Meeting on September 20th enjoyed making "Pinwheels for Peace" with Gail Scuderi to celebrate International Day of Peace.

This year we will try to gather right at 9:15 a.m. with hymns, a reading by the Superintendent and announcements. The Nursery will be cared for by Fran Pettit, Sara Spina will teach the children through grades 3 and David Lamont will lead the class of older students to describe and discuss the stories about Paul in the New Testament.

The Adult Class is being planned by Patti Burns and a group of interested participants. Anyone is welcome to contribute ideas for class discussions.

A Spiritual Reading Group had their first meeting on Sunday, September 20th following Meeting for Worship. They discussed the pamphlet "The Messenger That Goes Before." They read Michael Birkel's interpretations of letters written by Margaret Fell. In these letters was found spiritual counsel, tips on discernment, the meditative practice of "reading within" the Bible, the inner process of Meeting for Worship and Biblical imagery. All of this was discussed in a worshipful and interesting hour and a half. Our next reading will be "The Testimony of Integrity" by Wilmer A. Cooper, a Pendle Hill pamphlet. We will meet Sunday, October 4, the time to be determined by those who wish to attend. Either allow a lunch break after Meeting for Worship at 1:00 p.m. or meet later in the day. Please come join us. If you have questions or suggestions, call Gary Holmes 856-332-0009

[What has happened over the summer?](#) Please see me, Priscilla Lamont, call me 769-338 1or e-mail pblamont@salemcompany.com your news for the Newsletter, so we get to know each other better. Here is what I have so far:

Anna Scuderi is studying Occupational Therapy and Jewelry Making at Towson University in Maryland.

Pete is in 5th grade at South Harrison elementary school

Madeleine has entered 9th grade at Kingsway High School

Nicholas is a Junior at Kingsway and

Gail is teaching Art at Quinton Elementary and at Appel Farm. This summer Gail was the Artist in Residence at Friends Village. She worked for five weeks with the Independent Living residents and five weeks in Health Care. They made beautiful paper pots which will be on display at the Village.

Greg Gibson has recently entered his first year of medical school at Temple University.....seems like just yesterday he was only ten years old !

Brad is in his third year at Haverford College.

Dana Houghton broke her arm while hiking in the Adirondack Mts. this summer. She and George are planning to move to Kendall Retirement Community sometime in October.

The entire **Tyson family** gathered for a vacation in West Virginia, living in tents and cabins, hiking and having a great time. Toy has pictures she will be glad to share.

Sam Lamont was married to **Meg Juckett** in West Virginia on July 11th. Weeks before the wedding, **Pauline Coles** helped Priscilla sew 33 quilted table runners for all the tables at the reception held in a barn in Canaan Valley, about an hour south of Morgantown where Sam and Meg have bought a new/old house.

CONGRATULATIONS!

This summer, **Jonathan** joined big sister **Marissa** and his parents **Heidi and Mike Bowers** and grandparents **Sally and John Sakewicz**.

Brigid Mahon Nonas and Jim welcomed a new baby girl named **Kyra** in July who will enjoy sisters **Callista and Darin**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, October 4 – Spiritual Reading group, Social Room – time to be decided

Monday, October 5 -- The Tutoring Program begins at 2:45 and lasts until 4 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Anyone who is willing to help students with their homework please call Priscilla Lamont, 769-3381

Monday, October 5 – Annex at 7:00 p.m.. Meet to discuss plans for Ten Thousand Villages sale in December. **Fred Nicolosi** has agreed to clerk the committee this year and all are welcome to come help.

Sunday, October 18 – Annex at 11:45a.m. A covered dish luncheon as a friendly send-off to **Dana and George Houghton**, with a promise to always stay connected. Please RSVP at www.woodstownfriends.org Houghton Send-off

LAND MINE PROJECT

Following is a letter from Frank Lenik, Clerk of Woodstown Friends Meeting, who has been inspired to help distribute metal detectors, made by a manufacturer in West Virginia, to countries plagued by land mines. The letter will be sent to other churches and community organizations.

In 1964, the United States began a bombing campaign in Laos that dropped approximately 260 million cluster bombs over a period of nine years. Nearly half the arable land in Laos is still littered with unexploded cluster munitions. The use of these bombs extended to more than 25 countries. There is now a global effort to ban the

production of cluster bombs, meanwhile fields need to be cleared for farming, wells for clean water and safe places for children to play.

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you to invite you join in a ministry which we have been working on since April of 2007. We call it the “Land Mine Project” and have been quietly raising money to purchase mine detectors for people overseas whose lives have been impacted by mines, cluster bombs and other unexploded remnants of war. Although it is easy to visualize non-combatants being harmed by these weapons, we rarely consider their effect on subsistence based agricultural communities. These communities are widespread throughout the world and every acre of farm ground sown with these lethal devices yields hunger and starvation for years to come.

The cost of one of these mine detectors is \$1,041.00. Each detector we donate is matched by the manufacturer, Schonstedt Instrument Company of Kearneysville, West Virginia. These mine detectors are sent directly to humanitarian de-mining teams identified by the United Nations Mine Action Service. Made up of mostly indigenous people, these teams have been trained in their use and are working to make their farms and villages safe to inhabit . Since its inception the program has sent over three hundred mine detectors to 18 different countries. This program has received some great press and has been successful through the caring and love shown by people like you.

In February of 2010 I will be traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia to help raise awareness of the global land mine problem. Won't you please consider making a donation to the “Vietnam Project” to help? Some of these monies will be used for my expenses but all of the remainder will be given to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), a non-governmental organization which struggles to rid the world of this menace. The time is short however and the goal is to raise most of the money by December 1st. To this end I will be traveling and speaking to groups to tell them of this project and I hope you would invite me to speak to your group. We are also accepting donations to the “Land Mine Project” itself. These monies will go only to the purchase of mine detectors.

If you are interested in becoming a partner in this cause please mail your donation to Woodstown Friends Meeting, PO Box 13, Woodstown, NJ 08098. Checks should be made out to “Woodstown Friends Meeting” with a note as to whether you wish to give to either the “Vietnam Project” or the “Land Mine Project”. If you have further questions, I can be reached by telephone at (856) 275-3210. I look forward to your invitations and questions. Thank you.

Peace be with you,

Frank Lenik, Clerk,
Woodstown Friend Meeting

Stay up to date. See all our news at www.woodstownfriends.org