



Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter

A publication of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

*Worship in the future will be marked,
rather, by the self-conscious
awareness that all of us are or
can be God bearers and that our
deepest religious task is to
give ourselves away.*

from *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*
by John Shelby Spong

New York Yearly Meeting Reports	1
PSAC Initiative on Race Issues	2
Quaker Values in Sports at BFS	2
Poems by Aaron Cohen	3
M&C "Huddle"	3
Malin/Pullman Wedding	3
Language and Learning by Michael Nill	4
Committees, Archivists Want Your Records	4
David C. Anderson	4
News of Members and Attenders	4
Maria Arias & Ben Frisch in AFSC	4
June Meeting for Business	5
July Meeting for Business	5
September Meeting for Business	6
Suppers for Newcomers and Others	7
Meeting House Garden	7
Child Care Needs	7
Elsa Irene Boyce	7
Regularly Scheduled Activities	7

110 Schermerhorn Street
P.O. Box 026123
Brooklyn, NY 11202
www.brooklynmeeting.org

2005 NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING

Thoughts of a First-Time Attender to New York Yearly Meeting

I was asked to share my thoughts as a first timer at Silver Bay/New York Yearly Meeting. I found the week to be (positively!) overwhelming. Before we went, so many people said so many good things about it, it couldn't possibly be true, yet not only did I believe them, they were right. It is difficult to describe; they have something for everyone so it depends on folks interests and intentions for the week.

I can't possibly write about my experience without first mentioning JYM (Junior Yearly Meeting) and Child Care. My daughter greatly preferred the company of other children to accompanying Mom and/or Dad to a workshop, worship sharing, or business meeting. Child care was always available. It works on a co-op system: adults volunteer. I'm afraid we took advantage of the system, in that the number of kid hours we used greatly outnumbered the amount of time we adults volunteered. As a first timer, it seemed important to me to immerse myself as much as possible in this unique experience. Ordinarily, I would never take more than I gave, but I sensed it was okay; I could make-up for that in years to come. Of course it helps that they're a great bunch of kids and I never felt I was leaving others in a wake of kid chaos.

So with all this no-kid time, I was able to tryout a little of everything. I read posters about good deeds Quakers are doing all over the world and right next door. I was inspired by committee work, moved by more than one message, enlightened during discussion groups. At mealtimes I spoke with Quakers of all ages, including the very young and very old. Silver Bay is a camp and I felt that too, at the bonfire, sitting and rocking on the porch, singing songs, going the archery range, etc.

I found myself constantly thinking what a nice group of people make-up New York Yearly Meeting, how natural it is to blend deep thinking, thoughtful prayer, forgetting the responsibilities of parenthood (at least for small chunks of time), and just plain goofing-off. I was amazed at the breadth and depth, the content and spirit of every carefully planned event as well as so many spontaneous things, casual conversations, and even time I made for myself to

be alone to somehow try to process what was happening around me and within me.

One thing that struck me about all the comments before we left (including mine now) is how people did not really share details except in the broadest sense. I believe that's due to trying to express how tremendous an event this is, how special it is for each individual, something that cannot be explained to anyone. So I want to encourage others to go to Silver Bay so they too can feel the energy for themselves. Perhaps next year's first timers will be better writers, better able to capture the essence - *Heather Buchan Loza*

SILVER BAY - 2005

Some 39 members and attenders from Brooklyn Meeting attended the 310th Annual Session of New York Yearly Meeting held again this year at Silver Bay Conference Center near the north end of Lake George, July 24th - 30th. This may have been the largest single "delegation" from any single Monthly Meeting. There have been no reports thus far of profound sadness or depression in our group from being at Silver Bay nor of malnutrition nor of sore throats from too much singing.

Brooklyn Friends at Silver Bay:

Maria Arias & Djasi & Keith Geffen; Boyce Bengé; Glen Bibler; Ted Earhardt, Nina Robinson & Rebecca; Jessica & Matt Fleischer-Black & Rose; Ben Frisch & Peter; Joe Garren; Julie Glynn, Andy Mattson, Natalie, Nora & Ellen; Patricia & Tom Glynn; Sarah Haga & Holden & Damon Strub; Carol Holmes; Sheila Leeds; Heather & John Loza & Columbine; Tom Rothschild, Mary & Miriam; Inga Schwartzkopf & Naceo Giles; Lucy Sikes; Seta Toroyan; Sara Way & Scott Klein & gorgeous little girl; Lissa Wolfe

In total, some 600 Friends attended Yearly Meeting this year, including 183 children in a well-run JYM Program through the week. Each year there seems to be more effort to include high school and junior high kids in issues of Quaker testimonies and practices. About two-thirds of the some 75 Monthly Meetings, and prison worship groups in the Yearly Meeting were represented.

- *Glen Bibler*

PSAC INITIATIVE ON RACE ISSUES

The Peace and Social Action Committee is taking a number of steps to bring race issues into focus in Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. Hurricane Katrina's disproportionate effect on the poor and people of color has once again uncovered the results of race and class differences in our country. The intent is to begin with concerns relating to the meeting and the Religious Society of Friends and then to address privilege and institutionalized racism in the larger society.

-October 16 - After Meeting -3:30 Pot-luck lunch and workshop with Ernie and Vince Buscemi.

-A folder containing articles on race and racism, both within and outside of the RSF as well as a bibliography of related materials and on-line resources is in the library. There is a sheet for signing articles out at the front of the folder. This collection and bibliography will be added to as material becomes available.

- Some recommended books on race have been ordered through the book table committee

In the planning stages:

-Screening and discussion of the PBS series: "Race: the Power of an Illusion"



- Workshops with Friends:

Vanessa Julye, author of *Fit For Freedom, Not for Friendship* <http://vanessajulye.quaker.org/>

Jeff Hitchcoc, author of *Lifting the White Veil*
<http://www.euroamerican.org/>

The next meeting of Peace and Social Action is October 9 at 1 pm. All are welcome.

Teaching Quaker Values in Sports at BFS

By Mary Pags

Since getting to know Barbara and BFS I have become a fan of the Girls Varsity Basketball team. I try to attend any home games that my work schedule will permit. I cheer for BFS when they win. And, because they play so hard I cheer for them just as hard when they don't win. But something happens to me from the moment the BFS varsity season is over and I head over to Madison Square Garden where I watch and attend WNBA basketball games. I cheer loudly for the New York Liberty when they win. When they make real "stupid" plays and lose I boo. And I get angry.

This past season I asked myself how, in the world of competitive sports, does a coach over at BFS tell the team that it is ok to win but don't worry if you lose? How are Quaker values taught in Quaker School sports where there are so few Quakers in the school? So in late July, having a question that needed answering, I found myself making contact and meeting with David Gardella, the Athletic Di-

rector at BFS. He said I could find him at his other "summer job" over at Madison Square Garden, where he does scoring for the New York Liberty!

David told me that even though winning is good, there is a lot of learning and growing in losing. Most importantly, it is learning how to deal with the up and down situations that life offers. Like life, athletics is neither controlled nor is it predictable. The goal is not about winning and beating the other team. The goal is for an individual student to realize that when s/he joins a team a commitment is made to the team. It is about teamwork and challenge. It is about the development of mind, body, and spirit. It is about building values to help support a productive life of leadership and service.

Well, I did learn something about sports-woman-ship this summer. Since I spoke with David I started a new practice. At the beginning of each WNBA game, when the players from the opposing team are announced I cheered and applauded each player. Then I went on to boo loudly when my team lost and from my seat I could see David plugging stats into his laptop.

POEMS BY AARON COHEN

Menders of Broken Hearts

Now, you have heard about menders of shoes—"Shoe Makers."
And menders of clothes—"Tailors."
But, who has heard about menders of hearts?
We are called "Healers."
We use the loving energy in the universe to heal broken hearts.
Healers have been around since the beginning of time.
We have been called by many different names: Medicine Men, Witch Doctors, Priests and Shamans.
Today some of us are doctors and therapists.
Now you may ask, "How do we use the loving energy in the universe?"
We use it with prayer, meditation chanting, listening with open hearts, and acts of loving kindness.
Some healers have been great leaders, like Moses, Confucius, Jesus, and Mohammed; and more recently, Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, and Jane Goodall.
But wait, I have gotten ahead of myself.
How do hearts get broken in the first place?
Well, you know how plants need water to live and grow.
Well, hearts need loving energy to live and grow.
And, if a heart does not get enough loving energy it cracks.
Or worst yet, it breaks.
And worst of all, it dies.
Now something very amazing happens when broken hearts receive loving energy.
They become healed.
Even hearts that have died, can come alive again!
And most miraculous of all—
A healed heart is a new kind of heart.
It is a more loving heart!
It has become a healer's heart.
It is also a heart that is more open to the preciousness of

life, to its joy, and to the sense of wonder at the oneness of all things.
And those of us with once broken hearts go on to become healers ourselves.
The loving energy in the universe is thus increased, as the number of broken and healed hearts increase.

Stop in the Name of Love

Stop in the name of love
Before you break your heart
Think it over.
We rush here.
We rush there.
To achieve this.
To achieve that.
And in our rushing
We are deaf and dumb to the Eternal Process
Of Peace, Joy, Love and Creation.
If we would only stop long enough in our rushing—
To experience the Eternal Moments,
We would then bring fullness to our hearts.

Vocal Ministry on 2/27/2005

And light is! And always Be!
We are the crucible where heaven and earth meet.
We are the mosaic waiting upon the lord.
But he is already present.
He is present in the Silence that goes beyond all words.
The Silence that brings us passion and peace.
The Silence that in this moment gives us life and the world we live in.
We need only be open to the Light, and feel the joy.

MALIN/PULLMAN WEDDING

Joan Malin and Peter Pullman will be married under the care of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 11:00. All are invited to attend.



M & C "Huddle"

You may have noticed a brief "huddle" near the front of the meeting room after worship. For about a year, members of

Ministry and Council make contact with each other at that time to share information or concerns that may have arisen during the week. We feel monthly committee meetings are too far apart. In addition to "formal" business such as requests for membership or marriage, the committee is responsible for the pastoral care of the meeting. Aside from the complete confidentiality in regards to matters concerning individuals, it is to the advantage of the meeting to know about the wide range of items on our monthly agenda.

So, this is the first of what will, hopefully, be a series of notes about what M&C does. And we invite you to let us know what

LANGUAGE AND LEARNING

By Michael Nill, Head BFS

Brooklyn Friends School was honored this past June to have Douglas Bennett as its Commencement Speaker. A convinced Quaker and political scientist, Doug has served since 1997 as the president of Earlham College, a Quaker college in Richmond, Indiana. Earlham is featured as one of 40 colleges in a new book by Loren Pope entitled, *Colleges that Change Lives*.

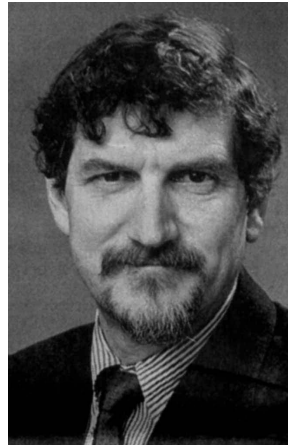
In addressing the 40 graduating seniors, their families, and the entire faculty and staff of BFS, President Bennett asked them to think about what makes a successful education possible. The answer, he suggested, is language. That alone, however, won't promote learning unless we take seriously the responsibilities that come with academic freedom and the right of free speech – in particular, responsibilities to listen respectfully and speak the truth.

There's plenty of talk today, but much of it is divisive as well as dismissive of dialogue, whether in the halls of Congress or on talk radio. President Bennett acknowledged, sadly, a recent failure to honor the rights and responsibilities of speech at his own college when a student threw a pie at political journalist William Kristol to protest Kristol's right-wing views.

It is a stated goal of Brooklyn Friends School to be a place where people of all backgrounds and ages listen to and learn from one another. While this is an ideal, it is one that schools like Brooklyn Friends and Earlham are in a particularly strong position to foster because of their Quaker roots. In Quaker silence we prepare to hear that of God in others and ourselves. Expecting to hear God in the voices of others grounds the responsibility to listen carefully. Being in dialogue with that of God in ourselves obliges us to hear and speak the truth. This process nurtures learning and education in its highest sense.

Committees, The Archivists Want Your Records!

Calling the First Day School, Ministry and Counsel, Library, Book Table, and Discussion Committees. Your records can be preserved and available to Brooklyn Meeting members now and in the future if you submit them to the Meeting Archivists: Molly Rusnak and Lisa Samson. We are also anxious to locate past newsletters. Give us a call: Molly 718-624-6294, Lisa 718 875-5994



DAVID C. ANDERSON

David C. Anderson died on September 15, 2005. We mourn the passing of our beloved friend David, a long time member of the New York Quarterly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends. (Quakers.) Most recently David served as a Trustee of the New York Quarterly Meeting of Friends and on Ministry and Council of his Brooklyn Monthly Meeting,

as well as countless other committees over the years. David's kindness, insight, wisdom, and commitment to honoring that of God in everyone will remain an inspiration to us all.

News of Members and Attenders:

Amanda Davis, the daughter of Marvea Thompson, has graduated from Freeport High School and is attending Adelphi University.

Georgia Southcote has moved to Belfast, Maine, where her new home is within walking distance of shopping and entertainment and is only about a 20-minute drive from her daughter.

Judy Watson reports that Ed Druck is getting good care at Bishop Mugavero Center for Geriatric Care. They enjoy sharing greetings sent care of Judy.

Maria Arias and Ben Frisch in AFSC

Starting in October, Maria and Ben will serve on the Executive Committee of the New York Metropolitan Regional Office (NYMRO) of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This will be Maria's first term and Ben will become the clerk of the committee. The AFSC has been involved in international and nation service work on behalf of Friends since 1917. NYMRO has two offices, one in Manhattan and the other in Newark, NJ. There are three major program areas: Conflict Resolution Program, Criminal Justice Program, and Immigrant Rights Program. The executive committee provides oversight and guidance to programs and promotes AFSC work. Ben will also serve on the Board of the AFSC ex-officio, as a regional clerk.

June Summary of Meeting for Business Minutes

The annual reports are accepted from the communication and the childcare committees and interim reports of the collections committee and of the treasurer.

The annual report of the welcoming committee is read and accepted. Suggestions were made to increase the effectiveness of the committee's outreach to new attenders, which the committee will consider.

The following nominations were approved:

- Communication committee: Adam Segal-Isaacson and Anne Mullen.
- Childcare committee: Susan Laughter, Sarah Anderson, and Shannon Young.
- Welcoming committee: Heather Buchn Loza and Lissa Wolfe.
- Library committee: Bill Parrott
- Joint nominating committee of NYQM: Ted Ehrhardt and Elizabeth Gilmore
- Community supper committee: Electra Cummings and John Loza.
- Representative to NYYM representative meeting: Andrew Mead von Salis.

The nomination of Diane Bonner for the committee on ministry and counsel was referred back to the nominating committee for further consideration.

The request from Molly Rusnak for release from the social hour committee was approved.

The property committee, reported on the following matters affecting the meeting house:

- BFS is not using the building during June.
- Mary McDowell Center for Learning will be renting space for 2 or 3 classrooms from Sept to approximately December. They will have a 2 week summer camp session in the meeting house in June. Any use of space for office by the Mary Mc Dowell Learning Center should not interfere with the arrangement of furniture in the social room.
- Redesign of the side yard, planting a tree near the rear gate leading to Boerum Place, increasing the size of the front yard, placing a drain in the side yard and repair of the damaged brick is being planned.
- Consideration is being given to removal all shutters in the front until they are repaired or replaced.
- NYQM trustee have approved a project to construct an elevator in the meeting house and are seeking ways to fund the project.

The property committee will consider the possibility of providing hearing loops in the meeting house.

Letters for request for membership in the meeting for the family of Will Greenspon, Suzanne Oellinger-Greenspon and Lina Greenspon were read for the first time.

The following were read:

Advice No. 6: Parents and older Friends are advised to be sensitive to the insights of younger people and to keep a close and sympathetic contact with them. Children are urged to love and respect their parents that all may be led together to the Light Within.

Query No. 14: Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?

July Summary of Meeting for Business Minutes

The second reading of the letters from Oellinger-Greenspon family requesting membership was postpone until September business meeting so that they could be present at the meeting.

The following minute from the committee on ministry and counsel was approved:

Ministry and Counsels want to remind our community of our process regarding expressions of concerns about nominees coming before the business meeting. Our process is one that honors the nominee and the person expressing a concern. Our general accepted process is to ask only that this nomination be held over so that the nominating committee can explore the concerns, specifics about the nomination should not be expressed in the open meeting.

The nominating committee will remind Friends of this process when presenting nominations at business meeting.

The annual report of the audit committee is accepted with several corrections. The practice for maintaining duplicate records is to be reviewed by the treasurer and the audit committee.

The annual report of the discussions committee is accepted. The meeting holds the committee and its members in the Light. Ministry and counsel is asked to help the discussions committee members and individual members seek a way to resolve and transform their conflicts.

The report on the marriage of Lara Holliday and James Forrester is accepted.

The nominating committee and ministry and counsel are asked to jointly consider how problems and conflicts in committees can be considered and addressed by the meeting as a whole.

The following nominations were approved:
Social Hour: Christiana Mack, Discussions: Willie Watkins
These quotations are read:

Advice No.4 Friends are advised to observe our Christian testimony for a faithful ministry of the gospel under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Members are reminded that all have a responsibility in ministry.

Query No.4 Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid tale bearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?

Colossians 3:12-15 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

James 1:19-20 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

September Summary of Business Meeting Minutes

Friends approve that the marriage of Joan Malin and Peter Pullman be taken under the care of the Meeting. Patricia Glynn, Ted Ehrhardt, Helen Mullin, and Mary Pagurelias are appointed to carry out this purpose.

Membership for Will Greenspon and Suzanne Oellinger along with their daughter Lina Greenspon is approved. Ted Ehrhardt, Jim Morgan and Heloise Rathbone are appointed as a welcoming committee .

The first readings of request for membership by Electra Cummings, John Loza and Mary Rothschild are read. Friends approve an extended meeting for worship from 9 am to 12 noon on 9/11.

John Edminster and Betty Williams of 15th St Meeting asked us to support the Quaker Initiative to end Torture (QUIT). Peace and Social Action Committee is requested to consider a minute in support of QUIT. The meeting directs the clerk to sign, on behalf of our meeting, a related statement opposing torture prepared by the STOP Campaign/Call of Justice Coalition and circulated by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The peace and social action committee is requested to sponsor a discussion on non-violent action and civil disobedience in which to consider questions of deliberate damage to property, the use of the Patriot Act to prosecute, and the use of 9/11 for other than a day of mourning. This request arose out of a concern for a group facing federal conspiracy charges in Binghamton, NY.

The invitation to the students and families of the Mary McDowell Center for Learning and Brooklyn Friends School was changed to 11/20 from 11/13. The clerk will inform the heads of the schools and prepare formal invitations for the schools to send to the families. Also the First Day School, child care and social hour will be inform to make preparations for both days for the possibility people may come on 11/13 instead of 11/20.

The clerk will write to the heads of the Brooklyn Friends School and the Mary McDowell Center for Learning of the meeting's decision to have a discussion to seek ways they believe the meeting could effectively support them as Quaker institutions rather than the potluck dinner.

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting endorse the following minute of the Friends General Conference Central Committee:

Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

An additional \$150 to the child care budget was approved to purchase floor covering for the child care room.

Glen Bibler is released from the welcoming committee. Georgia Southcotte is released from ministry and counsel.

Ted Ehrhardt reads the following report on behalf of the nominating committee:

Members of the Nominating Committee, and of Ministry & Counsel met with two Friends regarding their concerns over a nomination to M & C. We see this situation through a glass darkly. We cannot yet discern what to do, so we ask that you hold these Friends in the light and that you pray for us so that we can discover the will of God in this matter.

The following are read:

Advice No.7 : Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of misery and suffering. They are urged to support

efforts to overcome racial, social, economic, and educational discrimination; to bear testimony against all forms of oppression; to exert influence for such treatment of prisoners as may help reconstruct their lives; and to work for the abolition of the death penalty.

Query No. 11: Do we foster reverence for life? Do we strive to find, to understand, and to remove causes of misery and suffering? Do we, in loving concern, extend assistance to those who require it?

*Passage from The Return of the Prodigal Son,
by Henri J.M. Nouwen:*

It is through constant forgiveness that we become like the Father. Forgiveness from the heart is very, very difficult. It is next to impossible. Jesus said to his disciples; "When your brother wrongs you seven times a day and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I am sorry,' you must forgive him." I have often said, "I forgive you," but even as I said these words my heart remained angry or resentful. I still wanted to hear the story that tells me that I was right after all; I still wanted to hear apologies and excuses; I still wanted the satisfaction of receiving some praises in return-if only the praise for being so forgiving!

But God's forgiveness is unconditional; it comes from a heart that does not demand anything for itself, a heart that is completely empty of self-seeking. It is this divine forgiveness that I have to practice in my daily life. It calls me to keep stepping over all my arguments that say forgiveness is unwise, unhealthy, and impractical. It challenges me to step over all my needs for gratitude and compliments. Finally, it demands of me that I step over that wounded part of my heart that feels hurt and wronged and that wants to stay in control and put a few conditions between me and the one whom I am asked to forgive.

Pot Luck Suppers for Newcomers and Others

The pot luck suppers for newcomers and other interested friends, (organized by Ted Ehrhardt and Jennifer Barr) are continuing monthly with a change of venue. Through February the gatherings will be at the home of Thomas and Patricia Glynn, 278 Sterling Place. Jennifer is continuing to coordinate these gatherings. Contact her at jenibar@aol.com for information and to let her know that you are coming and what you will bring. (In September, 14 adults and 3 children shared fellowship and delicious food.) The dinners are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. Dates:

October 12, 2005	January 11, 2006
November 2, 2005	February 8, 2006
December 7, 2005	

Meetinghouse Front Garden To Be Renovated

The Property Committee is happy to announce that the area in front of the Meetinghouse will become a garden of native American flowers and plants to enhance our lovely old building. The renovation will be undertaken by the Olympia Garden Club, a community garden club, and will begin soon.

The Property Committee speaks for the Meeting in thanking Susan Palm for the care and improvements she has voluntarily provided for the garden in recent years. Some of her plantings will be incorporated into the new garden. We wish her success in her new and expanding garden and plant business.

Child Care Committee Needs a Volunteer

The child care committee is looking for volunteers who can spend the meeting worship hour in the baby room with our babies up to 4 years of age. There is a child care worker there and the volunteer will assist. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the library.

Elsa Irene Boyce We want to share with the community that Elsa Irene Boyce, mother of Nicholas Boyce, and step-mother of Llewelyn Boyce and grandmother to Zakkiyah Boyce died on August 4th, 2005.

BROOKLYN MONTHLY MEETING REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays: mid-week Meeting for Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting room

Sundays [except the first Sunday of the month]: A spirit-led discussion from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Meeting room.

The first Sunday of the month: Singing at 9:45 a.m. in the Meeting room.

The first Sunday of the month: Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The last Sunday of the month: the Community Dinner for all who are in need of a hot meal, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to participate in all activities.