



# Metamorphosis

November 2009

Meeting for Worship Sundays at 10 AM at Explorations Academy, 1701 Ellis Street, Bellingham  
 Phone 360-752-9223 <http://www.geocities.com/bellinghamfriendsmeeting> Mailing Address P.O. Box 30144 Bellingham, 98228-2144

Clerk: Mimi Freshley, Co-Clerk Dorrie Jordan

Ministry and Counsel Members: Doris Fern, Mimi Freshley, Dorrie Jordan and Howard Harris  
 Metamorphosis Editor Sharon Trent [Sharon\\_trent@comcast.net](mailto:Sharon_trent@comcast.net)

## Query for November

*In what ways does our Meeting help to develop the spiritual lives of our children and of all of our members and attenders? How do we share our deepest beliefs with our children and with one another?—*  
*from NPYM Faith & Practice, page 45*

Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour (or weekday activity)
November 15	No second hour—Meetings at both Lopez Island and Bellingham
November 16	<i>Soup Supper – How can Peace and Social Concerns Committee Help the Meeting? 6 pm at the home of John and Janine Hart-Horner</i>
November 22	Threshing Session on Children's Program Committee Budget Request
November 29	Potlatch—to participate, bring a few items to give away, take away what you need
December 1	*Book Group – Sandy Tolan's <i>The Lemon Tree</i> , 7 pm Sharon Trent's home
December 6	Potluck
December 7	*Spirit Group <i>There is a Spirit</i> , 7 pm Annelise Pysanky's home
December 13	Meeting for Worship for Business
December 15	*Book Group – Tobias Wolff's <i>Old School</i> , 7 pm
December 20	Christmas Program
December 27	No Second Hour

*\*All are welcome to attend Spirit Group or Book Group at any time. Most book group selections are supplied by Bellingham Public Library through Susan Richardson. Suggestions for future reads are welcome.*

## Friends Earthcare Committee

A Quaker Response to the Crisis of Climate Change

Approved by Britain Yearly Meeting, July 2009

The crisis of global climate change represents a supreme test of humanity's collective wisdom and courage. Our immoderate use of Earth's resources violates the entire biosphere, threatening the lives of millions of people and the habitats of thousands of species. Many of the poorest people are already suffering a changed climate; they are asking us all to act.

How has humanity produced this crisis? Our faith response is that prevailing social values have obscured what it means to live authentically on this Earth. In rich European countries we consume more than we need within an economic system that divides us as a society; in much that we do, we cause harm to the planet and each other without enriching our lives.

The Earth is God's work and not ours to do with as we please. We recall Gandhi's saying, often quoted by Quakers: "Live simply that others may simply live." As a Quaker community, we do try to live what we believe, guided by the values of simplicity, truth, equality and peace. Too often we fall short of honouring them. Climate change is challenging us to ask anew what our faith leads us to do.

As individuals and as a community, we are now making the difficult decisions and plans necessary to limit our ecological impact to a sustainable level. With encouragement from one another, we are progressively reducing our reliance on non-renewable resources while stepping up our campaign for

wider social change. As a small religious society, we take heart in belonging to a community of faith groups and others working towards the same goals in a hopeful spirit.

We gladly take up our responsibility and call for unprecedented international cooperation to enable the large cuts in global emissions which are required. This will be a difficult road to travel but we are prepared to support decision-makers in taking the radical steps necessary. We appreciate progress made and uphold decision-makers as they navigate conflicting priorities, yet we challenge them to hold faith with the goal and not bend to short-term expediency.

An inequitable global agreement on climate change could lead to forced migrations and serious conflict. Any agreement must put the world's poorest first; it falls to richer countries to bear the greater burden of responsibility for change. The goal is achievable but priorities will need to change: currently, the majority of states commit more resources to warfare than to tackling climate change. Where we see crisis, we also see opportunity to remake society as a communion of people living sustainably as part of the natural world. By leading the simpler lives of a low-carbon society, we draw nearer to the abundance of peace, freedom and true community. Our faith in common humanity gives hope; love, rather than fear, can still lead us through this crisis.

### **Speak Truth to Power**

E-mail or call President Obama telling him to not send more troops to Afghanistan. Instead, we should be pulling out our troops. Our military presence there and air strikes that kill Afghanistan civilians only makes more enemies and strengthens the Taliban. Now is the time to act decisively for peace. Contact President Barack Obama via [Web Form](#).

**www.whitehouse.gov**. Once on the webpage, hit "Contact Us." Or write to:

The White House,  
District of Columbia 20500

**Phone:** (202) 456-1414

**Fax:** (202) 456-2461

### **Interfaith Coalition**

#### Coat Drive

This fall, we provided winter coats to a greater number of people in need in Whatcom County. Thank you for donating a winter coat and bringing some much needed warmth to others this fall. Coats were distributed by volunteers to our neighbors in need. We appreciate your commitment to this program and are humbled to experience the gratitude in words or expressions of those who benefit from your efforts.

#### Christmas Drive

Please give contributions to Sharon Trent, who will purchase gift cards from local stores to be given to families who apply too late to participate in the main drive.

DRAFT Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – November 8, 2009

Clerk: Mimi Freshley

Recording Secretary: Betty McMahon

Present: Judy Hopkinson, Tom and Lorina Hall, Virginia Herrick, Annelise Pysanky, Doris Ferm, Julie Batten, Jeanine Hart-Horner, Joanne Cowan, Dorrie Jordan, Sharon Trent, Susan Richardson, Don Goldstein Howard Harris, and Christina Crosetti.

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence.

#### Our History

Howard Harris shared his admiration and enthusiasm for Rufus Jones.

In the beginning of the 1800's, the early enthusiasm that was once felt for Quakers no longer existed. Rufus Jones brought Quakerism into the modern world, and the people

whom he greatly influenced also influenced Howard Harris. Rufus Jones wrote 56 books in his lifetime, six of them autobiographical. He did not believe in punishment or scolding (of his children), and this is how Howard Harris was raised and continued to raise his six children (along with wife, Rosemary). A professor of religion and philosophy, Rufus Jones was instrumental in starting the Five-year meeting (= *Friends United Meeting* and ~ *Fellowship @ Reconciliation*). Rufus Jones also helped to bring about *Pendle Hill and Friends Service Committee*.

### Our Future –

Referring to the Bill Moyers' program, "The Good Soldier," one particular soldier concluded, "We are one." One hopes that our Meeting grasps and passes along this idea.

After Dusty Andersen's sharing of "Quaker Process," she mentioned to one Friend that she now feels much more unity with Bellingham Friends.

There were ~ 12-14 children present at today's Meeting. Let's focus on them. Some say, "It takes a village." One Friend's view is, "It takes a Quaker meeting."

Hope: With awareness of our hearts, we can reach out to those who may have terror in their hearts. Our Meeting keeps us aware of our adult hearts.

### Agenda Review / Approval

**The agenda was adjusted and approved.**

### Approval of Last Month's Minutes -

The nominating report should read: "*We approved the seasoned nominations of Mimi, Dorrie, and Dave.*" **The minutes were approved as corrected.**

As the Minutes are an official document to be saved in our archives, it was suggested that names mentioned in all Minutes should include both first and last names.

### Committee Reports

#### **Ministry & Council**

1. We hope to have a final version of our welcome brochure very soon, with the help of Dave Hopkinson.
2. Names have been suggested for the new Nominating Committee but are not yet finalized.
3. M&C was asked several months ago to consider restructuring into two committees. Desirable as this would be, the Committee feels that it is impractical at this time when all active members and attenders are already working on one or more committees.
4. North Pacific Yearly Meeting is revising Faith and Practice. Peace & Social Concerns, Children's, and Earthcare committees are particularly encouraged to consider changes or additions to Faith and Practice before the end of the year. Suggestions should be sent to our committee before Dec.
31. M&C is also looking over the suggested revisions that have been sent.
5. An emergency phone list for regular attenders has been set up for times when meeting needs to be cancelled or in cases of other unexpected crises. To activate the list, call any member of M&C.
6. Because funds are needed elsewhere, we suggest to Meeting that no bookcase be purchased at the present time. Books that do not fit into the existing bookcase can be stored and rotated into the bookcase periodically. Is there a Friend who could store a box or two of books in a dry space for the time being?
7. The 4th Quaker cabinet, which is not in use, needs to be removed from Explorations. Can anyone make use of it? If not, Doris can store it in her garage, with the help of a truck and a couple of strong backs to move some heavy boxes. Please speak to Doris if you can help.
8. Schedule (including back-up names for Care of Meeting if no one else has signed up):

<b>Date</b>	<b>Second Hour</b>	<b>Care of Meeting</b>
Nov. 08	M4W4B	Mimi
Nov. 15	Trip to Lopez - no 2nd hour	We need a volunteer.

Nov. 22	Threshing session on Children's Committee budget request	Doris Doris
Nov. 29	Children's Potlatch	
Dec. 06	Potluck	Mimi
Dec. 13	M4W4B	Mimi
Dec. 20	Christmas Program	
Dec. 27	no 2nd hour	

9. Next M&C meeting will be on Nov. 30 at Doris', 7:00 pm.

### **Peace & Social Concerns**

Concern of the Month: We are concerned with the contaminated water in the UNHCR refugee camps. Clean water is a basic human right.

Speak Truth to Power: Please write to the president or White House speaking out against the troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Soup Supper: Our previous date needs to be postponed, but the committee believes this is still an event we want to sponsor. **Jeanine made an announcement about this happening possibly on November 16th at the rise of Meeting, and several people offered to attend.**

It was decided to keep the budget the same, although there was a significant discrepancy between the total amounts for 2008 compared with that for 2009 (other than a \$50 increase for Right Sharing of World Resources). We decided to go with the 2009 budget so we could include the Right Sharing of World Resources donation. Jeanine will call John Hatten to clarify the discrepancy. A date for our next meeting was not set since one-half of our committee was not present at the time. Monday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> are suggested since it is best to meet before potluck Sunday (in order to get our letter and concern of the month settled. Perhaps we can decide this by Sunday? I'll call Nathan to get his input. (Book group discussion is on Tue. of that week thus it wouldn't work for 3 of us.)

Next committee meeting: December 3, Thursday, at Judy Hopkinson's @ 7:30 pm.

### **Earthcare**

Eco Suggestion of the Month - Cooking suggestions - Use a lid to conserve energy, use a pressure cooker for vegetables, beans, rice.

Recycling resources for Whatcom County were listed in Bellingham Herald on Oct 14.

Speak Truth To Power: December 7th through 18th of 2009 our attention will be on the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit as the world's leaders come together to discuss the environmental fate of the planet. A global consensus is emerging on the urgency for action, to implement words and intentions, for all who live on our fragile planet. Quaker Earthcare Witness is calling for bold decisions – a 35% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 working toward the goal of stabilizing total atmospheric CO2 from the present 387 ppm to less than 350 ppm. Friends World Committee for Consultation is calling for a 40% percent reduction. Bellingham Friends Earthcare Committee is asking you to write to President Obama to urge him to go to the conference in Copenhagen and to show leadership to the world by pushing for stricter regulations, 35 to 40% reduction in emissions and to include some sort of enforcement of the agreement. This is from a QEW minute. For more information, you can visit a number of websites, including FCNL and the organization, 350.org.

We received several Quaker Minutes about the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen. QEW approved a minute from Britain Yearly Meeting, which was also approved by Friends World Committee for Consultations. FEC will submit these to go into the newsletter.

The next FEC meeting will be held on December 2 at 7 pm at Doris' house.

## **Children's Committee:**

Announcement items:

1. November teaching topic is family and living simply in the home. On the 5th Sunday we will be having another Potlatch, and we would like to invite the whole community to participate.
2. The service-learning project for this month is donating used items to Goodwill. The children will be de-cluttering their lives and selecting things from home that they wish to donate. They will be asking adults from meeting for any contributions that they might have.

Announcement/Discussion

1. The children's program has been working on increasing our paid caregiver staff options. We have received resumes and worked on some training opportunities with two new, young ladies: Genevieve and Brooke. These women have demonstrated ability, skill, and knowledge of working with children. Adrienne has been working on training and educating them on the process of First Hour Children's Program as well as educating them on the Quaker virtues that we try and share with our youth. Both women have demonstrated enthusiasm with both the children as well as a great interest in the Quaker community. The next part of our employment process is having the community's support, filing the appropriate paperwork, and having their background checks cleared with Ministry and Council. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Julie Batten or Adrienne Solenberger. [Point of clarification: This brings our number of paid caregivers up to three, enabling there to be two caregivers always on the premises, in case one gets ill or cannot make First Day School.]

## **Finance Committee Report, 11/8/09**

1. The committee met on November 2nd, with John Hatten participating by telephone.
2. No budget for 2010 can be presented yet because of (a) only three pledges have been received so far, totaling \$4200 in anticipated meeting income from donations; (b) budget requests had not yet been received from Ministry & Counsel, Hospitality, Communications, Library, Peace & Social Concerns; and (c) a major budget request from Children's Program Committee needs substantial discernment.
3. Finance Committee is not prepared to support the budget request from Children's Program Committee at this time, partly because of its size and the non-availability of financial resources to fund it, and even more importantly because of its seeming to establish a paid ministry which we believe is not in accord with unprogrammed Friends' traditions and values. We noted that the Children's Program Committee, in its October report to Meeting for Business, suggested that a "structured 2nd hour" be held in order to discuss their request in more depth, and Finance Committee supports this suggestion. We have proposed that a threshing session be scheduled on this issue, that it be scheduled by M & C in consultation with our two committees, that it be designed by negotiation between the two committees, and that it be clerked by a Friend from outside of our meeting.

The following are discussion items regarding the above mentioned threshing session: Guidelines would be dispersed ahead of time. This session would not be for the purpose of achieving unity or conclusion. An allowance for more *chatter* would be appreciated due to people responding to each person's sharing. Unity *may* be reached, and therefore, flexibility is needed. No minutes would be kept, but notes would be put on an agenda for our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Our librarian referred to Faith and Practice at this time and read the following: *Friends should not hold back, they can hold more than one threshing session, notes are helpful.* The sense of the Meeting is that this type of session is called for now. A request for an

outside clerk would allow for Mimi to participate fully. Having the Children's committee report from October available, along with a finance report, both *in advance* of the threshing session, will be helpful. **Meeting approved Don's attention to the November 22, 2009 Threshing Session.**

4. Since the Finance Committee meeting I have been in touch with M & C Clerk Doris Ferm and CPC Clerk Julie Batten about the schedule and format, and believe we have agreement to hold a threshing session on November 22nd during 2nd Hour time. I have also tentatively invited Beth Blattenberger, Clerk of University Friends Meeting, to come to Bellingham to be Clerk for that session, and she has agreed to do so. The meeting would need to reimburse her travel expenses and provide her lunch.

5. Our Meeting Site Liaison, John Hatten, has informed the Finance Committee, that the rent for Explorations Academy will be increased from \$475 to \$500 per month, effective January 1, 2010. The reasons given were improvements that make the location more valuable and a recent increase in school staff time needed to deal with issues raised by our meeting.

6. In connection with the budget request from the Children's Program Committee, the suggested possibility of diverting money from the Meetinghouse Fund is one that involves very substantial ethical and possibly legal difficulties, because the money in that fund, or a major portion of it, was donated to Bellingham Friends Meeting for a specific purpose. In order to divert funds without violating donors' trust, it would probably be necessary to try to reconstruct a list of the donors going back many years and then to ask their permission individually for their donations to be used for a different purpose.

7. A difficulty has arisen with regard to the "Donations Out" portion of our budget, in that there is not clear documentation as to which committee is responsible for recommending the amount of our annual donation to which outside organization. It is proposed that the Treasurer work with the clerks of the Peace & Social Concerns, Friends Earthcare, and Ministry & Counsel Committees to resolve this matter and to make sure that the decisions are documented for the benefit of future committee members and clerks.

Personal proposal made by Treasurer Don Goldstein, separate from Finance Committee report: BFM should not accept any further donations to the Meetinghouse Fund unless the donor grants permission in writing for the amount donated to be used for a different purpose if the meeting finds unity to do so in the future.

### **Nominating**

1. M & C - Alice Robb has agreed to serve on Ministry and Council. Thank you, Alice.
2. Meeting House Non-Committee "Jobs" (see attached)
3. Quarterly Meeting report: Report by BFM attenders at PNQM Fall Quarterly, held on Sept. 25-17. Theme was *Wild Earth, Wild Minds, Wild Hearts*. Virginia, Adrienne, others....
  - The attendance was down by approx. 10% making a final financial assessment challenging. (Many were last minute, illness related).
  - There is continuing discussion regarding QM Finances to be further considered by an Ad Hoc Finance Comm. You will recall that the "pay as you can" policy is part of this consideration.
    - Spring Quarterly is scheduled for April 23-25, 2010, and the theme is "Compassionate Listening: Finding God in the Midst of Fear."
    - State of Society reports are due before the spring 2010 QM session.
    - M & C reported that their co clerks have a leading to travel to troubled or isolated meeting and worship groups.

### **Library**

[This report is from our October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.]

Since my last report in July, our library has seen some tough times. It was removed without warning, packed in boxes and locked away, inaccessible to us for several weeks. Some of the library has reappeared to an old bookshelf. There are missing books. I have asked the meetinghouse liaison to help with this dilemma. To say the least, it has been very frustrating for me. I want to ask, "What are Friend's feelings and/or visions for our library?"

## **FCNL**

### A. Healthcare

1. Push for single payer-universal-Medicare for all
2. Push for HR 3962, otherwise.
3. Support Indian Health Care - Insurance
  - a. Within HR 3962
  - b. Any/all other bills to come, in 2010?

### B. Push to remove troops/not increase troops in Afghanistan

1. Increase \$ for schools in Afghanistan

### C. Keep schedule for Iraq withdrawal

### D. Immigration laws still very unjust. Look for new ones proposed to help in 2010.

### E. Support bill for creation of Nonmilitary Federal Emergency Response Capacity

## **Member Concerns**

Site Liason report reported by Doris Ferm and Susan Richardson and minutes 11-08-09

Site Liason John Hatten reported a great increase this year in the number of exchanges between individuals in the Meeting, Daniel as site contact, and Meeting for Business, with the tone of the exchanges considerably more strained on both sides. He reported that Daniel feels Meeting is less contented with the facility. John feels that an amicable relationship has been broken. He takes some responsibility for this and poses these questions:

1. Is there another site (with affordable rent) available that would better serve our needs?
2. How quickly should concerns be addressed (by the site liason, the site contact, the building owner, etc)?
3. What has changed, and what is the Meeting doing to address the situation? There are global changes as well as individual changes. We are all connected and need to keep that in mind whenever we find ourselves disincluding ourselves from responsibility.
4. Is there a better system for addressing site concerns?
5. Is there a better person to be addressing site concerns?

By the time the report was read, it was 2:15pm, past our usual ending time, which limited the time for discussion. In the brief discussion we had time for, Friends expressed a desire for improved communication. We recommended that we be mindful to channel concerns regarding the facility through the site liason, and if that is not possible, it go through the clerk or clerk of ministry and counsel. Friends decided to move to Explorations from the Senior Center for several reasons, and in many respects this has worked to the advantage of both Meeting and, we hope, also the school. We requested ministry and counsel to schedule a second hour as soon as possible, in which we can discuss these queries posed by John at more length. We thank John for the thoughtful questions.

## **Other Member Concerns**

Interfaith Coalition is asking for Christmas gifts for needy families. Rather than shopping for gifts, Friends agreed to forward donations to Sharon Trent, who will buy gift certificates for local stores to be given to late applicants.

The remainder of the agenda was postponed until next month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, due to time constraints.

Our Meeting closed at approximately 2:45 pm.

### **LOPEZ ISLAND PREPARATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

Lopez Island Worship Group officially became Lopez Island Preparative Meeting (LIPM) upon our recognition of that status during our October 4th Meeting for Business. LIPM continues to be under the care of Bellingham Friends Meeting. In order to help Bellingham Friends get to know more about these Friends, a copy of the LIPM Minutes from their Meeting for Worship for Business on October 19th is available for your perusal on the Friends literature table. Here is an item extracted from those minutes, slightly abridged:

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**Preparative Meeting Committee Report** ...Judy [Meyer] presented the committee's report...and asked for support of its proposal. The report asks Meeting for Business to "identify members for the Gifts and Talents Committee" and for "people to talk to others about being on that committee and to notify the clerk if they are interested in serving." The Committee suggested letting its request season until the November Meeting for Business.

Iris [Graville] read from an article in *Western Friend*: "Perhaps no other faith tradition relies so heavily as does Quakerism upon small groups that labor together to conduct necessary business. Our testimony of equality and our relative lack of formal hierarchy mean that most Quaker decisions are jointly made. Committees exist not only to accomplish tasks, however, but also to build community...At their best, Quaker committees are small catalysts for community, cells of centering and faith that strengthens our bonds and deepen our spiritual lives."

After some discussion, Jerry [Graville] noted the Preparative Meeting Committee was asking for our support of its proposal and that the action item for us would be: instead of having a nominating committee (to be known as the Gifts and Talents Committee) nominate itself, we would, as a whole, nominate the members to that committee. He suggested we were looking to approve this process and move ahead with it AND start today getting names from business meeting for the Gifts and Talents Committee....If that was our decision, the first step would be to nominate, as a whole, people to serve on the Gifts and Talents Committee who would then nominate and determine the structure of a Spiritual Life Committee.

...Judy clarified that the notes on Gifts and Talents Committee...are offered as a starting point for that committee. The committee itself will decide on its purpose and responsibilities, etc.

After additional discussion, John [Helding] suggested we might create a temporary Naming Committee to identify people for the Gifts and Talents Committee. Two of us could volunteer to serve on the Naming Committee. After more discussion, we came to unity on creating a Naming Committee and Steve [Horn] and Michael [Karp] volunteered to serve on it. Between now and November 1, we are invited to contact either of them if we are interested in serving on the Gifts and Talents committee or to suggest people we feel might be good. If we suggest someone else, we are asked to advise Steve and Michael as to whether or not we have spoken to that person about it. The Naming Committee will report to November business meeting.

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--From BFM Members of Lopez Oversight Committee: Susan Richardson, Don Goldstein, and Doris Ferm



Treasurer's Report

11/2/2009

Page 1

Cash Flow 10/1/2009 through 10/31/2009

Category	Amount
INFLOWS	
Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund	1,355.00
Contributions to Meeting: Children's Program	25.00
Contributions to Meeting House Fund	50.00
Contributions for FCWPP	135.00
Contributions for Palestinian refugee family (October Cause of Month)	104.00
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TOTAL INFLOWS	1,669.00
OUTFLOWS	
Administration - Total	-1,002.55
Rent: Explorations Academy	-475.00
Insurance: Annual premium	-475.00
Secretary of State Annual filing fee	-10.00
Business license renewal	-9.00
Check purchase (4 boxes)	-33.55
Children's Program Committee - Total	-486.45
Child care	-286.45
Honorarium for October	-200.00
Donations Out - Total	-1,079.00
FCWPP (incl. annual meeting donation)	-235.00
Palestinian refugees (Oct. Cause of Month)	-104.00
Fair Trade Alliance	-20.00
FCNL	-120.00
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center	-600.00
Faith & Practice	-18.75
Purchase 5 copies	-18.75
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TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-2,596.75
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OVERALL TOTAL	-917.75

HONORARIUM FUND

Prior Balance	400.00
Contributions in October	25.00
Transfers from MHF in October*	50.00
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TOTAL	475.00
Honorarium paid in October	-200.00
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BALANCE	275.00

\*Authorized by donor



***Gratitude Makes the Light Shine Brighter  
May this Thanksgiving Bless Us All***