

# MEETING NEWS

January/February 2008

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*, (1967)

## Meeting for Worship and First-Day School

Middletown Preparative Meeting, 10:30 A.M. meeting for worship on Sunday and Thursday

	<b>Media Meeting</b>	<b>Providence Meeting</b>
<b>Singing</b>	9:30 A.M.*	At Media Meeting
<b>First-Day School for Adults</b>	9:50 A.M.*	At Media Meeting
<b>First-Day School for Children (up to age 12)</b>	9:50 A.M.*	11:20 A.M. (Children and teachers will leave meeting for worship quietly to go to their classes.)
<b>First-Day School for Teens (ages 13-19)</b>	9:50 A.M.* (and, see "Note" below)**	See "Note" below.**
<b>Meeting for Worship (childcare provided)</b>	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.

\*Except February 3, March 2 and April 6, 2008, when business meeting will be held. On those dates at **Media Meeting**, there will be no singing. **First-Day school** will begin at 11:00 A.M. and will be held during meeting for worship..

\*\*Note: Young Friends (ages 13-19) from both Media and Providence Meetings have a joint meeting monthly, often on Saturday afternoons, to plan group activities. Info: Ken Park 610.566.2749 [ken@jkpark.com](mailto:ken@jkpark.com) or Joyce Malamut, 610.891.1294 [joyceandrick18@msn.com](mailto:joyceandrick18@msn.com)

Friends are invited to join Media-Providence Friends School (MPFS) students at meeting for worship at 8:40 A.M. on Mondays.

# Business Meeting Highlights

## Media Meeting—October Business Meeting

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The recording clerk read aloud the **minutes of our September meeting** for business, including a few paragraphs that had been inadvertently omitted from the minutes for June business meeting. Friends APPROVED the additional portion of the June minutes. The September minutes were also APPROVED, with the request that they spell out the list of Yearly Meeting priorities referred to in Dorothy Reichardt's reporting from Residential Yearly Meeting. They are: 1) supporting our Meeting communities in expanding their spiritual lives 2) creating more visible and more hospitable Meeting communities 3) supporting religious education for children and adults and 4) enabling community service and witness that expresses what is best in our faith.

In the interest of **strengthening our Meeting committees**, the clerk asked Friends to assist with an assessment of how our Meeting committees are doing:

- The Religious Education Committee urgently needs more teachers.
- The Fellowship Activities Committee needs a couple more people.
- The Finance Committee is in good shape. Ellie White should continue to be listed as a member.
- The Outreach Committee is managing. They are looking at not having higher expectations than they can fulfill.
- The Oversight Committee did not report any needs.
- The Property Committee's membership is okay as is. All on the committee have made a significant effort to be present and supportive.
- The Worship and Ministry Committee is active but is also eager to have other people join it.
- The Meeting-School Relationship Committee is attempting to find a regular monthly meeting time.
- The Peace and Social Justice Committee has been quiescent but is considering a program on immigration.

•The Environmental Working Group had been discontinued. But it was suggested that the issue of global warming might come under the purview of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and the clerk encouraged coordination along those lines.

The clerk noted that he does not have an up-to-date list of the Meeting's committees and their membership for reference. The Nominating Committee has been having difficulty meeting but recognizes it needs to do so quickly.

Friends offered suggestions related to the Nominating Committee's work, including making our committee membership needs more widely known through the newsletter and after-meeting announcements, and inviting people who might consider responding to such appeals to speak with the committee clerks about what is involved in service on the specific committees. As our Meeting's active membership dwindles, are we "going to a drying-up well"? Is it appropriate or desirable to have people join committees without the involvement of the Nominating Committee, or should all appointments be made through the Nominating Committee? Do we need to evaluate and possibly improve our process?

The Nominating Committee was asked to meet before our November monthly meeting and come up with a correct current list of Meeting committees' membership and needs.

The clerk asked about policy **decisions concerning the website**. Who should have access to what information, given our ability to post material on the Meeting's website and given our access to the School's computers? Members of the Outreach Committee objected to this matter being introduced into the business meeting without having gone to the Outreach Committee first. The clerk agreed that the Outreach Committee should be involved in working on the matter, but he also wanted to mention some specific concerns that might involve other Meeting committees or entities. These included use of the computer not only for updating the Meeting directory but also for other Meeting documents. Concerns were raised about the security of information about children under our care and the fact that not all of our members are comfortable with computer use at this time. It was agreed that the Outreach Committee would take up this topic and would welcome input from other committees. The Outreach Committee was asked to bring a preliminary report to the Meeting at its earliest convenience.

The clerk asked for guidance on the **format for announcements and afterthoughts**. Some feel their length detracts from the atmosphere of worship, and others believe that having a lot of announcements reflects the Meeting's vitality. There was discussion about alternatives for sharing announcements (paper handouts, posting information on a blackboard, including them in the email announcements, etc.) and the distinction between afterthoughts and prayer requests (and in regard to the latter, those made for members and attenders and those made on behalf of strangers). The Worship and Ministry Committee was

asked to take this topic under consideration.

At **Interim Meeting** it was reported that the “no trespassing” signs are down and the gates are now unlocked; the consequences for physical security will be noted. An effort will be made to see that the minutes of our same-gender marriage discussion session are sent to Yearly Meeting if they have not been.

It was asked whether **we would consider changing our practice as to how we approve our Monthly Meeting minutes**, so that those present approve the minutes of each meeting at the conclusion of that meeting. The clerk noted that there is also value in hearing them read at the start of the next month’s meeting, to refresh our memory. The recording clerk’s view was that the decision should be based on the best way the Meeting can be served – but also noted that she herself may not be capable of producing coherent minutes to be read at the end of the meeting; she will think on it.

## **Media Meeting—November Business Meeting**

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**Minutes of the October meeting for business** were read and APPROVED.

Media Meeting’s phone number is not included in a group listing of Friends meetings in the yellow pages, and where we are listed, we are only identified as Media Monthly Meeting, which may not convey that we are Quakers or Friends. Friends concurred that we should improve our listings; Michael Campbell will look into this and report back.

The Outreach Committee is still waiting to hear back from other committees about their concerns regarding developing a policy proposal concerning the Meeting’s website and related issues.

The clerk also called for volunteers to enter information such as non-confidential committee meeting notes on the computer to which the Meeting has access upstairs. He is concerned that our various records are scattered and difficult to access in their present form. As members of the Outreach Committee had not yet met to consider a computer use policy, there was also a discussion of how this topic came to be on the agenda and of the use of the monthly clerks meeting to set agenda. The purpose of the clerks meeting was reiterated: it provides a way for the various committee clerks to meet with the Meeting clerk to set the agenda and to decide whether something is ready to go to business meeting. The clerks meeting is held at the meetinghouse at 7:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding business meeting; anyone may attend.

**The Meeting and School Property Committees recently met together:**

- In response to a request by the Borough of Media for the

playground to be re-opened for community use, after extensive investigation the School and the Meeting property committees jointly recommended against it, due to liability issues.

- In regard to an underground oil storage tank which is no longer being used, any of three methods of handling it would be satisfactory. Whatever method is chosen, no action will be taken until after school is out of session for the summer.

- There was a brief, preliminary discussion of the concept of a turnout lane along Fourth Street for drop-off and pick-up of students.

- There was further discussion of some designated office and/or pastoral care space for the use of the Meeting. The Property Committee requests input in writing from each Meeting committee as to its needs (or lack of needs) for such space.

- Information is being gathered on the needs and wishes of both the School and the Meeting with regard to the Social Room. Architectural and lighting consultants are being asked to draw up ideas. It was emphasized that all of this is very much in the preliminary stage. Nothing has been decided, and both the School’s and the Meeting’s Property Committees want to collaborate to best serve the interests of both entities.

The School received a letter from the Borough saying that a sign must be posted in the Social Room stating that its maximum occupancy is 282. Friends APPROVED.

Margaret Camp reported from the **Nominating Committee**. Copies of the list of officer and committee assignments for the current year were distributed. The Nominating Committee presented the following nominating process policy statement:

*“ All Monthly Meeting officer and committee positions are to be filled through the Nominating Committee. Members wishing to serve on committees, and clerks seeking new members for their committees, are encouraged to bring names and needs to a member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee as a whole will consider these requests and make appropriate appointments.*

*If a committee feels that it is functioning well with its current membership, it need not accept new members. A Monthly Meeting member or attender may sit in on any committee meeting that is not discussing confidential matters, but only the members of the committee may participate in the committee’s decision-making process.”*

On the whole, Friends supported the policy, except for the first sentence of the second paragraph. A number of Friends noted that the Nominating Committee, while taking under advisement the views of the committees and their clerks, should discern the appropriateness of appointing new members to

committees, in order to ensure that the committees are able to serve the Meeting well.

## Providence Meeting—October Business Meeting

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Germantown Monthly Meeting has sent a letter indicating that Andrea Packard has requested that her membership be transferred to Providence Meeting. This matter has been referred with joy to the Members and Attenders Care Committee.

In discussing the September 2007 minutes, a concern arose about low attendance at business meeting. It was agreed that we list the number of attendees present. There are a significant number of events going on in our community and there is no child care. Attendees should contact the Clerk if child care is needed.

**Treasurer's Report** - The Finance Committee will make a recommendation regarding whether or not the treasurer's report, now available in electronic form, should be attached to the newsletter since some have concerns with this idea.

The Suburban Music School has chosen not to use the Meeting's space. This means the rent paid by the school will be missing from our future income. However, not heating the space will reduce our expenses. There may be groups who would be interested in renting space. Friends are requested to speak to Joe Elliot to schedule groups. The parking lot will still be used by the music school and a fee has been assessed.

A discussion about renting out the Meeting's space to other groups ensued with various viewpoints and concerns being expressed. If we make our space too broadly available, there may be associated liability issues. It was suggested that our members be made more aware that the space is available and allow our members to fully use the building. This would provide a tie to the community and take into account issues around oversight. It was also suggested that any activity be sponsored by a member of the Meeting. The rates charged for the use of the space will need to be revisited. **The Finance and Property Committees were asked to revisit the protocol for renting the Meetinghouse space and make that protocol available in written form.** Friends APPROVED.

**Members & Attenders Care Committee** - The committee had received the request for transfer of membership of Carmen Bruce from Providence to Swarthmore and have approved the request. Friends ACCEPTED the transfer of membership of Carmen Bruce.

**Landscape** - The transformation of the planting beds has begun. Additional planting will occur mid-month.

**Religious Education** - Andrea Linvill, the new clerk, reported for the Committee. The Meeting thanked Andrea for agreeing to serve. Teaching assistance is needed. The committee is

establishing the religious education curriculum library. Friends are now taking on teaching assignments for months at a time, but the intergenerational and cross-cultural aspect of additional Friends teaching would be fabulous.

Young Friends have met twice now since the summer. These meetings were primarily centered around a Halloween party. There have been requests for teens to join committees. Discussion occurred among the Young Friends regarding their level of involvement in Meeting events. The Young Friends agreed that they would like a balance between doing their own activities and participating in Meeting-sponsored activities.

A minute of thanks was APPROVED to Meg Barney for her outstanding clerkship of the Religious Education Committee.

**Peace & Social Action** - The committee proposed the continuation of the Friendly Film Series on the second Friday of each month. Films would have a global perspective. Friends enthusiastically supported the idea of the film series. Ideas for additional films can be made to Robin Harper or Medard Gabel.

Friends clarified that the committee planning an event should provide the refreshments and publicity for the event and take responsibility for handling all the logistics. It was suggested that if a committee plans to publicize an event outside the Meeting, the Communications Committee should review the flyer and/or communication. The Communications Committee has been maintaining contacts with media outlets and keeps a current list. Friends were cautioned to not make the distribution list too public to avoid misuse.

**Communications** - At its recent committee meeting Ken Park agreed to serve as clerk. The Committee is discussing a consolidated calendar that would be used for both the newsletter and the Meeting. A new directory will not be issued in December; in its place will be an addendum to the directory, with updates. It was asked that Media Meeting be made aware of the addendum.

**Friend's Concerns** - Andrea Linvill requested that we organize an interior clean-up including organizing the kitchen. A thorough cleaning should be made, including the baseboards and scrubbing the bathrooms. It was suggested that the attic be cleaned as part of this effort.

The minutes were read and APPROVED.

## Providence Meeting—November Business Meeting

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Fifteen Friends gathered in worship for business. Bruce Haines, assistant clerk, served as clerk in Parker Snowe's absence. Maggie Juliano has submitted a request for membership. Her application letter was referred to Members and Attenders Care Committee for consideration.

**Finance Committee** - The Trustees have directed that, as a matter of policy, gifts of securities be sold immediately upon receipt. Friends were relieved to hear that the kitchen roof has been repaired without need for extensive work or replacement. It was AGREED that an end-of-year appeal letter will go out as soon as possible. Bill also reported that Wachovia Bank, trustee for the Sandy Bank Burial Ground Fund, will be releasing accumulated interest income to reimburse the Meeting for expenses incurred in repairing the sidewalk in front of the burial ground. The amount of that reimbursement will be approximately \$5,000. The total expense of the project was approximately \$7,000.

**PYM Covenant Request** - The annual request from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has been received. Meetings are asked to consider an average increase of 4%-5% in their contributions for fiscal year 2008-2009. This request will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for review with the expectation that a recommendation will be considered at the December business meeting. Friends were reminded that a concern had arisen previously in the Meeting about the Meeting's funding commitment to the Yearly Meeting, and there was a general feeling that this concern had not yet been fully addressed. A special committee was previously constituted to address this issue and Friends requested that it re-convene as soon as possible to continue working on this concern. Friends were mindful that the Meeting's budget commitment is due to PYM by January 10.

**Committee for Property Usage** - A new committee has been formed to consider the best use of the newly-acquired property. The committee consists of Ken Park (Convener), Joe Elliott (Property), Phil Peterson (Trustees), Bill Belanger (Finance), Mac Keiter (Landscape), John Wenderoth (Landscape), Gary Miles (Property) and Pat Coiner (Graveyard).

## Media-Providence Friends School (MPFS)

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, Media Elementary School and Media-Providence Friends School had a record-breaking 170 children and 70 adults participate in the day of service, doing ten different projects around Media. In a lively atmosphere at Providence Friends Meeting, 25 of those students and 14 adults made casseroles and desserts and decorated place mats for people not fortunate enough to have a home to make their own meal.

A team of seasoned educators will visit MPFS from February 10-13. **This PAIS (Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools) accreditation visiting team** will witness examples of the themes that appear in the school's self-study, i.e., the power of diversity within the MPFS community and

the commitment to making that diversity work, the rigor of the writing and math programs, the sense that MPFS is a caring community, and energy to pursue professional development.

**SAVE THE DATE for the Spring Auction to be held on April 4!**

## Personals

Joyous news from Peggy Bright, Scott Walck and Carl Bright-Walck who welcomed Daniel Roger Bright-Walck to their family on January 12, 2008. Daniel weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz., and was 21 inches long. Everyone is doing well!! As many of you may recall, the Bright-Walcks were part of our community for a year while Scott was doing academic research at Penn and they were house sitting for Mac Given and Barbara Scott.

Megan Snowe had a one-woman art show at Oberlin College in November. Her parents, Parker Snowe and Leslie Friedman, were delighted to visit her over the Thanksgiving holiday and help her set up the show. She hopes to bring her art to the Philadelphia area in the near future. You can take a look at Megan's artwork by going to her blog: <http://www.megansnowe.blogspot.com/>

The Media-Providence Young Friends group continues to meet on a monthly basis. Their latest outing included bowling at Sproul Lanes in Springfield. There are consistently 13-15 teens who participate in the Young Friends events each month. Past activities have included sleepovers at Providence Meetinghouse, a Halloween costume party, a car wash at Quarterly Meeting and a trip to New York City.

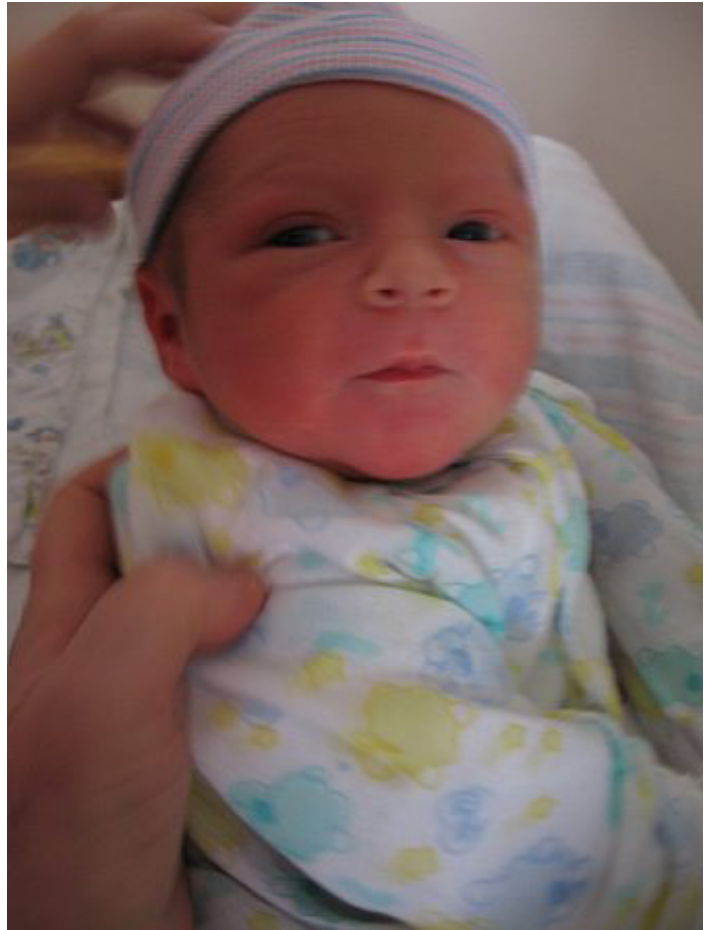
Tucker Taylor and Phoebe Cascaden had whirl of museum-going and birding early in January-Renoir landscapes at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, John Sloan cityscapes at the Delaware Art Museum, and a potpourri at the Noyes Gallery near Brigantine; also birding at Forsythe Refuge there, then back at Heinz here in Philadelphia and often at Tyler. See the accompany picture of Tucker taken a few years ago outside Meeting.

## Directory Updates

**Doug and Althea Whyte** new address: 172 Kendal Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348-2333; phone: 610-388-1138; email remains the same: [althea@voicenet.com](mailto:althea@voicenet.com)

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*Tucker Taylor*

Welcome Daniel Roger Bright-Walck!

**Born:** January 12, 2008

**Weight:** 7 lbs. 7 oz.

**Length:** 21 inches long

# Media-Providence Friends Meetings

125 West Third Street  
Media, PA 19063-2498



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Newsletter Submissions Due the 11th

**Our next news deadline is February 11.**

**Media News:**

Lola Pugliese, [lolapug@gmail.com](mailto:lolapug@gmail.com), or  
Susan Garrison, [susan@garrisonlaw.net](mailto:susan@garrisonlaw.net)

**Providence News:**

Leslie Friedman (610.565.4542) [leslie\\_a\\_friedman@yahoo.com](mailto:leslie_a_friedman@yahoo.com)

## Check the complete Online Calendars at

Check the complete Providence Meeting calendar at:

[www.calendar.yahoo.com/providencemeeting](http://www.calendar.yahoo.com/providencemeeting)

Check the complete Media Meeting calendar at:

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

Check PYM's calendar of events at:

[www.pym.org/pm/cal.php](http://www.pym.org/pm/cal.php)

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