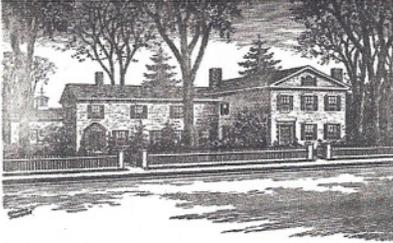


March 2017

NEWSLETTER



173 N. PROSPECT ST. BURLINGTON VERMONT 05401

Burlington Friends Meeting

Fresh 'SPICES'—spiritual qualities that bear witness to the Inward Light

by Louis Cox

LAST YEAR the BFM Children's Religious Education program organized lessons about Quaker testimonies around a familiar acronym, "S-P-I-C-E-S," as a way of helping the children remember the concepts of "Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Sustainability." This is similar to the acronym "F-A-C-E" by which beginning guitar students learn the tuning of the strings of a guitar.

However, use of the SPICES acronym was questioned in a recent *Friends Journal* article. The main problem: It sounds more like an unQuakerly creed than a testimony, because these terms can be simply recited without a person's having ever experienced them as personal Truths arising from the Inward Light.

Can the SPICES acronym still be used as an educational tool, as long as we agree to call the concepts of "commonly held Quaker values" instead of "testimonies"? Perhaps. But it has occurred to me since reading the *Friends Journal* article that the terms "Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Sustainability" don't do a very good job of describing what is *distinctive* about Quakerism. So I challenged myself to find another set of concepts that might more accurately describe Quakerism while still fitting within the "SPICES" acronym. Here's what I came up with for other Friends' prayerful consideration:

—Quakers are **Single-Hearted**—This is related to the original meaning of simplicity as the opposite of *duplicity*, which is living a lie by trying to serve both God and Mammon. Conversely, we do not serve Quakers well by urging them to shun complexity, which is vitually impossible in today's world anyway. Modern ecological teaches us that all living systems are very complex, which contributes to their stability and resilience. The practice of Permaculture seeks "elegant simplicity," which maintains the complexity of biosystems while minimizing human intervention, for long-term sustainability. Single-heartedness also is related to Truth-telling as a strategy for avoiding tangled webs of deception and hypocrisy.

—Quakers are **Purposeful**—We start with the basic assumption that we are part of a larger Purpose that undergirds and gives meaning and moral force to the universe. It's the faith handed down from the Judeo-Christian tradition that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to this purpose" (Romans 8:28). To the extent that we align our lives with that cosmic process we experience greater wholeness and well-being for ourselves and discern the blueprint for the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. By seeking to live righteously, outgrowing childish self-centeredness and narrow human-centeredness, our lives become channels of universal righteousness.

—Quakers are **Inward**—Our path as children of the Inward Light is not one of withdrawal from worldly affairs. Friends are well-known for their social and ecological witness, but we move closer to our historic ideals when we distinguish ourselves from secular "peace activists" and secular "social activists" who may act out of fear and self-interest rather than belief in the power of Love and the wisdom of the Inward Light to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Inwardness gave rise to the "Quietist" movement among 19th century Friends who reined in "creaturely" habits and interests in order to open up space for the divine Seed to prosper within them and govern their actions.

Quakers are **Compassionate**—We recognize that Love is the First Motion, and love stands behind all that is good in life. We are not naïve suckers in denying the evil in the world, however. Jesus of Nazareth, who said, "*Be ye wise as serpents and as gentle as doves,*" had compassion for both the the begger and the Roman centurion. Compassion is the quality that, as George Fox said, answers that of God in others and brings happiness to the world through our living witness.

SPICES, next page >>

Visit us at <www.burlingtonquakers.org>

>> SPICES, from page 1

—Quakers are *Empathetic*—Empathy is what is often lacking in programs promoting “equality,” making them ineffective or counterproductive because of paternalism and de-humanizing procedures and policies. We discern what is appropriate by “walking in the other person’s shoes” and listening to them with open minds and hearts, as John Woolman did when he met with Indians and Quaker slave-owners, linking equality with fairness.

—Quakers are *Sharers*, as illustrated by their Right Sharing of World Resources program. We try to live in ways that don’t unfairly deprive others or indirectly contribute to harm or enslavement of others. This is the opposite of exceptionalism, the notion that some people are entitled to wealth, rights, and privileges with no respect or obligation for the needs of others. How can we justify excessive wealthy and luxury if we all are really stewards, not owners of Creation? That is why many Quaker’s today are involved in the Transition Town Movement, with its focus on “*Earth Care, Fair Share, People Care.*”

These “Fresh” SPICES no doubt would be more challenging to remember and explain than the “old” SPICES, and for that reason they might not be applicable to First Day School or introductory Quakerism courses. But they may be helpful to others trying to get an initial handle on the essentially spiritual undergirding of the Quaker practices that we call testimonies. •

Peace, Justice, & Earthcare to explore link between Climate Change and U.S. Military Budget

PEACE, JUSTICE AND EARTHCARE had decided to focus on the issues of climate change, the military budget and their interrelationship. We have been focusing on climate change for the last year, and several committee members are members of FCNL’s Burlington Advocacy Group, which is lobbying senators to get them to oppose Trumps proposed increases in the military budget. The two issues are definitely related since the carbon footprint of the military is huge.

Joan Knight is going to include issues about the military budget in the information she posts online for 350VT. John Reuwer and Robin Lloyd will both give presentations at the “Building a World Beyond War” conference on April 22 in Winooski. Sandy Fead, a leader in the FCNL advocacy group, will work with Robin to incorporate into her workshop information on how to lobby legislators. On the climate front, Will Perry will be working with Christopher McCandles to interview contractors to explore the possibility of installing solar panels on the Meeting property.

—Elinor Yahm
Peace, Justice, & Earthcare

‘World Without War’ conference April 22nd

BURLINGTON FRIENDS MEETING, and specifically the Peace, Justice, & Earthcare Committee, is invited to take part in some way in the “World Beyond War Conference: What will it take?” planned for April 22, 2017, at Winooski High School, Winooski, Vt.

Sponsored by a coalition of peace, social justice, and environmental groups (i.e., Vermont Stands for a World Beyond War Coalition: Peace & Justice Center, Veterans for Peace, Save Our Skies Vt., Vermont Action for Peace, Stop the F35s Coalition, etc.), this free conference will engage 300 to 400 or more Vermonters in a campaign and effort to revitalize the Vermont peace movement by focusing on the intersectionality of the many issues—the financial, racial, and environmental costs of war and militarism—that can unite us and help us work together on possible solutions.

Held on Earth Day 2017, this conference will bring together coalition members and interested Vermonters through workshops, panels, and actions that answer the conference’s key question: “*What will it take to build a world beyond war?*” Keynote speaker David Swanson, director of World Beyond War <www.worldbeyond-war.org> will kick off the day, focusing on the financial, social, and environmental costs of war and militarism.

The final session of the day will bring everyone together with Patricia Hynes, director of the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice <<http://traprock.org>>, to develop joint actions/activities that our coalition can engage in together after the conference is over. All coalition members will have information and recruitment tables at the conference.

Ways of participating that were discussed at the Peace, Justice, & Earthcare meeting Sunday were:

—Offering a workshop on tax resistance and living simply.

—Contacting War Tax Resistance and listening to one of their webinars, or inviting one of their activists to speak at the conference <<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=cc392da6f6e51b504ae153420&id=deb42c545c&e=002e133461>>.

—Networking with other churches in town and with Vermont Interfaith Action to discuss joint activities.

Presentation proposals are due February 28. Go to: <<https://goo.gl/forms/ooodoDAXaZfmgUV52>>.

For more information:

—Robin Lloyd: <robinlloyd8@gmail.com>
or 802-355-3256

—Marguerite Adelman: <madel51353@aol.com>
or 518-561-3939

February 12, 2017 Burlington Friends Monthly Meeting for Business

Attending: Jean McCandless, Christopher McCandless, Charles Simpson, Jeanne Plo, Jim Geier, Catherine Bock, Robin Lloyd, Spencer Smith, Sophie Quest, Joan Knight, Jean Hopkins, Abby Matchette, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Jonathan McCandless, Jane Van Landingham, Diana Linda, Wally Jack Russell.

Co-Clerk/ Presiding Clerk, Charles Simpson

Co-Clerk/ Recording Clerk, Jeanne Plo

The Meeting began with Silent Worship.

Clerk's Reading:

The Presiding Clerk read from page 183 of NEYM *Faith & Practice*:

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. and this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as one to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth, will never more us to fight any war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this worlds."

—George Fox, 1661

Foregrounding pressing climate change and social action issues—Quakers gathered at Woolman Hall Retreat Center in December 2015 issued a Call for Corporate Faithfulness in a time of Climate Change. BFM subsequently instituted the practice of reserving the first 15 minutes of each Monthly Meeting for Business to discuss such issues. At our last All-Clerks meeting, it was suggested it was "time to move on." It has become clear in recent days that challenges requiring such responses as prophetic witness are accelerating and that it may be impossible to separate issues of the environment from those of social justice. Following the All-Clerks suggestion to evaluate our progress in this regard, Co-Clerks propose that the first 15 minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business be devoted to evaluating our responses to current environmental and human rights challenges, including controversial moves by federal authorities in the areas of immigration, fossil fuels, healthcare roll-backs, civil rights, environmental deregulation, and war and peace. This would include seeking to discover how Burlington Friends Meeting may work with other communities, including those of faith, to affirm our values and express our concerns.

Friends respond:

—It is wonderful to hear... some years back I left the Meeting because it would not recognize Climate Change as an issue!

—Jay O'Hara is facing 30 years in prison for Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) civil disobedience as a way to shut down the pipelines. He created a film, *Shut It Down*. You could protest the Vietnam war during the 60s and face two years in jail for disobedience. Now the powers that be are very determined. These Friends need our prayers and support.

—The *New York Times* reports that refugees are so frantic they are being dropped off by Friends at the border of the U.S. and Canada and walking through the snow to get to Canada. The Canadians are saying, "We've got to take care of these people!"

It would be great if we could support them.

—The FBI is targeting indigenous activists and trying to imprison them as terrorists. How can we support them? Because they are Native Americans, the President won't try to deport them.

—TD Bank has major investments in DAPL. One Friend would like Friends to accompany her as she goes to meet with the officials of her TD Bank. Another Friend gets a monthly check from the State written by TD bank. It turns out that the State of Vermont has hundreds of millions of dollars in TD bank. It is part of the pressure to have a Vermont State Bank and to know where our money is being invested.

After silence and reflection, Friends agreed to continue the practice of reserving the first 15 minutes of each Monthly Meeting for Business to be faithful in a time of Climate Change,

Interesting observation: At this time of year, crows gather and quietly roost together in tall trees; they move from place to place, and when they find food they tell each other all about it.

The Presiding Clerk reported:

Recommendations were made to the Co-Clerks to remind Friends of various aspects of Monthly Meeting for Business process, such as the need to address the Presiding Clerk when a Friend is speaking; the use of pauses to allow for reflection on statements; and the need for the Presiding Clerk to conclude a discussion, (when there is unity) by saying, "I sense there is unity." This makes it clear that we are gathered together to search for the Light, and not taking a vote or simply seeking unanimity.

The Co-Clerks adopted a schedule for committee reports with the aim of making those regular but not monthly. All committees are asked to send consent items to the newsletter while bringing action items to the Monthly Meeting for Business. To help with recording of Minutes, all committees making reports are

February 2017 business, next page >>

Burlington Friends Meeting • March 2017

>> **February 2017 business**, from page 3

asked to submit, ahead of time, drafts of any Minute they wish considered at Monthly Meeting for Business. Committees not scheduled to report may, of course, bring forward pressing concerns at any Meeting for Business, also transmitting a copy of any such Minute to the Co-Clerks prior to Monthly Meeting for Business.

Ministry & Counsel Report—Ruah Swennerfelt

A request was made by Ministry & Counsel that the BFM Co-Clerks write a letter [see p. 7] to accompany Ruah and Louis as they visit Pastor Reverend Eric Manning of the Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal in Charleston, South Carolina. Friends Approved.

A suggestion was made that Friends contribute to a current Friends Concern for the Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ruah reported that Sophie Quest of Burlington Friends Meeting and Susan Larkin and Charles Guernsey of Easton Friends Meeting in New York, have requested approval for a summer worship group on the Lake Champlain Islands. Susan and Charles live on Isle La Motte year-round, and Sophie lives at the Grand Isle State Park all summer. The three are aware of a number of Quakers from many places who summer on the islands, some out of state. Ruah and John Sharpless, representing Ministry & Counsel, met with Sophie, Sue and Charles for clarity about their request. They are asking for a Worship Group to meet in a room at the North Hero Library from May 15 to September 15. The three of them would share having care of the Meeting, to meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday. (Susan and Charles are in the process of transferring their membership to Burlington Friends Meeting.) The Island Summer Worship Group would be advertised in the local paper, on our website, in our newsletter, and on Quaker Finder. We would have to sign a “Policies on public use of North Hero Library.” There would be no charge, but a donation would be appreciated. Ministry & Counsel felt clear to bring this to the Meeting for Business.

Query: Why have this worship group under the care of Burlington Friends Meeting, rather than it be simply a group of Friends who gather for Meeting for Worship on the Islands during summertime?

Responses:

—It is a long-term tradition to recognize Meetings that hold gatherings in the good order of Friends.

—It is also an expression of connection and by taking it under Burlington Friends Meeting’s care, the Meet-

ing feels a sense of responsibility for this Worship Group. “Wherever three or more are gathered in my name, there I will be also.”

—Whenever an issue of pastoral care arises, or if that Meeting has a concern, those Friends may come to Burlington Friends Meeting for help and support.

—Ministry & Counsel’s request that Burlington Friends Meeting take the Lake Champlain Islands Summer Worship Group under its care was approved.

Ministry & Counsel Report, continued—Linda McKenna

There will be a Memorial Meeting for June Clarke on Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m. Louis Cox will have care of the Meeting, welcoming people and explaining how Friends celebrate the life of an individual. Following the service, there will be coffee and cookies. The family is inviting people to their home for more sharing later that day. It has been an amazingly rich spiritual experience for the members of 20 or more of a support team for this family. This was an important spiritual journey for John and June, and it was an incredible honor to be included in this experience. They were diligent and regular attenders of this Meeting and were incredibly grateful. John and June’s family have invited Burlington Friends to their home in Richmond for more sharing after the Memorial Meeting.

State of Society Report:

Ministry & Counsel is asking Committee Clerks to reflect on the work of 2016 with their committees and to bring those reflections to Ministry & Counsel by March 10. Those reflections will be collated and brought to the March Meeting for Business, which will begin with a time for all present to reflect on their experiences at Burlington Friends Meeting in 2016. A survey will be constructed which will go out to all members and attenders. Ministry & Counsel will also spend time with parents and children, asking for their reflections. Ruah and Linda will compile and edit all input for presentation of a completed State of Society report to the e-list for suggestions and corrections, to be read at the April Meeting for Business.

The next Quakerism class will be held on February 19th. The first two were very well attended, and Friends were appreciative of the work of the presenters.

Membership request

The Clerk read a letter from Catherine Bock requesting membership in Burlington Friends Meeting.

February 2017 business, next page >>

>> **February 2017 business**, from page 4

“Religion was not a part of my upbringing. My father was raised a Catholic in Austria and struggled his whole life with the shock he experienced when the Nazis considered him Jewish. My mother thought she was German until the Nazis decided that her mother was Jewish. To escape persecution my parents both ended up in Peking where they met and married. After the war they were able to immigrate to the US where I was born.

“My father wanted to join a church but my mother had no such need. They eventually agreed on the Unitarian church where I was supposed to go to Sunday school. I only remember making paper airplanes and going outside to fly them. I went a few times and decided that spending Sunday morning in a room full of wild kids with a parent teacher trying to control them was meaningless, so I would get up early and go hide at the neighbors.

“Having lived in Nazi Germany my mother always told us to speak up if we thought something was wrong. My father preferred us to be conformists but he didn’t have much say in the family so I became a conscientious objector to education. When I refused to learn to read because the Dick and Jane books were “stupid,” my mother asked me to bring one home and then agreed.

“When I was in eighth grade I had been so miserable in school that my parents let me go to a Quaker school. My teacher must have seen “that of God” in me because within a few months he taught me to enjoy reading and to participate in class. Suddenly I loved school. There were so many nice people there and I was allowed to be myself. That year changed my life. I have been involved with Quakers in some way since then.

“I never attended any Friends Meeting regularly until I was an adult, when I began going to Palo Alto (Calif.) Meeting every time I came home from Sweden to visit my mother. In 2010 I moved back to the U.S. and attended Meeting regularly while taking care of my mother. It was enormously helpful to be able to have that one hour on Sunday to be with myself and with God, but somehow I was not sure if God ever showed up. I did consider joining Palo Alto Meeting because I thought it would support my plan to refuse to pay the percentage of federal taxes that went to military spending, but I knew this was not enough of a reason to become a member.

“When I moved to Vermont two and a half years ago I began attending Burlington Friends Meeting, where I immediately felt at home. Most of my connection

with God has always been out in nature. But joining the Friends Committee on National Legislation advocacy group I experienced the power of our ability to connect with that of God in others, even politicians.

“Then Trump was made president even though the majority of the people didn’t vote for him, causing disbelief, fear and anger among everyone I knew. The day after the election results were known, I took the train to Washington, D.C., for the FCNL Lobby Day and Annual Meeting.

“We went to our Senators and Representatives’ offices, and everywhere the staff were in tears. We were able to connect with them and share their devastation. It didn’t feel at all like lobbying. The Annual Meeting was the best place for me to be, with like-minded people having similar reactions to the situation, many tears, much sharing of fear, and feelings of powerlessness. But in the end after three days we were gathered in our resolve to keep working together to try to make this world a better place. I left feeling hopeful.

“The morning after returning home I joined a demonstration in solidarity with the Standing Rock movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. 350VT had hired a bus to go join the Water Protectors in North Dakota. There were still seats available. I knew I had to go.

“Being at the Standing Rock camp was like being thrown into the arms of the Great Spirit along with 10,000 other people from all over the country. I have never seen so much goodness so close to so much evil. It was overwhelming. On the fourth day I found the Quaker camp. They were just about to have a little silence before beginning their day when I knocked on the door of the camper. I was invited in to join them. Our little group of four sat in silence and I could relax. It felt like going home for a rest in the middle of a long difficult journey. I thought to myself, “I guess I really am a Quaker. It’s time to commit and become a member.”

“Like a true Quaker, I have let this season for six weeks, and my resolve hasn’t changed, so I am asking to become a member of Burlington Friends Meeting, because it feels like my spiritual home.

“My attraction to Quakers is having a spiritual grounding connecting to action.”

—Catherine Bock, 25 Common Way, Charlotte, VT 05445
Friends were in unity and accepted Catherine’s request. Her letter will be sent to Ministry & Counsel.

February 2017 business, next page >>

March 2017 • Burlington Friends Meeting

>> **February 2017 business**, from page 5

Naming Committee Report—Ruah Swennerfelt Spencer Smith and Ruah Swennerfelt, members of the Naming Committee, bring forward the name of Jim Geier to serve on the Gifts & Service Committee. At the January Monthly Meeting for Business we discussed allowing Stuart Wisse to serve an extra one-year term, making the total membership four. We were asked to assure staggered terms for the committee. We recommend the following terms and responsibilities:

- Stuart Wisse—one year remaining
- Jean McCandless Clerk—one year remaining
- Catherine Bock—two years remaining
- Jim Geier—three years remaining

Peace Justice, & Earthcare Report—Sophie Quest

A successful Nonviolent Communications Workshop was held on 1/28/17. The main focus was how to hold constructive dialogues with people who view the world differently. Peace, Justice & Earthcare is sponsoring a follow-up Nonviolent Communication practice group at Burlington Friends Meeting for Friends and all who are interested. Jeanne Plo will convene this group.

Peace, Justice & Earthcare is considering joining with Rights & Democracy and Vermont Interfaith Power & Light to form a Unity Group. Ruah clarified that Rights & Democracy wants to develop a unity coalition with other small groups which may be working on different issues yet share a common purpose together. There would be greater power with unity. Nonviolent Communication groups may become helpful in this effort. It was noted that Burlington Friends Meeting must approve any sponsorship of groups. There is no action at this time.

There will be a “World Beyond War” Conference in Winooski on April 22. Robin Lloyd suggested that Burlington Friends Meeting consider participating and perhaps sponsor a workshop at this event. Robin may bring a proposal to the March Monthly Meeting for Business.

It was reported that members of Peace, Justice & Earthcare wrote personal letters to the editor to publicize the F-35 and Standing Rock Minutes. Friends suggested that each of these Minutes need to be reviewed and adapted to reflect the current evolving situation. Peace, Justice, & Earthcare, Charles Simpson, and Jean McCandless will take responsibility for reviewing and updating these Minutes and will present the results to the next Monthly Meeting for

Business for consideration.

Matt Thompson, Director of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, has agreed to write an article for our newsletter which details the impacts of recent Presidential executive orders on immigration and refugees in Vermont.

Children’s Religious Education—Abby Matchette Abby reported that the Children’s Religious Education Committee is considering a service project for this new year and will report at the next Monthly Meeting for Business. The children wrote letters today to put into a package of books for refugee children. It was heartwarming to see the energies of the children engaged in helping others.

Other Business:

“Black Lives Matter” and other signs:

Christopher reported that the “Black Lives Matter” sign disappeared after four days of being posted last month in front of the official Burlington Friends Meeting sign. Christopher secured a second sign, which is still standing. He proposed we put up an additional sign: *“No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor”*

Friends approved.

Abby suggested that the First Day School may decide to take a walk to observe and to talk about these signs.

Announcements

—Appreciation was expressed for John Sharpless, who has care of the Wednesday Mid-week Meeting for Worship

—On the fourth Wednesday of every month, at 1:30 p.m., a Meeting for Worship will be held at the Arbors in Shelburne. All are welcome.

—Northwest Quarterly Meeting will be held March 5th in Hanover, N.H. Friends are encouraged to attend. Rides are available.

—Committees are asked to report to Monthly Meeting for Business by March 12th

—The Meeting concluded with silent worship. •

BFM Quakerism course continues on Sunday morning, March 19th

HELEN HEAD and CHARLES SIMPSON will be facilitating our discussion on March 19, which focuses on the Testimonies, particularly the Peace Testimony. We will meet and begin at 9 a.m. on that Sunday. Coffee and snacks will be available if you wish to come a little early.

Burlington Friends Meeting
173 N. Prospect St.
Burlington, VT 05445
February 19, 2017

The Rev. Eric Manning
Mother Emmanuel AME Church
Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Pastor Manning,

This letter is to introduce Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox, leading members of the Burlington Friends Meeting (Quakers), Burlington, Vermont, and long-time civil rights and peace activists.

When we in Burlington heard of the horrific events of June 17, 2015, our sense of shock was especially strong because Louis had lived in Charleston as a young person and had worshiped at nearby Citadel Square Baptist Church in the early 1960s. For the past 20 years Ruah and Louis also have worshipped periodically with Charleston Friends. Learning of their reaching out to the Mother Emmanuel congregation encouraged our Meeting to send a letter and donation as well.

Not only did we convey our deepest sympathy and condolences, but we vowed “to work on the issues of racism in our own community and in the wider world.” To that end, in 2015 we formed a study group to read and discuss *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. We financially and spiritually supported Ruah’s attendance at the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia last year and then invited her to share her experiences there. We invited people from the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program to let us know how we could be helpful to the refugees arriving in Vermont. Later in 2016 we invited Vanessa Julye, an African American Quaker who is a staff member of Friends General Conference, to lead a day-long workshop on continuing racism within the Religious Society of Friends. She also gave a talk the following day, and Ruah and Louis are bringing a transcript of that talk to share with you.

We know we have much more to learn. Although we recently posted a “Black Lives Matter” sign outside our Meetinghouse to show we care deeply about these issues, it is not enough. Through Ruah and Louis’s visit to Charleston in March, we hope to renew our vow by establishing a more enduring connection with Mother Emmanuel AME Church and to the joys, sorrows, and truths you have to share. Perhaps the children in our First Day School could correspond with some of your Sunday School children? Or might there be another way?

In Peace,
Jeanne Plo, Charles Simpson
Co-Clerks, Burlington Friends Meeting

Property Committee sets priorities



The BFM Property Committee gathered for their annual retreat on February 11th at Jim Geier's house in Starksboro. The time was used to worship over the committee's role as stewards for the Burlington Friends Meeting property.

The committee identified the following projects as priorities for the coming year and discussed how to spread the \$15K maintenance budget or use the Building Fund for larger projects.

- Exterior painting and rot repair on Meetinghouse and garage.
- Replacement of a portion of the Meetinghouse roof which faces the driveway.
- Repair and replacement of the front fence and repainting of sign.
- Removal of the poplar tree behind the Meetinghouse, due to its vulnerability to damage in wind storms; removal of apple tree by driveway; and pruning of the hemlock tree between the garage and the Bassett House.
- Refurbishment of one of the rental apartment kitchens.
- Replacement of door in Bassett House great room.
- Refinishing/repainting Bassett House kitchen windows.

Other committee processes for which we attend include: paying down our mortgages, managing tenants and advertising our first floor space, creating systems to track annual maintenance, and ensuring safe use of our property and maintaining compliance with City regulations.

Longer term, we are considering a budget that includes an on-site caretaker, replacement of the Bassett House slate roof, repurpose use of the garage, increase energy efficiency, and how to make our property as accessible and sustainable to the community.

—Beth Truzansky
BFM Property Committee

March 2017 • Burlington Friends Meeting

Burlington Friends Meeting
173 N. Prospect St.
Burlington, VT 05401

March 2017



**Burlington Friends Meeting events—
all at the Meeting House unless noted**

Date	Event	Contact/Committee
Each Sunday	Meeting for Worship—11:00 a.m.	Ruah Swennerfelt, 425-3377 Linda McKenna, 879-4307
Each Wednesday	Midweek Worship—noon	John Sharpless, 871-5195
2nd & 4th Sundays	Children’s program—10:45 a.m.	Abby Matchette, 765-618-8936
Each Sunday, on request	Childcare during worship and other Meeting events	Louis Cox, 425-3377
March 12, 2017	Meeting for Business—12:45 p.m.	Jeanne Plo, 233-6377
March 19, 2017	Quakerism series, part 5, “___,” 9:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse	Robin Lloyd, 355-3256 Jeanne Plo, 233-6377
April 22, 2017	World Without War conference 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in Winooski, Vt.	Robin Lloyd, 355-3256

Send newsletter submissions to Louis Cox <jlouiscox@gmail.com>