

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Month

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING  
 OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
 Damariscotta, Maine  
**NEWSLETTER**

July-August 2008



Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

-- Matthew 11:28-29 (ASV)

O Lord, who are as the Shadow of a great Rock in a weary land, who beholdest Thy weak creatures weary of labor, weary of pleasure, weary of hope deferred, weary of self; in Thine abundant compassion, and unutterable tenderness, bring us, I pray Thee, unto Thy rest. Amen.

--Christina G. Rossetti

**July**

Sunday	July 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	July 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business

**August**

Sunday	August 3	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
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***NOTE: There will be no First Day School during July and August. First Day School will resume in September.***

***There is no Meeting for Worship for Business in August.***

\*Look inside for more information regarding these items.

**~Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted.~**

Sunday Meeting for Worship is held at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m.  
 Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757. Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Rd. (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north--Miles Home Health Care building on the corner).  
 The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, .2 mile from the corner.

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**Moving? Changing your e-mail address?** Don't forget to let us know. Please remember that when you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you save the Meeting money and you lighten our workload. To receive the newsletter by e-mail, kindly send a request to Diane Kirkman at [diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com). Thanks!

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For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org).

## Highlights

Meeting for Business, Sixth Month 15, 2008

**Treasurer's Report**--The meeting is in the black, though just barely. Installation of the new solar panels depends on raising the last \$175.

**Finance**--Pledge letters have been mailed, and Friends are urged to give them careful thought this year. A memorandum on in-kind contributions was distributed and will be discussed next month. It will be submitted for the next Newsletter [*ed. note--see immediately following these highlights*].

**Ministry & Counsel**--A memorial minute for Loraine Beckerman Schmidt was read and approved with appreciation. Nancy Booth will send it to Loraine's son. Ministry & Counsel will send it to Quarterly Meeting. Friends decided to consider the 1996 minute on same-sex marriage under care of the Meeting sufficient as written and to close the matter. There is less clarity at present on the question of reading queries during Meeting for Worship: a) Will queries be read once a month? b) Will we add one or more new queries on the subject of vocal ministry as composed and recommended by the committee? c) What will be the logistics of the readings, if instituted? It was suggested that whatever Friend is responsible for closing meeting stand in front of the large windows, allowing free movement to and from the worship room. This Friend is also reminded to let the Religious Education teacher know that worship has closed.

**Religious Education**--There is still need for Friends to cover the third week of the month. [*Ed. note: However, there will be no First Day School in July and August. First Day School resumes in September.*]

**Hospitality**--There is still need of volunteers to bring refreshments for fellowship time following meeting for worship. Friends are thanked for taking tea towels home to launder, but please return them. The Meeting decided to continue monthly potluck lunches indefinitely, the first Sunday of the month.

**Meetinghouse & Grounds**--There is significant need for a volunteer with experience in garden upkeep to oversee the remaining work hours of this growing season. The new alarm system is up and running.

The next monthly meeting for business will be Sunday, July 20. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the June meeting may be found on the Meeting's website at <[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)>and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

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## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

At the business meeting May 18, there was some discussion of helping the budget through in-kind contributions. Karen, as clerk, assigned the Finance Committee to look into it. This note reflects observations reviewed by the Finance Committee.

A. Direct support for annual budgeted expenses. A suggestion was made for members to bring in bulbs for the garden or to provide paper supplies as a means of reducing cash outlays. This is already done to a large extent as part of workdays and hospitality activities. This should be encouraged, but without recording amounts or keeping records of any sort. This could just fall into the Quakerly good-works category.

B. Contributions of time and effort. Examples of this are Steve Gorry's construction of the sign by the road and the many electrical projects taken on by Guy Marsden. In one sense, all the support for the workdays can be considered in this category, as well as the committee activity in general. We should go further than we have in recognizing efforts of an individual for a large project by a letter of appreciation and note in the Newsletter. We would not recommend making specific budget offset entries, as it would be an unnecessary complication and very hard to determine the value. Contributions of time and effort are not deductible on a tax return.

On the other hand, members who were unable to participate on workdays, for health or other reasons, sometimes made donations instead. We don't think that there should be a feeling of obligation like that. There are many volunteer activities, most of which cannot be accomplished by buying assistance, so we do not propose a system to encourage such donations. Instead, members could make larger undesignated annual contributions.

C. Fundraising. The Heifer project around Christmas and the Ramallah flea-market project are examples. We do account for these in a special project category. What we might do is occasionally have such a fundraiser for our own budget, rather than to support an outside group. We have not had such a need, but perhaps we might in the future. Because of the time

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and distance constraints, which limit the volunteer support that is always needed, it can be easier to ask for a donation, as for the solar panels, rather than a time commitment. On the other hand, community activities like this are good for the Meeting culture and foster more of a sense of common purpose. Such a project might be appropriate for a capital project in the future and could be accounted for separately.

--Bill Spock, Clerk of the Finance Committee

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### ***QUERIES: Vocations***

*Do you respect the value of all useful work, whether paid or unpaid, whether physical or intellectual, whether performed in the home or in the larger community? Does your daily work use means and serve goals which are consistent with the teachings of Jesus? Are you honest and trustworthy in all business transactions, prompt and just in payment of debts? By counsel and example, do you encourage young people to enter vocations which will serve society?*

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### **A HISTORY OF THE GROUNDS OF MIDCOAST MEETINGHOUSE**

by Claire Darrow

Midcoast Meeting's first Meeting for Worship in our new building was held on May 20, 1995, and the first wedding was held the following Saturday. Close timing! But I had told the builder that all we needed for these two occasions was a working bathroom and the Meeting Room to be finished. They worked like madmen but got it finished as we had asked.

Outside it presented a naked driveway, bare soil around the building and no trees nearby. We had hired a landscape planner who came up with a very ambitious plan. Some of us wanted to bring hand-me-downs from our own gardens to brighten the gardens in spring and summer. So we compromised and followed the plan some and the gifts for the rest. When in doubt, we were guided by the plan, as the designer tried to use native, noninvasive, low-maintenance plants. One of the gifts was of two gravestones from a Quaker graveyard in Long Island, New York, given by Lee Rushmore. They are now situated beside the path that leads into the Memorial Circle.

A committee was formed to take care of the initial planning/planting, and there were many workdays to get things started. The trees were mostly planted by our members, though a few were done commercially. A group of us went upcountry to get the little evergreens for the front of the property, dug them up in the woods, and brought them back and planted them with great glee. They seemed to like it where we put them, and they are now much larger and beginning to form a delineation of our property for the neighbors to see. We planted the maple at the southwest corner of the building for shade in summer, and it, too, is fulfilling its duty. The rhubarb and blueberries, as I remember, were gifts from people's gardens, and they, too, are taking over well. Some friends donated gardening tools as well as plants. Over the summer, we shared watering chores for the new plantings and watched as things began to take hold. It was a heady time, to be sure, with our new meetinghouse and its growing grounds to occupy us all.

As time and years elapsed, more ideas came up, and we tried them, and most worked well, though we lost a few crabapple trees before finding the right place for them. There was a bulb-planting one day in fall, and the daffodils continue to brighten the spring landscape. The flowers in the gardens at the front of the building filled in, and, indeed, some of the plants were so happy they kept right on multiplying until in subsequent years we had to rip some of them out because they were taking up more than their share of the garden plot.

As time went on, we slowed down and got into the pattern of scheduling workdays for us all to get together and do the needed work to keep the grounds looking cared for. It was great fun to work together on our own property, and we sometimes had pick-up lunches in correlation with our labors. Good community action.

After a while it was difficult to get people to commit to a whole day of work, so we limited the work time to an hour, and people could work longer if they wanted to. It kept more people willing to commit to just one hour, which didn't seem like too much of a chore. And many hands made the work get done. It still was a pleasure to work together for the place.

Six or seven years ago, we focused on the Memorial Garden, and after much research and scouting around, we got the stones installed and the shielding trees planted by professionals, and there it was! We asked members who wanted to donate teak benches to place there, and it is now a lovely place to meditate or even to hold a meeting on the right weather day. We are glad to have it.

We knew even before we raised the Meetinghouse that we would have to take care of it. We didn't know how much it complicated our duties, but that was offset by the pleasure of owning our own place and being a settled presence in the local community.

Now we are planning to install solar collectors on our roof to be an example to the community about reducing our carbon footprint and to help global warming slow down. We hope to have programs and a celebration to kick off this big project and get other people from the area interested enough to do the same kind of thing. We'll see.

**ADVICES: Vocations:** In our relations with others in our daily work, let us manifest the spirit of justice and understanding and thus give a living witness to the Truth. While trying to make provision for ourselves and our families, let us not be anxious, but in quietness of spirit trust in the goodness of God. When we suffer from unemployment, let us seek the support and encouragement of our meetings. When we have a choice of employment, let us think first of the service that we may render. Let us be ready to limit our engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from a business that we may be free for new service as God appoints it.



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