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Queries for Fourth Month: Stewardship and Vocation

John Woolman said, "As Christians all we possess are the gifts of God... To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives." The principle of stewardship applies to all we have and are. As individuals, we are called to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, and our material possessions with care, managing them wisely and sharing them generously.

From the indwelling Seed of God, we discover our particular gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making choices about occupation or education, consider the way that offers the fullest opportunity to develop your individual abilities and contribute to the world community while providing for yourself and your family. In daily work, manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, and thus give a living witness to the truth.

Be ready to limit engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from an activity that inhibits your ability to follow a higher call. Try to discern the right moment to accept new responsibilities as well as to relinquish responsibility that can pass to others. Be open to your calling in different stages of life. Meetings need the strength and vigor of young people as well as the experience and wisdom of elders. Although they may not be able to contribute great financial support, their energy and insight invigorate the community. As people begin careers and families, they may need the spiritual and experienced help of the Meeting. Later, when families are growing up and careers are established, greater participation in the Meeting and greater financial support may become possible. Welcome the approach of old age, your own and others', as an opportunity for wisdom and greater attachment to the Light. Meetings should be ready with material and spiritual support for those suffering from unemployment or facing difficult vocational decisions.

How have I been faithful to the leadings of the Spirit in choosing work or vocation?

What am I doing with my talents, time, money, and possessions? Am I sharing them according to the Light I am given?

Is my conduct at the workplace consistent with my life as a Friend?

How does my daily work enhance my spiritual life?

How does the Meeting help and support members who are in job transitions?

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 9:00 to 10:00 am Adult Education, New Meeting House (NMH), 1st & 3rd First Days & on 4th & 5th First Days by arrangement.
- 10:00 to 10:25 Hymn Singing at NMH.
- 10:30 to 11:30 Meeting for Worship at New Meeting House.**
- 10:30 to 11:15 First Day School for children in Old Meeting House (OMH – n.b., also now known as the "School House").
- 11:15 to 11:30 Children join adults for Meeting for Worship in NMH
- 11:30 to 11:45 Introductions and announcements

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS is held on the second First Day of the month, following light refreshments after Meeting for Worship. The next Business Meeting is on April 10, 2011.

- WORSHIP SCHEDULE (in NMH):
- Meeting for Worship – each First Day at 10:30 AM.
 - Mid-Week Evening Worship – each Wednesday at 6:00 PM.
 - Mindfulness Meditation – each Thursday at 7:15 AM

~~ In this Issue ~~

Advices and Queries for Fourth Month	1	News of People and Events	3
Sunday Morning Schedule	1	Minutes of March 13 Business Meeting.....	4
Calendar and Expansion — Details	1, 2		

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27 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.

27 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).

30 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.

31 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

APR

- 3 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.
3 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
6 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
7 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
10 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
10 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.
10 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).
13 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
14 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
14 Thurs 7:00 pm Oversight Committee meeting – Library.
17 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH
17 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
17 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).
17 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – Series on The Habit of Prayer and Reflection – NMH (see note below).
17 Sun [Deadline for *submission of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.*]
19 Tue 7:00 pm Worship Sharing for Caregivers – NMH (see note below).?
20 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
21 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
24 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Series on Quaker Practices and Our Meeting – NMH (see note below).
24 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
24 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
25 Mon 3 - 6:30 pm PAFM / Urban Ministry Meal Preparation – (see note below).
26 Tue 7:00 pm Worship Sharing for Caregivers – NMH (see note below).?
27 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
28 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus Quaker activities should contact Hannah Popick hannapopick@gmail.com , 650-644-5130. The group has shelf space in the Religious Groups Library of Old Union at Stanford. We would love to add your favorite Quaker book to the shelf. Books we have already received: http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pEJ3Q-pGqQEnf_0LgUUUVLGA

*** ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION: Reading and Discussion led by Henry Jason each 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday at 9 am – NMH. We are reading and discussing Francis Howgill's 1658 work "Some of the Mysteries of God's Kingdom Declared".

Adult Education has two other series right now. The series on The Habit of Prayer and Reflection continues after worship on Third Firstdays. The series on Quaker Practices and our Meeting is on Fourth Firstdays at 9 a.m. If you have ideas or questions on the Reflection series, talk to Claire Arnold; for the Practices series, talk to Diane Pasta.

*** SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP: There is a spiritual formation group that meets on Wednesdays about twice a month. For more information talk to Jerry McBride, Susan Murphy, or Jennifer Summit.

*** COLLECTION FOR ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM (EHP): Community Service Committee the EHP after the rise of Meeting each third First Day – at the front door. EHP provides emergency food, clothing, case management, household essentials, and resource referrals to families in need in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto.

*** HOMELESS MEALS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMM-UNITY SERVICE – We help prepare the food and serve it to the Homeless at the First Methodist Church in Palo Alto as part of the Urban Ministry meal program. Scheduled dates for the balance of 2011 are: 4/25, 5/30, none in June, 7/4, 8/8, 9/12, 10/17, 11/21, and 12/26. Contact Marie Simirenko for more information - 650-961-1724.

*** THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: The Thursday morning meditation group meets in the New Meeting House at 7:15 am; practice time goes from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. All are welcome, including those new to meditation or experienced. Linea Stewart and the regular Thursday participants share the facilitation of the meditation group. For more info and a schedule of the practices, you may contact Trudy Reagan after meeting for worship on First days or by email, trudymyrrh@earthlink.net.

*** FOURTH FIRST-DAY PROVIDED LUNCH: PAFM provides a lunch on **fourth** First Day. This allows Friends an opportunity to get to know each other better. Friends, attenders, visitors, and newcomers are all welcome.

A special table is set aside for newcomers to meet with Friends and find out more about Quakerism and about our Meeting, its members & activities, as well as an opportunity for us to know you better. A member of Oversight will be at the table. All newcomers are welcome - as are any Friends who might be inclined to join the gathering. The term "newcomers" includes those who have recently begun attending, as well as those who feel "new" to the Meeting, regardless of how long they have been attending.

*** WORSHIP SHARING FOR CAREGIVERS: This is a group sponsored by Oversight and open to anyone caring for a loved one of any age – infant to adult – who would like to explore how our Quaker beliefs and experiences can be a part of this loving undertaking. Contact Arden Pierce at 650-494-1631 or ardenhram@aol.com or Mary Lou Moses at 650-424-4342 for info. All are welcome. Arden

*** SUPPORT: If you have wondered what Friends do when we are in distress or need help, given that we do not have a minister - the answer is that we turn to members of the Oversight committee. Be advised that the greeters you see each First Day are on the Oversight Committee. Please feel free to talk to a member of Oversight about such concerns...after meeting,...or call or email them.

*** Rainy days are with us. Please take into consideration your ability to move quickly relative to other members of the meeting when you are choosing a parking spot. Try to leave a few close spots for members who may not be able to dodge raindrops as well as yourself.

NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

CHILDCARE DURING MEETING FOR BUSINESS: During monthly Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, childcare will be provided for all age children from 12:15 to 1:45 pm in the School House. The regular staff for the preschool program, Jadranka Tanovic and Sangeta Tamang, provide the childcare. Advance sign-up is not required, but children should be in the program by 12:30. (If no children show up, the staff will leave at 12:45.)

NEWS OF AN ABSENT FRIEND: Olivia de Haulleville is living in a cabin in the desert at Yucca Valley, hauling in her own water, and finding it takes a lot of energy. She has had two hips replaced. She used to teach movement meditation in prisons, and now teaches it in the community. She appreciates how meeting paid for her gas to go to the prisons, and asks to be remembered to meeting.

WESTERN FRIEND DINNER PARTY: March 31, 7:00 pm. A fundraising dinner on Thurs., March 31. A "Western" menu will be prepared. Plan to make a donation equivalent to a "Dinner Out." Amount is up to you. Call for reservations: Tom & Sandy Farley 650-366-1818.

PAY UNDER PROTEST CAMPAIGN: If you feel you cannot withhold war taxes, you can pay your federal taxes April 15th and still make a statement against war. Pacific Yearly Meeting's War Tax Resisters invite you to participate in their Pay Under Protest Campaign. It's simple: pay your taxes as usual and send letters to your Congresspeople saying you are paying under protest the portion of your tax bill that funds war. Then give a copy of the letter or your name to Ed or Janet Hale so you can be counted in the Campaign. A sample letter can be found in the foyer. The goal of the Campaign is to identify at least 200 Friends (and others) who feel they must pay their taxes to pay under protest. Thank you, PSA Committee.

RIDES TO/FROM MEETING: Oversight keeps a list of people seeking rides and a list of people who are willing to offer rides to and/or from Meeting on either a regular or occasional basis. Contact anyone on the committee if you or someone you would like to be on either list.

AFSC News: Save the Date – Thurs., May 26. 6:00pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church - 1187 Franklin Street San Francisco. The AFSC annual Fundraising dinner is always an event to look forward to and this year is no exception. Contact Julia Parish at jparish@afsc.org or 415-565-0201 ext. 16.

Youth Rally to Challenge Gang Injunction Proposal The youth of Oakland came to challenge the proposal to impose "Gang Injunctions" in certain areas of the city and AFSC Youth Programs were well represented. Such injunctions are seen as a targeting of youth of color and become another method of racial profiling. Many youth spoke passionately. Angela Davis was among the adults who spoke in support.

New AFSC Staff Member AFSC is happy to announce and welcome a new staff member in the office in Farmersville, near Visalia. His name is *Miguel Baez*. He has been a journalist for the past 11 years and has worked with the Proyecto Campesino many times in the past. Staff in the Central Valley have worked for over 50 years with farm workers and immigrants and the work is even more vital in this era of immigration raids, etc.

THE PENINSULA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER: The Center's Calendar is at: [http://www. peaceandjustice.org](http://www.peaceandjustice.org)

2011 SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO EL SALVADOR: A fabulous two-week package: the first week will help you build basic conversational Spanish or improve your Spanish. In our second week we will go to Perquin to do service in the communities of El Gigante and Suenos. Please pass the word to interested teens and adults.

Dates are June 12-26. Fees, excluding airfare, are \$735 per week and include all meals, lodging, entrance fees, class fees, and in-country transportation. Round trip airfare from San Francisco is an additional \$758.56. We will arrange group air transportation from San Francisco for participants who register for both weeks. More information and registration packets can be found at: www.pafmelsalvadorprojects.org/teentrips.htm. Or contact Barbara Babin, at quakeryouthtrips@yahoo.com. 650-454-0216 to receive information by email or regular mail.

NEWS FROM SIERRA FRIENDS CENTER: Spring is in the air here. We have a few upcoming events to help usher it in:

* Saturday, April 2nd. Spring Volunteer Day 9am to 4pm.

* Weds, May 18th. 7pm. Students will present their Youth as Peacebuilders Projects in the Meeting House on campus.

* Fri., May 20th. 7pm. the Peace Documentaries will get their first showing at the Unitarian Universalist Community in the Mountains on Church Street in Grass Valley.

* Sat. May 21st. 9am. Tour and demonstration of the Environmental Science Sustainability projects on campus.

* Sat., May 28th 9am. Woolman Semester Graduation. Contact: Dorothy Henderson <dorothyh@woolman.org>

SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT: invites you to a lively, passionate presentation from our delegation to El Salvador with a focus on Liberation and the Struggle for Human Rights. Sunday, May 22 at 4:00 PM. Program and Salvadoran Pupusa Dinner. First Presbyterian Church. 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto.

HELP CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES WHILE YOU HELP YOURSELF: Reliable, hard-working men and women need jobs while they rebuild their lives. SBSC Job Hotline: (650) 494-8340.

