

Portland Friends Newsletter

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FOURTH MONTH 2012

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship

8am and 10:30am Sunday

Religious Education

2nd & 4th Sundays:
adults 9am, singing 10am,
youth 10:45am

Visit our website

PortlandFriendsMeeting.org

Friends to contact

Co-Clerks

Muriel Allen 874-9523
Anne Harwood 666-8179

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 780-0349
58 Hillis Street
Portland 04103

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940
14 Drew Road
South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 883-0573

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Kate Potter 761-1648

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578
David Spector 518-9723

Religious Education

Adults: Brad Bussiere-Nichols
772-1774
Youth: Shuli Bonham 619-4787

Youth RE Coordinator

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com



I have inherited a belief in community, the promise that a gathering of the spirit can both create and change culture. In the desert, change is nurtured even in stone by wind, by water, through time. — Terry Tempest Williams

Query Four—The Meeting Community

Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputations of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?

Upcoming Events

- April 14** Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm
- April 15** Youth service/baking project, 10:45am
- April 19** Maine Council of Churches visit to Maine State Prison, 10:30am
- April 21** Quaker Cielidh, Winthrop, 5:30pm
- April 22** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45.
- April 28** Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, 8am-3pm, Portland
- April 29** Love Your Meetinghouse Day - tentative
- May 6** Meeting for Business, 9am
- May 12** Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm
- May 13** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45.
- July 1-7** Friends General Conference Gathering, Kingston, RI
- Aug 1-22** Trip to Kenya and Kakamega orphanage; Sukie Rice, 865-3768
- Aug 4-8** New England Yearly Meeting, Smithfield, RI

There are members and attenders who need rides to Meeting and other support during times of difficulty. If you need or can provide rides, food, or your silent presence at home meetings for worship, please leave a message for Shannon O'Connor, 774-2578.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail items to:
Anna Barnett
835 Congress St., Apt. 2
Portland, ME 04102

**OR email items
to Anna Barnett**
abarnett@gmail.com
Phone: 523-0314

**Send address change
details to Tony Scilipoti**
tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

Deadline for receiving newsletter items: Friday after business meeting or sooner!

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting April 1, 2012

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 30 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Anne Harwood read the Fourth Query from NEYM Faith and Practice, concerning The Meeting Community, which begins: Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ?

2. **Clerks Comments:** Co-clerk Anne Harwood told us of an event where 20 members of York County Community College came to learn from her and Andy Grannell about Quakers as part of an educational program to learn about different religions, and commented on how hard it was to explain Quakerism to others. Do we dance, for example? However, the young people were engaged and interested. She also reported on the success of the Friends School fund-raising auction, which grossed over \$24,000.

3. **Minutes March 4th Meeting for Business.** The minutes were accepted with no changes.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** Sue Nelson reported that the total income for March was \$4693.33 and expenses \$2196.39, leaving a positive balance for March of \$2496.94. Rental income was excellent in March, which helped with the positive balance. The report was accepted.

5. **Ministry and Counsel.** Kate Potter reported for Ministry and Counsel. Friends were asked to approve the transfers of two people into Portland Friends Meeting: Richard Stratton from West Hartford, Connecticut, who attends the Mahoosuc Mountain worship group which is under our care, and David Spector, who has requested transfer from Cambridge, Massachusetts meeting. Friends welcomed and approved these transfers.

Ministry and Counsel has been concerned for several months about disruption to the safe spiritual environment we try to maintain by an individual who has panhandled, wandered around and recently taken a check from our contributions box. There is currently an informal committee of six who are prepared to take turns sitting with him if he comes again. We are also drafting Guidelines to address this type of situation: these will be presented later in the year and our hope is to eventually include them with our existing policies on conflict and abuse resolution. This should be seen in the light of making our own boundaries clear.

On a practical note: Friends were asked to keep purses and handbags with them and not leave them on a coat hook or in the Parlor.

Stephanie Richards, who has worked with the Bowman family to complete Richard Bowman's Memorial Minute, read it aloud. She thanked all those who had been involved in collating and editing this huge volume of information. Friends approved and accepted the Minute, with the suggestion that it be printed on plaid paper.

Kate then read the pertinent sentences in the State of Society Report about issues that were requested at last month's Business Meeting. These paragraphs concerned the advent of Website, the Leadings series led by Adult Education and Peace and Social Concerns, and our spiritual support of Friends School of Portland. Friends were asked, if they had small detailed comments on either of these documents, to tell them to Kate or to Stephanie after Rise of Worship. Friends approved and accepted the report.

6. Co-clerk Muriel Allen read two **Travel Minutes**. One was written for Rob Levin and Sarah Cushman to use during their planned cycle trip across Maine, the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, which they plan to blog about on their website. The other was written for Dorothy and Andy Grannell's attendance at the Salt and Light Conference in Kenya. She expressed gratitude to Dorothy and Andy for including all of us in the planning of their venture, and they in turn expressed gratitude to the meeting for its help.

7. **Covenant for Civil Discourse.** Dorothy Grannell presented this document from the Maine Council of Churches, essentially a repeat of a document that was first presented in 2009, asking candidates for political office and religious groups to sign on to a pledge to keep political discussion on a civil plane. They will post the name of any candidate or religious group that signs onto it on their website. Signing this document does not signify support for any particular candidate or party. The meeting approved the signing of this document by the co-clerks.

8. **Quarterly Meeting April 28th.** This will be here at Portland Friends Meeting. Kate Potter and Tom Foote offered to be Representatives, and asked the rest of the meeting to help with the providing of food for the meeting. Sarah Cushman offered to talk to the Hospitality Committee about organizing this.

9. **FCNL.** Tom Foote spoke about a new overture for Portland Friends Meeting to be more participatory in this organization. FCNL is a religious lobbying organization with offices in Washington DC with a deep process of feedback from meetings nation-wide to support legislation that addresses policy goals established by the general committee of FCNL. Biennially they ask for such feedback to inform policy work in Washington. A meeting of members of PFM on March 18th gathered nine people to discuss ways of pulling together a list of four or five priorities to reach the general committee for FCNL for their fall deliberations on a new agenda for the next two years. Tom found their work impressive and thoughtful and worth our attention. He read from some of their documentation about their convictions on the moral and spiritual values that should undergird government and law and their attempts to involve individuals in the framing of these things. Tom asked that we have a contact person and set up an interest group functioning in PFM. Individuals in our meeting have been interested in the past, but we have had little involvement recently. It was suggested that this was an area that might be housed within Peace and Social Concerns rather than it being set up as a separate group. There was a suggestion that P&SC might co-ordinate FCNL involvement by interested parties. Tom was asked to bring forward a suggestion for how FCNL involvement could be co-ordinated with our committee structure, and P&SC was asked to revisit this renewed concern with FCNL. Tom agreed to meet with P&SC for discussions.

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting, *continued*

10. **Other business.** Andy Grannell reviewed the work of the Archives Committee, led by him and including Sandi Jensen, Karyl Sylken, and Colleen Crowley, who have been pulling together 37 years' worth of PFM records. The entire corpus of newsletters will be available in digital form and also printed. All printed materials will be backed up digitally and made searchable. The growth of the body of documents that we have been able to assemble will provide guidance to the way Friends can build on our past experience and use it to move forward. Friends congratulated the Committee on their work and thanked them for it.

Easter brunch will be 9am-10:20am Sunday April 8th.

The meeting closed at 10:22 am in silent worship, purposing to meet again on May 6th at 9am, God willing.

Jenny Doughty, Co-recording clerk

2011 State of Society Report – Portland Friends Meeting

Meeting for worship remains the center of our Meeting life. Attendance is still strong. The Silence feels deep and rich and the vocal ministry draws our attention to the miracles of God's presence amongst us, as well as shining Light on our human frailties.

Our committees actively serve the Meeting's needs and draw us closer together in service to one another and to the wider community. After two years of collaborative work our informational website – portlandfriendsmeeting.org – was unveiled and is being happily used by increasing numbers. Our committees try to keep pace with present needs - both spiritual and worldly - respond to ongoing concerns, and anticipate future plans. We have much for which to be grateful. Our Youth Religious Education Committee has creatively and thoughtfully offered a new structure of programming to better meet the needs of our evolving community. Buildings and Grounds stepped up beautifully to the tasks of renovating our kitchen, replacing more of our windows, and the ongoing maintenance of a well-loved building. The committee also responded with insightfulness, energy, and gifts of talents and expertise as a road widening project in front of our Meetinghouse unearthed unplanned challenges, structural and financial. Our attention was called to our ethical responsibilities for our small but important parcel of this planet.

Through the winter and spring Peace & Social Concerns collaborated with Adult Education committee to develop in-depth discussions of 'Leadings'. These programs fertilized burgeoning growth for many individuals. Spiritual needs beyond Meeting for worship and faith in action have been additionally filled by reintroducing Spiritual Journeying groups, which have been robustly received. They join a handful of similar groups that have quietly, faithfully continued for many years.

We continue to hold our financial responsibilities with tender prayerfulness and thoughtful process as to how we move forward when for many these are difficult economic times. We strive to be good stewards of what we do hold. We created a Leadings Committee to oversee the use of a generous bequest. We are grateful for the wisdom and expertise within our Meeting including those who have helped us hold to prayerful process in this realm; ultimately we do know that it is Spirit that will lead us best in the challenge of using our gifts.

We continued to give multi-faceted and spiritual support of Friends School of Portland, the only Quaker school in Maine. The head of School announced his plans to retire in the summer of 2012. And this thriving pre-K - 8th grade school may have to move off Mackworth Island, which has been its only home for six years. We gave prayerful attention to the work of the Board as they pursued several possibilities of relocation within the next three years.

We are also blessed to hold and provide support to our Released Friends Andy and Dorothy Grannell as they answer their callings to participate in the World Friends Committee on Consultation Salt and Light conference, to be held in Kenya in April 2012.

Yet for all we do well, there is always more we can do better. We do well enough to get those who need rides to our Meeting, but often make use of the same few people for meeting this important ministry. We could do better in visiting the elders who can no longer get to Meeting, and also in our welcoming and embracing of newcomers. We have a regular flow of first time visitors, as well as Friends from other Meetings.

Our active "Youngish Adult Friends" group brings immense joy to all of our hearts with their vibrant gifts of fellowship. Still we could do better at offering more opportunities to integrate all age levels, especially in participation at Meeting for worship. Also, we would welcome more social time for all of us.

Portland Friends continues to offer a strong presence at Yearly Meeting, including a good number of youth, many of whom are also active in the retreat programs throughout the year. Yet we offer minimal support to Quarterly Meeting; a faithful few regulars attend the quarterly meetings. We remind ourselves of those and other responsibilities to the wider Friends community in which we could do better.

If there were to be one shadow of all we do well that perhaps bears naming most, it is that we risk becoming complacent in our achievements. Perhaps we are a little too comfortable in our abundant blessings. Still we are nudged and eluded through vocal ministry and calls to action from within and without to grow and to stretch past our comfort zones. Sometimes we do well in following our Guide, and sometimes we fall behind.

We will continue to celebrate the gifts we do hold when we gather on First Day, in worship and in our youth and adult religious education programs; these are times we renew ourselves in one another and in the Spirit. We are challenged to ever move forward in continuing revelation. We gather at other times in joyful fellowship, and in our sorrows, and to savor a vibrant and healthy Meeting community. And we come together in the same energizing joy and yes, sometimes frustration, as we seek Divine guidance on how we individually, and collectively, can do better.

Richard Stearns Bowman

Memorial Minute, March 2012

Richard Stearns Bowman died peacefully on August 13, 2010, in Falmouth, Maine. Dick was born on June 4, 1917, in White Plains, New York, the first of four sons, to Eliza Stearns Bowman and the eminent psychiatrist Dr. Karl M. Bowman. The parents raised their boys to compete, question, seek truth, rebel if necessary, and to love books and music. The Newton, Massachusetts, home was a lively place, in fact and fable. Dick graduated from Newton High School (1934) and from Haverford College (1938) where he was introduced to Quakerism and was greatly influenced by the presence on campus of such faculty greats as Thomas Kelly, Douglas Steere, and the Maine philosopher Rufus Jones. He spent his junior year in Germany, becoming fluent in the language and coming face to face with the rise of Nazism, even living for a time with an aristocratic Nazi family. He also studied piano during that year, becoming accomplished enough to join the Haverford glee club as its accompanist on his return.

A Navy gunnery officer in WWII, Richard survived the torpedoing of his ship the U.S.S. Minneapolis, and was reassigned to Admiral Halsey's staff as French liaison officer in the South Pacific. At the cessation of hostilities in Europe, he joined a naval technical mission as German interpreter, traveling through Germany to interview scientists on such topics as underwater sound. Home from abroad, he began graduate work at Columbia University, focusing his research on the important literary contributions of English, French, and German scientific explorers.

Four years of war turned Lt. Bowman into an ardent pacifist. He joined the Society of Friends, spoke out strongly against the Vietnam War, and cofounded the Maine chapter of Veterans for Peace. In the early 1960s he was a draft counselor, helping dozens of young draftees find clarity in military choices and introducing them to concepts of non-violence. He was proud to have this work commended by General Hersey.

Richard married Ruth Baker in 1948. They brought up their two children Ellen and Tom in Rye, New York, and the family became active members of nearby Purchase Friends Meeting. Dick commuted to New York City daily, teaching humanities for forty-three years at the Cooper Union, becoming a favorite professor for many elective courses such as "The Literature of Peace" and "NYC: Harlem to Brooklyn," often using the entire city as his classroom. He contributed to the school as drama director, secretary of the faculty, parliamentarian, and early morning flag raiser over the old buildings. As a Fulbright scholar in Denmark (1962-63) he was able to master the language sufficiently to teach his courses in Danish. In 1974-75, he and Ruth spent his sabbatical travelling the world, visiting study centers for Friends World College of which he was a trustee.

In 1982 the Bowmans retired to a seaside home in South Portland, Maine, transferring membership heart and soul to Portland Friends Meeting. In his retirement, Richard was passionately interested in local history, art and architecture. Always a teacher, Professor Emeritus Bowman became a docent for Greater Portland Landmarks and served on the Advisory Board of Friends of the Kotschmar Organ. He also was active in the Baxter Society, Maine Historical Society, and the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine, and he served for thirty-two years as a member of the Haverford College Corporation. He and Ruth supported the development of the Portland Freedom Trail, marking the path of the Underground Railroad. Dick performed in thirty plays in Portland community theaters, including A Christmas Carol, for which he received the cameo award for his portrayal of Marley's Ghost.

In 1983, Richard entered the rehabilitation program at Portland's Mercy Hospital and successfully overcame his addiction to alcohol. Alcoholics Anonymous became a new and vital family for him. Known in that community as "the Professor," he attended several meetings weekly, almost until his dying day.

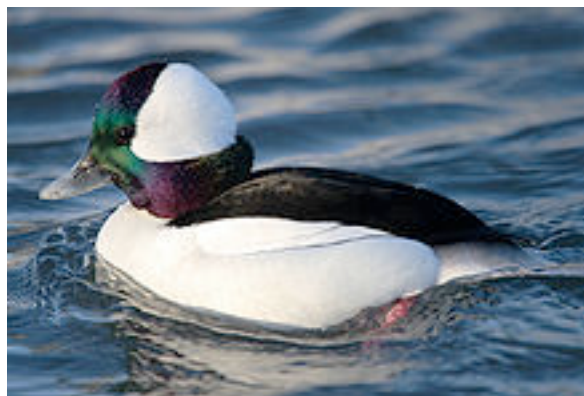
As a Quaker, Dick dispelled the cliché image of the calm and silent worshiper. He would arrive at meeting for worship carrying a canvas bag stuffed with books and papers, and a heart and head full of facts and feelings, always respectful of the magical power of the truly mystical message. His booming voice, colorful haberdashery of mismatched plaids, Tam o'Shanter, berets, and famous lobster ties and shorts made him a favorite at annual New England Yearly Meetings. The NEYM coffee houses would feature Dick Bowman look-alike competitions accompanied with a special song to the tune of "George Fox." He regaled Friends there with Quaker jokes and Rufus Jones stories from his extensive collection of Jones books. Every year he visited the birthplace of this beloved Friend in South China, Maine.

Richard cherished his family, his cousins, nieces and nephews, and never forgot to send birthday greetings to everyone on his extensive list of relatives. Consistent with his ideals of generosity, compassion, and a deep commitment to education and scientific research, Richard donated his remains to New England Medical School.

Bicycling With the Buffleheads

Sarah, Rob and Cedar departing week of May 1st

Rob and Cedar and I are getting more and more excited for our 3 ½ month bicycle journey through Maine, Atlantic Canada, and Quebec that we plan to start the first week of May. Last year we noticed the Buffleheads (our favorite - and the smallest - of the diving sea ducks) for the last time on May 2nd, before they migrated north. So we've been looking every day for Buffleheads as we cross the causeway to the Friends School, hoping they won't leave without us and we can accompany them as they start their trip north this year.



It was very sweet to hear the Co-Clerks' Letter of Introduction read for us at the April Meeting for Business and we're blessed to be carrying it with us as we go and upon visits to other Friends in Maine and Canada. Please know how much we appreciate being held by the Meeting on our journey. I've realized more and more that this period is also an opportunity for all of us to hold in the light, and grow evermore conscious, of those around us (including folks from the Meeting) who are using their own two feet or bicycles for transportation in their daily lives. Either out of concern or necessity. And for us to care and work for their safety on their daily journeys. As we are all pedestrians at some point in the day, in effect, they are us and we are them. Our family looks forward to embracing and living that mindfulness as we meet with pedestrians and bicyclists along our way, too.

Yours in Spirit,

Sarah (Cushman) and Rob and Cedar (Levin)

...But what will we do without Sarah?

Contacts for Specific Meeting-Related Items (while Sarah Cushman is away from the end of April through August)

Website Changes/Additions: Rich Nagle, rwnagle3@gmail.com

Listening Device/Sound System Assistance: See notice with all information posted above the basket of devices in the entryway; Also can contact Rita Clifford, rclifford13@hotmail.com, 883-0573 (when she is in town) and Ministry & Counsel Committee members

Guestbook Maintenance/Greeting of Newcomers: Karin Wagner, karinwagner@earthlink.net

Childcare Coordinator for Youngish Friends Potlucks: likely to be Chris Fitze, ellerfitze@yahoo.com, 761-6508 – if not, he can put you in touch with the correct person

Help a Friend

Seeking volunteers for Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Committee is updating their notebook. We know you want to help, so if you are at Worship on Sunday you can fill out and return a new, brief questionnaire to Shannon O'Connor or other Pastoral Care members. Opportunities to help include cooking, transportation, shopping, gardening, cleaning, pet care, reading aloud, child care, visiting and chatting, phoning to organize an effort, or anything else that moves you! There is something for everyone. You can return your questionnaire to Shannon at 56 Yale St, Portland ME 04103, give it to David Spector, or leave it in the manila envelope in the vestibule. Please let us know what you might be moved to do **by April 15, 2012**.

Maine Council of Churches prison visit, April 19

The Maine Council of Churches is inviting you or other concerned faith leaders to join us on a tour of Maine State Prison in Warren at 10:30 AM on Thursday, April 19. MCC's concern for those held in solitary confinement and the full expression of religious beliefs, as well as the humane treatment of all prisoners, is at the heart of this repeat visit. We welcome your participation.

Questions, confirmation or carpooling requests: email Leslie Manning, leslieam55@gmail.com

If you have not already requested a copy of the video (DVD) and study guide produced by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) featuring solitary confinement in Maine, please contact Martha at info@mainecouncilofchurches.org to arrange for your copy. For more info, visit our website: www.mainecouncilofchurches.org



Quaker Cielidh and Wild Rumpus

Winthrop Center Friends Church, April 21

Dear Friends,

Those wild and wacky gals known as the Development Committee of NEYM are planning to be at Winthrop Center for the 4/21 "Funding Our Vision" Workshop AND plan to stay over and worship Sunday AM. Of course, that means a party, a spring fling, a wild rumpus!!!! and you are invited to come with your instruments, your voices and your energy for a Quaker Cielidh.

"Yo", you might say in your erudite fashion, "WTH is a Cielidh?" An informal Scots or Irish evening of music, song and story...WTH is What The Heck? So, please join us for potluck and a WTH Cielidh at Winthrop Center Friends at 5:30 'til whenever. Bring food to share, songs to sing, energy to spare and celebrate Spring!!!

And for those of you who mistakenly believe you cannot sing, or would not enjoy such an evening, get over yourselves. We are Quakers and we take anyone. Seriously, verrrry seriously.

For more info or some more teasing, e-mail Leslie Manning, leslieam55@gmail.com

Lightly,

Leslie Manning

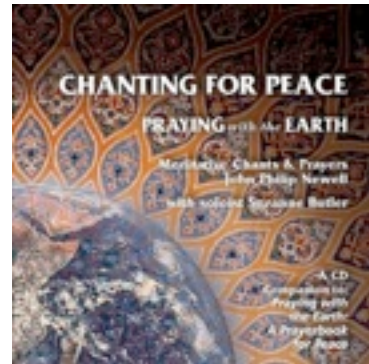
New in the library: Artwork on grief, and chants for peace

Patsea Cobb has donated some multimedia works which would be useful for those dealing with impending death or grief. Here are her words:

"I would like to show you a collection of small (8"x10") reproductions of my paintings in hopes of being able to donate it to the library. I call it "Paintings of my mother's last breath and spirit passage." I have shown it to Kate Potter because she has such experience with grief counseling and with her own grief. She referred me to the Head Chaplin at the Gosnell Hospice House. He was very enthusiastic and now it has gone through the process to become part of their library collection. Kate was also enthusiastic about having it at the Meeting Library for use by our grieving Friends. The collection includes 7 reproductions in plastic frames that can stand easily in a small space. One CD of Paul Robeson's *The Power and the Glory* -- all songs of death and spirit passage. These all fit into a wooden magazine holder so it fits easily on a library shelf. I hand paint gold and silver onto the reproductions to make them more like the originals, so it takes me awhile to prepare each kit."

The wooden file box holding these items is in the area of New Donations. The entire box of 7 drawings and the CD can be signed out at once. We encourage Friends to use the art for short periods, to allow more Friends access to it.

Also new to the Library is a CD "Chanting for Peace: Praying with the Earth". It alternates spoken prayers with meditative chants, based on Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabid descants. It is haunting and soothing.



Maine Peace Singers seeking new members. Newly formed intergenerational folk choir whose purpose is to promote peace and build community through music. We sing songs with messages of love, respect, hope, kindness, acceptance, friendship and diversity. We share our message through performance and sing-a-longs, while providing a community service. Practice every Tuesday from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Falmouth. There is no audition and we always welcome new members regardless of your musical or vocal talent. *More information: Contact Janet Eastman at 637-3630 or jeastman@fairpoint.net.*

Portland Friends Meeting
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Portland, Maine 04103

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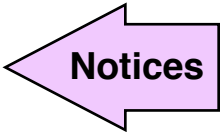
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Annual Kenya trip

August 1 - 22: Annual trip to Kenya and the orphanage in Kakamega. Please contact Sukie Rice for information or to reserve a place. Sign up usually closes by the end of April. Email Sukie at sukierice@comcast.net or call 865-3768.

Early Meeting for Worship is being held every Sunday at 8am.

Contact:
Ward Archer
332-1385

