

# Smithfield



# Friends

**Newsletter SUMMER 2009**  
**Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends**  
**108 Smithfield Road Woonsocket, RI 02895**

Vol.20

No.209

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Clerk: Glenda Byhouwer

Recording Clerk Connie Bair-Thompson

Pastor: Marnie Miller-Gutsell

Treasurer: Richard Frechette

Ministry&Counsel Rhoda Mowry

Newsletter: Randy Oftedahl

Web-friend: Randy Thompson

## CALENDAR FOR June/July/August

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**10:30 am: MEETING FOR WORSHIP**

**Child Care Available**

**LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH: Unprogrammed Worship and Pot Luck Lunch**

### *Other events:*

**Sat., June 27**

8am – 2pm: Meetinghouse Yard Sale

**Sun., June 28**

Smithfield Meeting Picnic Potluck at Riverbend Farm,  
Uxbridge (see inside for details)

**August 1 – 6**

New England Yearly Meeting

### **Summer Birthdays among Smithfield Friends:**

June: Kenneth Smith 6/4; Paul Klinkman 6/7; Heather Smith 6/29; Marnie Miller-Gutsell 6/30

July: Aaron Frechette 7/3; Susan Furry 7/7; Diane Belliveau 7/13; Joel Oftedahl 7/23; Randy Oftedahl 7/24

August: Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl 8/1; Ron Belliveau 8/5; Cindy Keene 8/9; Randy Thompson 8/10; Emily Oftedahl 8/13; Kara Price-Bachand 8/13; Tami Ruprecht 8/24

## *AT LAST IT'S HERE!*



### **Spring Yard and Plant sale Saturday June 27. Rain or Shine--8am-2pm.**

Donations of books, toys, household and clothing are needed. Please spread the word to neighbors, friends and family. This is a great way to "spring clean" and recycle. Items may be brought to the Meetinghouse anytime and stored upstairs. All proceeds benefit our general fund. Cuttings from houseplants and divisions of

perennials will also be available for sale. Donations may be dropped off Friday June 26 or Saturday morning June 27. All monies raised from the plant sale will go to the Cemetery Project. The Meeting for Eating Cookbook will also be prominently displayed and available for purchase. Join us for a great day of community building.

## *Letter from Marnie*

Summer's on the way at last—and hopefully some time to relax, recover from the hectic pace of the year, enjoy the out of doors. And the out of doors has produced some interesting surprises for me lately—and not just the chilly weather.

A few weeks ago, I was driving up South Main St. toward the traffic light at Smithfield Rd. I was still over a block away when I caught a glimpse of something very large flying across the road, barely fifteen feet above my car. I slowed to take a look, and was astonished. It was a wild turkey! They are actually quite graceful when they fly, considering how heavy bodied they are. But wild turkeys don't usually fly around suburban neighborhoods—they normally prefer fields and the edges of woodlands. It was heading in the general direction of the little strip of woods on the steep bluff behind the Meeting House and parsonage. Well, I suppose that's "woods" in the technical sense, but it makes you wonder. A few weeks later, I read in the *Providence Journal* that wild turkeys have been sighted in several suburban neighborhoods in Providence. If so—more power to the turkeys! We've been moving into their territory for such a long time, it's only fair that they're moving into ours.



Then about two weeks ago, I heard a very strange noise coming from that strip of woods—there's a neighbor at the foot of the bluff who is fond of running odd sorts of squeaky machinery in his side yard, but this didn't sound like a machine. It did sound strangely familiar, and suddenly I realized there was only one thing it could be—the gobble of a wild turkey. Could they possibly be breeding in the woods below the Meeting House? If so, I hope they don't have a run-in with the red-tailed hawks that have already staked a claim to a tree down there. (I think the young hawks have fledged and flown, and they prefer hunting over the fields. But who knows, they might want to pay a visit to the old home place, and a turkey chick would be just the right size. Our wild neighbors eating each other?—nasty thought. But that's life in the wilds of suburban Woonsocket.

The end of the tale is that I recently saw another *Providence Journal* article reporting that the Department of Environmental Management is

worried—they aren't finding as many breeding pairs of turkeys as they have in the past. Maybe they're looking in the wrong places? Try suburbia, guys.

Another somewhat more worrisome item in the ProJo—a black bear was seen in eastern Woonsocket, near the border with Cumberland. And what is the DEM is telling us? Get used to it! To help us, they've issued a list of tips on “coexisting with black bears.”

If I had my druthers, I'd much rather get used to the turkeys. But as I reflect on all these changes, I am reminded of a wondrous thing. Along with the glorious creation God has gifted us with, we have all been blessed with an amazing ability to adapt to changed circumstances. Coyotes and red tails started moving and adapting years ago. Now they are joined by turkeys and bears. The coyotes and bears remind us that we may not always be entirely happy with the way things change. But we too can change and grow and adapt. It's uncomfortable. But if we all work together we may, in fact, come to a place that is better than the place we were before. And God goes with us. *Behold, I will do a new thing! Now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.* (Isaiah 43:19)

Peace and blessings for the summer—

*Marnie*

## ***It's Yearly Meeting Time!***

Sessions run from **Saturday, August 1, through Thursday, August 6!** If you register **before June 30**, you will **avoid the late fee!** On the table in the foyer, there are a few copies of the *New England Friend* with registration forms, fee list, and descriptions of the exciting speakers and workshops, etc. However, you may also register on line at [registrar@neym.org](mailto:registrar@neym.org); Friends are encouraged to use the on-line forms.

## ***FGC 2009 Gathering—Registration***

The Annual Gathering of Friends General Conference will meet on the campus of Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, VA, from June 27-July 4. **You have missed the first deadline (June 1) but there may be some space left if you are willing to pay the late fees.** Copies of the Advance Program are available in the foyer, or on-line at [www.fgcgathering.org](http://www.fgcgathering.org),

## ***Register at China Camp!***

Check out the brochures for China Camp, in South China, Maine. The usual programs for children and youth ages 7-17 are on the schedule, plus seven specialty camps: three for Drama, three for Outdoor Experience, and one Aquatic Safety/Life Guard Training Camp. Brochures are available in the lobby.

## ***Slatersville Vacation Bible School***

The Slatersville Congregational Church invites all area children aged 3-12 to attend Vacation Bible School from July 20 through July 24. Register before June 20 and your child may be among the first 70, who will receive free tuition! Sessions run from 9 AM to 12, with extended child care from 12 to 6 PM. Contact the church at 769-2773.



## ***Potluck after meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>***

Potluck this month is moving outdoors! Friends decided at business meeting this month to have our normal end-of-month potluck at **Riverbend Farm in Uxbridge** following meeting for worship – weather permitting, of course. The Blackstone Valley Community Concert Band, for which Connie Bair-Thompson plays the flute, will be performing at Riverbend from about 3:30 until 5:00. Friends are encouraged to stay for the concert as well.

For those who have not been there, Riverbend Farm is in a lovely setting along what used to be a tow path for the Blackstone River canal. It is located at the corner of East Hartford Ave. and Oak St. in Uxbridge, MA – next to Tri-River Family Health Center – about a 15 minute drive from the meetinghouse. The park has many picnic tables and barbeque pits. The barbeque pits are the old fashioned kind, so anyone wishing to grill should plan on bringing their own charcoal and lighter fluid - as well as their own food to grill.

The Thompsons will provide a deli sandwich platter, drinks and paper goods. Connie will coordinate this potluck – please tell her what you plan to bring.

For those who wish to stay for the band concert, it would be a good idea to bring folding chairs.

Bug spray and suntan lotion are also advised.

In the event of inclement weather, our pot luck meal will be held at the meetinghouse as usual.

## ***Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: June 7, 2009***

**2009-39: Opening Minute** Smithfield Monthly Meeting met for a regularly scheduled meeting for worship with attention to business at 12:15PM on June 7, 2009. Glenda Byhouwer served as clerk, Connie Bair-Thompson as recording clerk, and there were nine other Friends present.

**2009-40: Nominating Committee** For Nominating Committee, Connie Bair-Thompson told us the committee recommends Tamara Ruprecht to be our Treasurer, Cindy Keene to join the Finance Committee and Pieter Byhouwer to be our representative to Quarterly Meeting. Friends approve these nominations.

**2009-41: Care of the Meeting's Funds** Friends approve the following authorities for the care of the Meeting's funds, effective immediately:

*Tamara Ruprecht, Treasurer, is authorized to open and close bank accounts and investment accounts in the name of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends as needed.*

*Tamara Ruprecht, Treasurer, Kathleen Malin and Rhoda Mowry, of the Finance Committee, are named as alternate signers, individually, of all accounts of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends; except that any withdrawals in excess of \$5,000 from any bank account or investment account of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, must have the signature of two of the three authorized signers*

**2009-42: Finance Committee report – workman's compensation** For Finance Committee, Tami Ruprecht told us that Marnie Miller-Gutsell and Marcel St. Germain have signed workman's compensation waivers indicating that they waive the right to be insured by workman's compensation insurance. Because of this, we have cancelled our workman's compensation coverage. Friends express our gratitude to Marnie and Marcel for being willing to do this. Because of concerns about how this action will affect the meeting financially and ethically in the event of an accident, Friends ask the Finance Committee to look into this again and report back to us in a called meeting for business this summer.

**2009-43: Finance Committee report – total compensation package for employees** For Finance Committee, Tami Ruprecht told us the committee is putting together numbers indicating the value of the total compensation package we extend to each of our employees.

**2009-44: Spending freeze** Because of our tenuous financial situation, Tami Ruprecht suggested we freeze spending money on meeting improvement projects until the end of the year, unless those expenses are approved at a meeting for worship with attention to business. Friends approve and wish to distinguish between major meeting projects and everyday expenses relating to the normal functioning of the meeting (cleaning supplies, for example) which would continue.

**2009-45: Ministry and Counsel Committee Report – State of Society Report for 2008** For Ministry and Counsel Committee, Rhoda Mowry read the following State of Society Report for 2008. Friends approve this report.

### *State of Society 2008*

#### *Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends*

*The year 2008 was a long and difficult year. At times, it felt like we were in a rambling river, going slowly down stream. At others times we were speeding up and the large rocks along the shore line loomed ahead. With God's help somehow we did not crash. There is a strong feeling that God is working among us.*

**2009-46: Library Committee Report** For Library Committee, Ann de Nevers told us they want to make us aware of the many wonderful books we have and that they are hard at work cataloguing our older written treasures. Because of the number of books in our possession, the committee has decided to only concentrate on books published prior to 1900 for now. Ann said the committee hopes to create a storage space for books in the far room upstairs and ask Friends to refrain from going in the room for the moment until their work is complete. They also ask us to let someone from the Library Committee know when they wish to take a book home. Friends agree to these restrictions.

**2009- 47: Building and Grounds Committee Report** For Building and Grounds Committee, Ron Belliveau distributed the following accounting of the various projects the committee is working on. Friends thank the committee for their work.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Plans</b>
Dehumidifier for basement	Purchase in June	Pricing and specs for unit for submittal
Install point of use hot water heater	Pending	Ron to plan installation
New flooring in the meetinghouse. Floating floor or carpet or both.	Pending	Pricing and options for discussions
Repair circuit break in receptacles/lights behind riser in meeting room	Pending	Ron to inspect wiring
Address slow water pressure in basement	Pending	On hold. Water pressure seems to be ok.
Replace flooring at bottom of stairs and surrounding area in basement	Pending	
Provide handicap access to basement with railing and fencing	Pending	Construction plans needed. Dan Keene to advise
Repair broken window pane – window in meeting room closest to library	Pending	Marcel St. Germain to be assigned this job.
Illuminated Exit signs. Electric or Battery	Pending	Locate materials and installation costs
New Meetinghouse sign to be installed	Pending	Pricing and installation options
Lower rear entrance door to swing out	Pending	Pricing for materials and labor
Paint floor in boiler room and bathroom (lower)	Pending	To be assigned and scheduled

**2009-48: Closing Minute** No further business arising, Friends closed with a period of waiting worship, intending to meet again for business on September 13, 2009, God willing.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Constance Bair-Thompson*

Recording Clerk



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