

**Annual Report of  
Ministry and Worship Committee  
October 2010 - October 2011**

The Ministry and Worship Committee is concerned with nurturing the Meeting for Worship (including Meetings for Worship for the Conduct of Business), and with the larger spiritual state of the Meeting. It undertakes these responsibilities in part through its oversight of the weekly Meeting for Worship, providing a Head of Meeting to greet Friends, breaking Meeting, and making announcements.

The committee's responsibility for nurturing the spiritual life of the Meeting and its members is reflected as well in the preparation of the Spiritual State of the Meeting report which, once approved, is forwarded annually to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. This year material for the report was gathered through discussions among Friends at two monthly potlucks, queries considered by committees, and a discussion at the monthly coordinating gathering. The report was accepted by Meeting for Business on April 3, 2011, and transmitted to BYM on April 4, along with the report for the previous year.

In the past year, M&W oversaw three memorial meetings for worship for departed Friends. The memorial for Edward Holmes was held on January 8 at the Ingleside Retirement Community. On March 26, Friends celebrated the life of member Nancy Chevalier and her husband Doug at a memorial worship held at the Meetinghouse; and on June 11 a memorial meeting was held for Melva Hiatt at the chapel at Asbury Village Retirement Community. For each of these beloved Friends, M&W was responsible for the preparation of memorial minutes which were read at the memorial worships and later at Meeting for Business.

Working with the Marriage Oversight Committee, M&W is planning for the wedding of Sharon Cantor and Michael Ceurvorst which is scheduled to open on Dec 17 at BFM and to close on January 6 in Hawaii.

During the year M&W worked with other committees, including planning, with Adult Religious Education, a series of discussions this fall on the testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship (sometimes collectively referred to by the acronym SPICES); and offering, with ARE, an introduction on Sept. 25 to the series in a discussion on "What is a Testimony?" In conjunction with Religious Education, the committee worked to better integrate our youth into the larger meeting by identifying children and youth to read the queries on some First Days. It also revisited with RE the perennial question of the best time for children to be in Meeting for Worship and has settled for the moment on having them in worship for a short period at the beginning of Meeting before they depart for the First Day School program.

To ensure a sense of welcome to all who come on First Days, the committee decided this year that the door to the meeting room should be open during worship. To help assure connection among those who gather at 9:30 a.m. on First Day, the committee is undertaking to have a member of the committee present for one early Meeting for Worship each month and to share the query for the month with those in attendance.

Members of M&W have worked to deepen their own spiritual lives by reading together William Taber's Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Four Doors to Worship*, and discussing it over several months as part of the committee's meeting.

*Submitted to the Oct. 2, 2011, Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of business*