

# Minutes of EPF of Ithaca Area Meeting October 2, 2014

*Attendees:* Blythe and Frank Baldwin, Linda Gaither, John Jackson, Nancy and Ed Siemon

*Opening Prayer:* John Jackson

*Reports:*

1. **Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network:**

- Nancy reported that she attended the September IPJN meeting and that a speaker event is being planned. The speaker will be a former inmate who was in solitary confinement.
- It was suggested that at the next meeting our group write letters about the HALT, the NYS proposed law that limits the use of solitary confinement.
- Linda suggested stories for newsletters from prisoners about their confinement as a powerful tool to educate our parishioners.
- It was also suggested that we and parishioners might want to write cards and letters to prison inmates. Discussion followed about how to do this and protect the writers' anonymity. Frank will check out the possibility of a post office box. We also discussed having the EPF office (Shannon's office) in Pennsylvania as a return address.
- John said that writing letters to prisoners should be considered a long term commitment rather than a one shot activity.

2. **Letters:** Frank and Blythe suggested that we write letters at each EPF meeting to address issues, such as the HALT bill. Frank will bring information to the meeting giving the facts about an issue and a model letter that we can use to help us write our own letter. This would be a short activity, perhaps at the beginning of each meeting.

3. **Hunger/Bread for the World:** John showed a short video from the Bread for the World website. Money is the common thread that dominates issues and dealing with issues. Bulletin inserts are available from Bread for the World website. John will email the links.

4. **Palestine/Israel:** Frank and Linda attended a meeting of a new group focusing on Palestine/Israel BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions) movement. Many groups were represented including Jewish Voices for Peace. Boycott of Hewlett Packard was encouraged.

5. **Diocesan Convention** is coming up in November and EPF will have a booth. Let's get some materials together for the display.

*Closing prayer:* John

Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 6, 2014 - 3:45- 5:15

Autumn Leaves, Crow's Nest Café

Following meeting: dinner at Loaves and Fishes for those who are able.