

**NEYM Christian Education Committee  
and Kathryn Cranford  
January 15-17, 2010**

**a retreat for families**

# **BIRDS, BEES, AND QUAKERISM, PLEASE**

What are the connections between spirituality, the human body, and sexuality? How can we share these deep interconnections with our children? Children have a beautiful and natural curiosity about their bodies and ask questions in such open ways. Are we prepared to meet their queries with confident answers, or at least with compassion and the willingness to learn with them that which we do not yet know how to teach? How does our Quaker faith lead us to interpret sexuality, from the earliest sense of self through to the curiosity of the teen years? We are led to ask the deeper questions as to when and how love is expressed in authentic, caring, thoughtful, responsible ways at different age levels, and among many kinds of people, including those of different sexual orientations.

Join us in a rare opportunity to come together with other Quaker parents to learn more about how to gracefully address these aspects of development and relationships, and to talk openly about values and safety that is not fear-based. We will spend some time together with our children engaging in connecting games and activities, and some time with our parenting peers, in deep discussion and discernment about these important topics. Children will have their own separate program of indoor art and outdoor projects, and we will all join together for some family fun.

***Kathryn Cranford** is a naturopathic doctor and midwife. With a focus on holistic women's health and pediatrics, teaching safe and healthy attitudes about sexuality, pregnancy and birth constitutes an integral piece of her practice with people of all ages. Kathryn and her husband are busy parenting their 3 year old daughter, and attend North Sandwich Friends Meeting.*

*This retreat is co-sponsored by New England Yearly Meeting's Christian Education Committee, with help from Christian Education Coordinator Beth Collea.*



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