

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting - www.friendshipmeeting.org

Calendar

Sun, Oct 29	9 am Extended Meeting for Worship begins 10:30 am Meeting for Worship Forum at rise of meeting
Sun, Nov. 5	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship 12:45 Forum on Fundraising
Sun, Nov 12	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Nov 19	10:30 am Meeting for Worship Forum by Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Mon, Nov 21	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Nov 26	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Dec 3	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship at 10:30 am each First Day. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings.

Our Children's Birthdays

Holland, Claire	11/3/04
Yvar Getties	11/23/08

Weekly events

Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse

Midweek Meeting for Worship, on Wednesday at 7 pm, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford

Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday

Men's group meets at 6:30 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1st and 3rd Thursday

From the Editor

I will be visiting grandchildren and children when I usually publish the next newsletter. I would therefore like to publish the December newsletter early on Tuesday Nov 22. Thus material for that newsletter should be submitted by email, no later than Monday, Nov 21.

Month's Query

Query #11 *Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?*

Minutes

2017-100. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting on the afternoon of Tenth Month 8, 2017, at the meeting house. The meeting opened near the appointed hour with a period of waiting worship.

Response to the Ninth Query: As a corporate body we avoid having alcohol at any meeting sponsored functions and we do not allow the use of tobacco on our property. We believe this is in a spirit of having gatherings which are a safe place for people who may have substance addictions, and is a witness against overindulgence. We recognize the discretion and the right of individuals in the meeting to consume alcohol or use tobacco as they deem appropriate in their private lives. We hope and believe our members avoid places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing. Discerning proper investment instruments, or even appropriate financial institutions, is difficult. Nevertheless, we seek to have our financial investments kept by institutions that are, as far as we can tell, morally sound and not prone to speculative practices. We are aware that our culture has diverse and widespread temptations to grow richer at the expense of others. Recognizing we are often complicit in the very practices we would condemn, we are careful to discern what is our best way forward. The taking of oaths is easily avoided since the laws of the land allow us to 'affirm' rather than swear. The practice of a single standard of truth at all times, which underlies our refusal to take oaths, is more challenging. This practice helps us to have our word be a matter of 'yes' or 'no' without swearing in legal situations. We strive to recognize the importance of integrity and its maintenance in daily practice. We seek to avoid complacency and to follow God's leadings more closely in all these areas.

2017-103. Tenth Query. The meeting gave first consideration to the Tenth Query. Initial draft wording for a response was shared, eliciting the following reflections:

Initial Draft: We are in unity in a common concern to live in harmony with nature and stewardship toward the health of our planet and all those who inhabit it. It is an ongoing concern in our community. As a meeting, our deeds of love for all creation are expressed in our intentions to live simply, purchase eco-friendly products, recycle, and compost at shared meals. In our planning for our new meeting room and development of our property, our intention is to be aware of our ecological footprint. In our worship and committee work we seek deep listening for the Living Spirit of Christ among us through individual and corporate leadings, listening for ways to respond to nature and all of God's living beings through love and caring hearts.

Reflections:

- Considering our impact on creation is not an afterthought, but part of our initial discernment on any issue.
- There is no division between ourselves and the rest of creation - we are an integral part of all that is.
- Reversing human damage to creation is the single greatest challenge we face at the present time. It is difficult to see how we can overcome it by human means alone. We trust that, if we are faithful in the tasks God gives us to do individually and as a meeting that the outcome will be in God's loving hands.

Friends agreed to ask the recording clerk to draft a revised response, incorporating these reflections, to be considered at the next meeting for business.

2017-104. Letter for Deborah Shaw. The clerk read a letter written for Deborah Shaw, and the reply from West Richmond Friends Meeting of the New Association of Friends in Indiana.

2017-105. Care and Counsel Committee. Dave MacInnes reported that the Care & Counsel Committee is continuing its discernment about the membership request from Nancy Green. Her clearness committee consists of Dave MacInnes, Darlene Stanley, Judy Reece, and Rachel Knight.

Annual Report of the Religious Education Committee

Committee members: Anne Morris (clerk), Kembra Howdeshell, Sheri Grace, Hanna Passmore-Hobson, Elizabeth Judson-Rea, and Ash-Leigh Brown (beginning August 2017).

The Religious Education Committee has focused its efforts on coordinating childcare for meeting activities and organizing First Day School Activities for the children. In Fall/Winter 2016-17, we used a curriculum developed by Philadelphia Monthly Meeting that focused on aspects of being part of a Quaker community. Thank you to Judy Reece for assembling the books and craft materials for each lesson. Beginning Fall 2017, we are using a curriculum developed by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for their Centennial celebration. The first part of the curriculum focuses on AFSC's key issues: Peace Building, Just Economies, Immigrant Rights, Ending Discrimination, and Addressing Prisons. We

welcomed FFM member Mel Zuck to First Day School on September 10, to talk about his life and career with AFSC. He did a lot of work with young people during his time with AFSC and the children were impressed that he met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We look forward to bringing in other guests throughout the year.

The Religious Education Committee has facilitated the participation of the children in the life of the meeting. The children continued to lead Meeting for Worship on 5th Sundays, with younger children helping to greet, and older children closing meeting and making weekly announcements. The older children helped prepare for the Fundraising Committee's All Meeting Yard Sale on November 12, 2016 by helping to inventory the donated items prior to the sale as well as some assistance during the sale. In June 2017, the older children planned an ice cream social at the rise of meeting on June 4 as a fundraiser to donate to World Wildlife Fund, a charity supporting endangered animals. The children presented a short slideshow presentation at the rise of meeting outlining their concerns for endangered species brought on by climate change and urban development. The children and their families, and members of the Religious Education Committee provided a light lunch and ice cream with multiple toppings.

Finally, Religious Education Committee has coordinated 2 childcare providers for each First Day to make sure that our youngest friends have the attention they need.

We have been very fortunate to have great childcare support from several nurturing Guilford College students. Our childcare providers this year have included: Emma

Moreno (graduated June 2016), Hayley Lowry, and Sophia Perlmutter. There have also been several substitute childcare providers from Guilford College, who have stepped in when Emma Moreno, Hayley Lowry or Sophia were not available.

Treasurer's Report: Ninth Month

Income in September 2017 totaled \$8,778.07 with \$778.05 to the General Fund and \$7,950.02 to the New Building Fund, and \$50.00 to the Special Uses Fund.

Expenses in September 2017 totaled \$907.56. General Fund expenses totaled \$407.56 which included: Operating Expenses of \$185.98 primarily for Religious Education; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$221.58 primarily for utilities. Special Uses Fund expenses were \$500 to Quaker Voluntary Services in support of Walid Mosarsaa's service.

Report from the Ad Hoc Telephone committee

From August monthly meeting the following was minuted

"Friends accepted this report and asked the Ad Hoc Telephone Committee to do more research on the details of the recommended transition. Two specific concerns were whether the meeting would be able to keep its current telephone number, and that we can be confident of telephone access in case of emergency."

More research has been done and we found that while we could pick from a list of telephone numbers we could not keep our current number. Google Voice says you can only keep your same number for a fee of \$20 if your current phone is serviced by a regular cell phone company or land line phone. Internet phones are specifically excluded. Our phone is through Spectrum and is an internet phone. We

do have a number of places where our current phone is listed such as in the Friends Journal and on other Quaker organizations. It would take a bit of work to change our number but could be done.

The request that we can be confident of telephone access in case of emergency can be best addressed by an idea discussed in our committee. Namely we place someone's old cell phone on a charger in the library. Every cell phone has to be able to call 911, even if it is not on a current plan. We don't worry about it being stolen as it won't work and really we anticipate that during an emergency someone with a cell phone will use theirs to call 911.

The committee still is in agreement that we drop our internet phone service and go with Google Voice. It is not only free but offers a host of very useful features, particularly voice mail which would come directly to the Clerk's phone.

The meeting approved replacing our current telephone service with a basic cell phone on a low-cost contract, with the expectation that this would enable the meeting to keep its current phone number while significantly reducing our telephone expense.

Fundraising Committee Report

Members: Jim Hood, Kembra Howdeshell (convener), David Brown, Mel Zuck, Cyril Harvey, and Jim Fernandes

1. Pledges and payments paid on pledges through September 30, 2017:
 - a. Pledges made:

\$155,520.00
 - b. Payments paid on pledges:

\$ 98,392.00 (63%)
 - c. Outstanding pledges:

\$ 57,128.00 (37%)

2. Progress toward the \$150,000 Matching Gift Campaign (as of September 30, 2017):
 - a. Pledges made (MGC):
\$16,500.00
 - b. Total donations (with Yard Sale)
\$48,975.03 (33%)
 - c. Total pledges + donations
\$65,475.03 (44%)
 - d. Gifts/new pledges needed to reach:
\$84,524.97 (56%)
3. The Fundraising Committee is planning a light meal and forum at the rise of meeting on November 5, 2017 to update the meeting on Fundraising Committee activities. The forum will also briefly review the details of the final report from the architects on the new meeting room and the current activities of the building committee.
4. The committee has been pursuing the possibility of applying to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) for a grant from its Quaker Buildings & Programs Granting Groups. PYM has advised us that the Charleston Fund—whose history harkens back to the beginning of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative—is the only one for which we would qualify. Grants from this fund with a rather small annual income generally range from \$2,000-\$4,000. The next application deadline is February 1, 2018. If we do receive a grant, the funds would be distributed after construction of the new meeting space is at least half complete and we have submitted documentation to that effect. One of the supporting documents required to accompany the grant application is a minute from our Meeting approving our application to the Charleston Fund. The committee is in unity in recommending the Meeting approve such a minute.

5. ACTION ITEM: The Fundraising Committee is requesting a minute from the Meeting approving our application to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Charleston Fund for new meeting room construction.

The meeting approved submitting an application to the Charleston Fund administered by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for financial help toward our new building project.

2017-110. Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts and minds being generally clear, the meeting was adjourned. Friends proposed to meet again at the appointed time in Eleventh Month, if consistent with divine will.

Clerks' Corner

A newsletter feature where every month or so something will be submitted from our clerks for the benefit of our members' continuing education on Quaker history, thoughts and practices.

Reading: Queries for Speaking to Business: from Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches by Mathilda Navias page 206.

- Have I truly listened and heard and understood before I respond?
- Are my comments furthering the business or taking the group off-task?
- Am I speaking in humility?
- Have I already spoken to this issue and need to leave space for others to speak?
- Am I actively listening and avoiding side comments to the person next to me?
- Are my comments Spirit-led, or am I just meandering about something of interest to me?

Upcoming Forums

10th Month 29: after meeting for worship, all are invited to stay for a quick lunch, supplied by Worship and Ministry, and to share the ministry of Paulette Meier, who is visiting in the area.

Paulette Meier is a Cincinnati based singer/songwriter, who has opened hearts and raised awareness for over 25 years in the movement for peace and justice. As a peace educator in schools, she produced an award-winning CD of original songs entitled: *Come Join the Circle: LessonSongs for Peacemaking*, which continues to be used in classrooms throughout the country. In 2004, she received the Minnie Jane Artist in Residence Scholarship Award, allowing her to live and study at the Quaker retreat center, Pendle Hill, for nine months, where her appreciation for Quaker history and spirituality was nourished and deepened. From there, while sojourning among Friends in the Philadelphia area, she began a practice of setting selected passages of 17th century Friends' writings to chant-like song in order to internalize the inspiring messages. In 2010, she co-released with Quaker Press a recording of the resulting collection, titled *Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong*. In January of this year, Paulette released a new CD with her Cincinnati based group, Just Earth. The CD features her original songs and those of fellow Quaker band member, Jamie Fota, all calling for peace and justice on this one and only planet Earth. Paulette is a member of Community Friends Meeting in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. More information: <http://www.paulettemeier.com/meet-artist.html>

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More forums

11th Month 5

A forum to discuss fundraising for the new meeting room. At the rise of Meeting, light lunch and Childcare provided

11th Month 19

Sponsored by Peace and Social Concerns Committee

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Susan Carlyle, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Membership/Statistics
Recorder

Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
Miriam Biber-Peterson Assistant
Membership Recorder:
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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