

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

January 2016



65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067  
YardleyFriendsMeeting.org  
Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00  
First Day School 10:15–11:00  
Linda Jacobs, Clerk  
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

## A note from your newsletter editor

If you have info for the next newsletter, please e-mail me at [mrp.ed@verizon.net](mailto:mrp.ed@verizon.net). Thanks for your patience as I learn to manipulate text boxes, etc. (you may hear me muttering "I hate Word" on occasion), and feel free to write with suggestions for improvements. Ed Snyder

## **Cancer Treatment Support Group**

Yardley Friends Meeting is now hosting a Cancer Treatment Support Group (CTST). The CTSG will meet Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Social Room of the meetinghouse.

This group welcomes caregivers (physical as well as spiritual), clinicians, family members, medical educators, as well as patients who are either currently undergoing treatment or those whose cancer is in remission. Our philosophy is that shared experience from multiple perspectives nearly always proves beneficial to all.

For more information, contact Terry M. Christensen, Ph.D.:

## **Adult Education - approx. 11:30 following Elevenses**

January 17 - Can an Atheist be a Quaker (or vice versa)?  
January 24 - To Be Determined/stay tuned  
January 31 - Deeper discussion of the First Query, Meeting for Worship

Worship and Ministry welcomes your ideas for Adult Education. Contact Ed Snyder at [mrp.ed@verizon.net](mailto:mrp.ed@verizon.net).

## YFM Coming Events

### January 3

Committee meetings following MFW

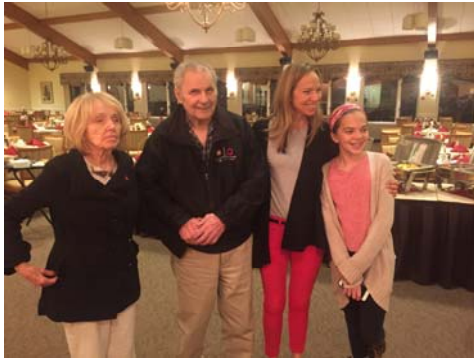
### January 10

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business following MFW

## Photos from the Pennswood Holiday Dinner, December 2015



More photos from the Pennswood Holiday Dinner, December 2015



and Carol Cadwallader's 101st birthday!



**Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar  
inspiration for the month ...**

The grand essentials of happiness are:  
something to do, something to love, and  
something to hope for.~~ Allan K.  
Chalmers~~

**\*\*Hard copies of the 2016 calendar are  
available in the Meetinghouse.\*\***

**Visit our website**

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/> has lots of interesting stuff! There's a calendar, more info on upcoming events, copies of old newsletters and Quakerphenalia, pictures, and more. And if you have ideas to improve or add to it, let me know (yeah that's me too). Ed Snyder

***Around the Quarter***

For events happening in other Meetings in our Quarter, I (somewhat lazily) refer you to the current month's **Quakerphenalia** - available on our website here: <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/news/>

**MIDWEEK WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

Tuesdays at Southampton 7:30 PM  
Wednesdays at Lehigh Valley 5:00 PM  
Wednesdays at Makefield 7:00 AM  
Thursdays at Middletown 7:00 PM

## Children's Religious Education update

### 2015 CHRISTMAS PLAY: How the Grinch Stole Christmas

On Dec 20<sup>th</sup> the First Day School children and Middle School and Up Friends put on the annual Christmas play. We had all 15 of our FDS kids participate that day. The best part for the young ones who played Who's in Whoville was they got to come to meeting dressed in their PJ's since they are sleeping in the play when the Grinch steals their Christmas trees, presents and food! But no matter what the Grinch did he wasn't really able to stop Christmas from coming. **"It came without ribbons, it came without tags, It came without packages, boxes or bags!"** The Who's celebrated Christmas just as joyously without all the trappings and the Grinch realized that Christmas means just a little bit more...the religious education committee hopes that in the holiday hustle this year there was time for you to remember that Christmas does mean just a little bit more!

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### CALLING ALL QUAKER HISTORIANS...

We need your help. We do a lot of learning in First Day School but we also want the kids to have some fun too. It's even better if we can do both at the same time. There is this game young kids play called "Would you Rather" ... it is a favorite, especially for young boys who can easily put in a gross factor. Here is an example:

Would you rather have to SWIM in a pool that is filled with worms - or - Would you rather EAT a worm? Pretty icky, but that is what is so fun about it for the kids. So I have created a Bible Would You Rather Game that we can play which is fun but also helps us to review characters and stories from the Bible while having fun. Here is an example:

Would you rather spend three days in the belly of a whale like Jonah - or - be thrown into the lion's den like Daniel?  
Would you rather have to eat pig slop for one day like the prodigal son - or - have to eat only manna for 40 years like the Israelites did in the desert?

So here is where you all come in – There are really no Quaker based religious education games out there, so we have to create one of our own. I need some folks who know some good, juicy Quaker Stories to email me with the name of the Quaker and a brief outline of the situation they faced so that we can put it into a **Quaker** "Would You Rather" game. So put on your thinking caps and come up with some Quaker figures and difficult situations they faced so that we can come up with an awesome game/learning tool for our First Day School students. You can email me at [nancyscheible@comcast.net](mailto:nancyscheible@comcast.net) or send your info over the google group with the subject Quaker Would You Rather – your ideas might trigger ideas for other YFM members that may give us even more material to work with.

## CLERK'S CORNER

January 2016

From time to time over the years, I've heard or been part of conversations about whether you need to believe in God to be Quaker. I just read a book with research on this that I think was very well stated. The book is "Beyond Majority Rule" by Michael Sheeran. (A gift from Terry for taking over as clerk and a book I'd recommend to everyone.)

The author is a Jesuit Priest who did research for his doctorate on Quaker decision making. Michael Sheeran states in his findings that there are three types of Quakers. They are Universalist, Christocentric, and Socially Active.

The majority of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting appeared to be Universalist Quakers at the time this book was written. There are two subgroups of Universalist Quakers. The first believe in some "Other" beyond man's life. To them Jesus was a great man, but not God. The second subtype is Humanists. Humanists believe each individual is obeying his or her best self or obeying a higher standard which the group finds rather than creates.

Christocentric Quakers believe, like most American Protestants, that the historical Jesus was in some way the Son of God, that the Gospels express his teaching, and that he is active in our world today as its Lord. For these Quakers the Spirit of Jesus, the Inner Light is found in this and present revelation.

Socially active Quakers feel "Worship" is more in service than in the Meetinghouse and that justice is more important than beliefs.

Where do you fit in? Where do others in the Meeting fit in? Do you know? Does it matter?

My guess is that Quakers are first individuals and then a community. We all have a lot in common. We do believe in simplicity, peace (inward/outward), integrity, community, equality, and stewardship and the Light Within. Whichever of these categories describe us best; we all have a caring, meaningful life together as part of the Meeting.

Linda Jacobs

*(Editor's note - this topic happens to be the subject of our Jan 17 Adult Ed discussion.)*

## Queries for the First Month

# Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

*Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*

*Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?*

*Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?*

**NOTE: As an experiment, this month's query will be read on the first First Day and second First Day, then we will start reading the queries in sections, each First Day, to better contemplate them in pieces.**

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