

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

February 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. Cut-off is the 25th of each month. Feel free to write with suggestions for improvements. Ed Snyder

Adult Education - approx. 11:30 following Elevenses

Worship and Ministry welcomes your ideas for Adult Education. Contact Ed Snyder at mrp.ed@verizon.net.

Thoughts expressed at the 1/17 discussion on Quaker Atheists/Atheist Quakers:

- Most of those in attendance reject the idea of the "God" of a white robe and beard. The word "God" itself is tainted with the baggage of past religious teachings. The Quaker phrase "that of God" is more expressive of a belief in an uncertain yet real spirit.
- Most also reject the idea of a God influencing events (calling the shots).
- Individual Quakers may lie at different places on a spectrum of beliefs, and it's ok!
- God or That of God for some of us is a belief in a unifying force linking us, like the Asian concept of *chi*.
- George Fox was influenced by Seekers, among them Gerrard Winstanley, who believed the Bible should be seen as a metaphor and not to be taken literally.
- It's likely that a traditional religion listening in on our discussion would perceive us as atheists.
- Maybe it's enough to be grateful and appreciate this beautiful, complex world...

February 7

Committee meetings following MFW

February 14

Men's Group 8:30 am.

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business following MFW

Thursday evenings 7 pm

Cancer Treatment Support Group.

For more information, contact

Terry M. Christensen, Ph.D.:

phys.hist@gmail.com,

215-944-8004

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

Human happiness and moral duty
are inseparably connected.

George Washington

**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

QUAKERISM IN A NUTSHELL

Informational Workshop on Quakerism
This workshop is for Friends, attenders and seekers to explore the life of Quakerism and being Quaker today. Come to this exciting workshop led by Melanie Douty Snipes. Join us on Saturday April 30th, from 10am to 2pm. The location has YTD. Lunch is provided. To register and for more information, contact Holly Olson 215-453-7358 or hollybQc@verizon.net
The workshop is free though donations will be greatly appreciated.
Registration is necessary for planning lunch.

Quarterly Meeting at Buckingham Feb 21
5684 York Rd, Lahaska 9:45 am - 3 pm

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

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

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting news and events

Continuing Sessions - Saturday, March 19, 2016, Arch Street Meeting House

Continuing Sessions is an extension of the best parts of our residential Annual Sessions packed into a day-long event. We'll begin and end in worship, we'll help define the mission and priorities of our yearly meeting, and we'll have fun as we seek spiritual deepening. There will be programs for adults and for High School, Middle School, and Elementary School-age youth. Further information about schedule, programs, hospitality, and cost will be available very soon.
Check our site, www.pym.org/continuing-sessions, for details as they become available.

Extended Meeting for Worship - Saturday, March 5, Swarthmore Meeting

You are invited to experience Extended Worship. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. Remember to bring your lunch. All are welcome.
Details: www.pym.org/calendar/events/2016-extended-meeting-for-worship-at-swarthmore-meeting
Lola Georg, lolageorg@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities

Community Engagement Fellow - Interim Middle School Friends Coordinator - Office Assistant (Part-Time) - On-Call Child Care Assistants
For more info, visit <http://www.pym.org/employment/home/opportunities/>

**A quote from "Living the Quaker
Way" by Phillip Gulley**

Any religion with a regard for truth must resist every effort to bring its search for truth to an end. This includes the formation of creeds, which by their nature are presented as conclusive and indisputable. It includes authoritative statements made by church officials that are intended to stifle and silence discussion. It includes the elevation of any single book as the inviolate and inerrant Word of God, which is nothing but an effort to freeze the status quo and prevent the expansion of human equality, diversity, dignity, and growth. Any religion whose goal is truth must recognize the vast difference between what we know so far and ultimate reality, and try never to confuse the two.

CLERK'S CORNER

By Linda S. Jacobs

Before becoming clerk, I attended Arthur Larrabee's Clerks Workshop. While clerk, Terry Christensen suggested that the Meeting send committee clerks besides the rising clerk. Sharing the experience with Christine Briedenbach (Worship and Ministry) and Nancy Scheible (Religious Education) made it even more helpful and meaningful. A lot of what we learn is centered on the Sense of the Meeting. I'd like to summarize Sense of the Meeting. It is something that not just clerks should know!

SENSE OF THE MEETING
(How Quakers make decisions)

A part of Quakerism that is heard of but not always understood is the way Quakers make decisions. Often people think that Quaker decisions are made by consensus. With consensus everyone must agree. Quakers make decisions by unity or Sense of the Meeting.

The participants of Meeting for Business discuss a matter and listen deeply for a sense of spiritual unity. When the clerk feels that unity has been reached, it is called the "Sense of the Meeting." If those present agree with the clerk's expression of that sense, then the decision is recorded in the minutes.

Sometimes a member of the group will make a suggestion for its improvement, so as to better reflect how the spirit/Spirit has been present within the group.

Sense of the Meeting is a shared awareness of what is right for the group, even though it may not be the first thought or final preference of any one individual.

It is important to take everyone into account and be respectful of all present. A member of the group has a responsibility to share his or her truth, but also to release it. Everyone should listen for the truth of others, trusting in the light of each person. Each member of the group has a responsibility to work toward a Sense of the Meeting and to unite with what emerges as long as it is possible to do so with integrity.

Sense of the Meeting is an awareness of how the spirit/Spirit has moved among us. When we have come to a shared awareness, we are in unity. Unity doesn't have to mean that everyone agrees. In Friends' practice unity refers to a sense of oneness and harmony, and not an identity of views. It is not necessary to be in complete accord for the meeting to be in unity. It may be useful to keep in mind we are seeking unity about a Sense of the Meeting, not the matter at hand. A Sense of the Meeting may or may not contain a decision.

What is the spirit of this practice that makes it so special? My thought is that we go into Meeting for Business with an open mind. We need to really listen to all who share their opinion and realize something better than we ever imagined may come out of the meeting.

Queries for the Second Month

Meeting for Business

Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?

Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?

Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?

How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity? If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?

Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?

NOTE: As an experiment, we read the queries in sections, each First Day, to better contemplate them in pieces.

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