

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

March 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

CLERK'S CORNER

By Linda S. Jacobs

CONTINUING REVELATION

I think of *life* like a river. Every second it is flowing and new things come together. For no two seconds is everything alike. So when I started reading about Quakerism and of continuing revelation, it was one of the many beliefs that touched me.

I looked online for information about Quakers and continuing revelation. My Google search brought me first to Mormons, Pentecostals and Charismatics. These talk of outward communication by methods like visions, visitation by divine beings and speaking in tongues. To these religions, continuing revelation works to explain and remind of the written word. The Bible is the true word. Next, I added Quaker to the keywords and found a slightly different twist to the meaning.

In Quakerism, continuing revelation comes from the light within. The inner light provides illumination and guidance continually. We believe new truth is revealed to us as we continue our spiritual journey individually and with one another. The inner light is associated to Christ with many Friends, but not all.

Continuing revelation is a core concept of Quakerism. The idea is that god/God continues to speak to us in the present and wasn't only manifest to us in scriptural times. It encourages active attention to what is sacred in our day to day lives. Continuing revelation encourages an active search for truth and deeper understanding.

Because Friends believe revelation is ongoing, they have no set creed or dogmas. Early Friends listened to the Inner light and endeavored to live accordingly. From this, Quaker testimonies, a common set of beliefs, gradually emerged. As a philosophical system the Testimonies are coherent, either within or outside of Christianity.

Continuing revelation acknowledges that our understanding is incomplete. This belief calls us to a life of ongoing discovery and discernment. It gives us the courage to be changed and act on our evolving understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

March 6

Committee meetings following MFW

March 13

Men's Group 8:30 am.

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business following MFW

March 20 and 27

Adult Education - approx. 11:30 following Elevenses (topics to be announced)

Thursday evenings 7 pm

Cancer Treatment Support Group.
For more information, contact Terry M. Christensen, Ph.D.:
phys.hist@gmail.com,
215-944-8004

Around the Quarter

QUAKERISM IN A NUTSHELL

Informational Workshop on Quakerism
Saturday April 30, 10am to 2pm, Makefield Meeting

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. 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.

Bucks Food For Friends

Mar 21 6pm - Fallsington Meetinghouse

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/>

One Book, One Yearly Meeting

Every year, our whole yearly meeting chooses one book to read together. To anchor our spiritual journeys in shared ground, we choose this tool as one of many for deepening our faith and witness. 2016 book selection: [brown girl dreaming](#), by Jacqueline Woodson.

Yardley Friends Meeting communications

Google group - Announcements and much more are done through the Google group. If you have a Google account, look us up and ask to join...or take the easy way out and give me your email address and I'll add you directly. Ed Snyder - mrp.ed@verizon.net.

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).

Facebook - We have a Facebook page but it isn't used much...please "like" us on Facebook and post pictures!

Friday pasta night

Young Friends 6th grade and up meet for pasta a fellowship the first Friday of each month, 5 PM to 9 PM, hosted by Chris and Karen Lucca. For more info, contact Jen Sparks (wahookie@verizon.net).

Here's a picture from the February dinner - thanks Ken Blackwell for being a friendly presence and taking the picture!



Snow is nice...but think spring!

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

By love, the bitter becomes sweet,
By love, copper becomes gold,
By love, dregs become clear,
By love, pain becomes healing.

by Jalal ad-Din Rumi (1207-1273)

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

Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?

How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth?

Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?
- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?

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

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. **If you are reading a hard copy and don't mind having it e-mailed, please let me know and we can save some paper and postage.** Ed Snyder