

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

June 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

This month at YFM

June 5

First Day School/Intergenerational Picnic following Meeting for Worship. All are welcome!

June 12

Meeting for Business

June 16

Mass Incarceration Workshop, 5-7 PM

June 25

Farewell party for Kellie Schlus-Edens and family, 6 PM - 9 PM. Contact Clare Eggers for more info and to RSVP (at Clare's).

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

May this fellowship grow and become a Beloved Community in many lands and of many languages and peoples, joined together in that Spirit and Life which was before the world was.

Rufus Jones

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

Around the Quarter

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/>

Work Day, April 30. Thanks to all who helped and sorry if I missed you for pictures!



Simple gifts

If you stayed for our short meeting on Sunday, May 22 or surmised by my email, we have agreed to host a couple of days featuring music of Simple Gifts. They play folk music of many countries using a variety of rare instruments. Their performance reaches people of all ages. We plan to have two events at our Meetinghouse and share two elsewhere with others in the community. Hopefully we will all be there! This will also be an opportunity to invite the larger community to come to Yardley Friends Meeting. Stay tuned soon about more details and how to help. If you haven't done so already, listen and enjoy!

<http://simplegiftsmusic.com/videos.html>

<http://simplegiftsmusic.com/listen.html>

The name Simple Gifts makes me think of so many simple gifts that are in all our lives. Nature is the first that comes to mind. Springtime is magnificent! I get so excited to see the first crocus each year. Daffodils in bloom follow closely. Today, I look out the kitchen window and am greeted by beautiful rhododendrons filling the window. Birds landing on the branches remind me that the gift isn't intended only for us.

Have you ever thought of all that was left to us by those who lived in the past? In his book Cory Booker writes "we drink deeply from wells of freedom and opportunity that we did not dig, that we eat from tables prepared for us by our ancestors that we sit comfortably in the shade of trees that we did not cultivate."

So many gifts go unnoticed because we've had them so long we take them for granted. So many people and things make our life comfortable and special. Yet we get used to them and don't always think of these things as gifts.

I could go on and on thinking of so many simple gifts. I'm sure anyone could, no matter how many problems life brings their way. Even problems bring the gift of learning and growing and places we never anticipated.

I bid you take some time to think of your simple gifts. Sometimes we need a reminder to lift our mood. One gift I am thankful for is the gift of knowing each of you. The individuality of each of us holds so many unique gifts.

Enjoy the simple gifts that summer brings!

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

A PLACE TO CALM YOUR SPIRIT

There's a beautiful spot on the YFM property, back by the waterfall. The grass is soft, the trees are tall and shady, and the sound of the water splashing over the wall is soothing. A breeze often flutters through the dappled shade even on hot days. The proximity of the stream helps cool the air. What a perfect place for a small labyrinth!

A labyrinth is a pathway laid out for mindful walking. You can't get lost; the path, although it winds back on itself, takes you inevitably to the peaceful center of the pattern. Retracing your steps out lets you contemplate returning to the normal world with a renewed spirit. It can be a healing experience, or simply a time to step aside from the hustle of your daily life for a few minutes.

The clerks of Worship and Ministry met with Clerk of Meeting and labyrinth-builder Connie Fenty to discuss the possibilities for laying out a meditative path on our grounds. We think we've found the right spot. After looking at many designs, we felt that a simple heart-shaped walking path would fit well in that space and wouldn't require a great deal of work or money to set up, nor a lot of maintenance.

At our next Meeting for Business on June 12, we'll present our proposal and answer any questions you might have. We hope you can be there to participate in this process.

Betty Steckman

Queries for the Sixth Month

Equality

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?

What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority or superiority?

What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

NOTE: As an experiment, we are reading the longer queries in sections, each First Day, to better contemplate them in pieces. Just how many readings there are will depend upon the length of the query. Let us know what you think. Worship and Ministry