

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

August 2016

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067
<http://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

August 16 (Tuesday)

Mid-week (outdoor) worship, 7:00-7:30 plus 1/2 hour worship sharing until 8:00.

Looking ahead

Sept 10

Autumn Market (rain date Sept 17)

September or October

"Many Books, one meeting" - For adult education, Worship and Ministry would like you to briefly review a favorite book (or two if you are so moved). This will be in September or October so start reading, or re-reading, or thinking about it.

November 19

Simple Gifts concert

Around the Quarter

Aug 6, 10am-noon - Annual Hiroshima Peace Vigil, Doylestown

Aug 6, 6pm - Games Night, Makefield Meetinghouse. All are Welcome!

Aug 15, 6pm - Bucks Food For Friends, Fallsington Meetinghouse

Aug 20, 5:30pm - Movie Night and Pot Luck Dinner, Middletown Meetinghouse

August 21 - Quarterly Meeting, Doylestown Meetinghouse

Sept 17 - 17th Annual Peace Fair, Buckingham

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

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

What a new face courage puts on everything!

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Newsletter cut-off is the 25th of each month. Contact me with articles. Ed Snyder mrp.ed@verizon.net

Teaching Opportunities Available

We are reorganizing our First Day Programs to add a High School Friends FDS program and are looking for a teacher for our Middle School FDS class and a teacher for our Primary FDS class (K thru 5th grade).

Both teaching positions involve:

- 10 month position, teaching responsibilities run September – June
- Attendance at Religious Education Committee meetings each month Aug thru June
- Average of 4 hours per week, includes prep and teaching time
- Compensation is \$5000.00 to be paid monthly over the 10 month position

More details on our web page: <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/religious-education/>

Autumn Market coming soon

The Autumn Market is rapidly approaching, and you know what that means - White Elephant and Silent Auction donations! We will begin accepting White Elephant donations on August 7 due to a rental the first week in August. General guidelines:

1. No donations with a value of less than \$1.
2. Nothing that has a logo on it and is a free promotional item.
3. All electronics should be pre-tested with a note indicating they work.
4. Items should be clean
5. No items depicting violence
6. Any furniture that can not be easily carried by one person needs to be pre-approved by Cristen Solor.

Silent Auction

In order to continue to make the Silent Auction a viable portion of the Autumn Market, Meeting members will be expected to help by securing donations from businesses in Newtown, Yardley, and Morrisville that they frequent. The best donation is a gift certificate for \$25 to \$50 value. Meeting members may also contribute by donating hand made items or new items, as well as services.

And...we are still looking for vendors. If you know someone who does arts, crafts, antiques, etc. please contact them and see if they want to participate! Details are on the website: <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/flea-market/>



Tree down!

This big ol' cherry (I think) tree came down across the road on Sunday 7/24 afternoon. Our neighbors went out in the 95° heat and got it off the road (thanks!).

It will be cut up and we'll use what we can for firewood..

CHANGE

"Wisdom seeing has always sought to change the seer first, and then knows that what is seen will largely take care of itself."
Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward*

We celebrate summer with a change of pace. On Tuesday evening, July 19th we had outside worship. CHANGE appeared to be the theme of the evening. The conversation was prompted by how reluctant Friends are to move the benches in Meeting. Quakers are known for working for change throughout the world. It was suggested we don't easily make changes in our own life and surroundings.

There is something comfortable about the sameness in life. Keeping many things the same is done with good reason. We fall into a pattern through trial and error of ourselves and those before us. We do many things because they work. In many ways this sameness is healthy.

I remember a tree I would sit by while biking along the river. One day I got to that spot and a storm had uprooted the tree. At first I was devastated. I always found comfort sitting by that tree. Suddenly I realized this was a good sign. The uprooting of the tree symbolized a need to be open to change in life.

As a Meeting and as individuals all our experiences, relationships and backgrounds have made us who we are. A great deal of wisdom resides amongst us. Yet, there is always something new to learn and problems to solve. Most problems can be solved by going about it a different way. Because it was always done one way, is no reason to keep doing it.

Is change good or bad? A balance of both is what we need. One day in Meeting someone suggested we try sitting in different seats. I did for a while. The perspective from each spot was different. I saw different sights. New thoughts came to mind. It was eye opening. Not being open to change limits us.

Appreciate what remains the same. Experience, time, and luck have brought us to a beautiful place. We are extremely lucky. Honor and consider change. Change brings learning, answers, improvements and joy. Let's be receptive to building on what we already have.

Notes from 3/21/2016 landscaping walkaround

OK, in the "better late than never" category, here are some things we talked about when we walked around the property earlier this year (and last year). I think it was a useful exercise, because we've made progress on some of the items. *If someone wants to take "ownership" of a project, go for it* - contact me, or the Property Committee, about developing a game plan. We should be able to find a fund to take money from so that should not be an issue.
Ed Snyder

Labyrinth - this is already approved and in the planning stages!

Planters around the sign - we need some annuals (or perennials or whatever) and someone to maintain them.

Benches - in the back near the waterfall. Easy project.

Crocuses and/or snowdrops along road - should be planted in the fall for spring beauty.

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Shrubs on the berm (by the lake) - azaleas, red osier dogwood...

Trees - this year, a black gum was donated in memory of Chris Gage and planted, and last year, we planted 2 dogwoods in the front, a sycamore, and 2 maples. Good progress! Chris' tree will have a marker describing the tree, and (I think) it would be nice to label some of our other trees.

Fence along Lake Afton (at least the open part)

Wildflowers - Along/behind the entrance fence, maybe in the back as well. Along the stream...maybe dogwoods in the stream corridor.

Screening shrubs - to block the "view" of the townhouses (e.g. leather leaf viburnum).

Queries for the Eighth Month

Peace

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

— to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?

— to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?

— to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?

— to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?

Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?

Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?

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