

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

October 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

### October 16

*"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 October so start reading, or re-reading, or thinking about it.

### October 23

Adult ed - tentatively planned for a QuakerSpeak video and discussion.

### October 30

No adult ed - relax and enjoy elevenses for as long as you want!

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## Looking ahead

### November 19

Simple Gifts workshop and concert. We are very excited to offer this to our YFM community and the larger local community! Communications are being finalized - please look for our posters and/or check the website for more details and to make reservations.

## *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

See this month's Quakerphenalia for all events and activities!

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

"There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is so much suffering and pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways."

Mother Theresa

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

### A note from your newsletter editor

If you have info for the next newsletter, please e-mail me at [ed@mrplansinc.com](mailto:ed@mrplansinc.com). 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.**

### **Difference of Opinion**

Imagine a world where everyone thought the same. Would that be ideal or boring? Don't we need to challenge our thoughts and consider the perspective of others? In the world around us there are so many things people disagree on. In heated political time we really see it. As strongly as we feel we are right, others think exactly the opposite. They are sure they are right. How can that be?

Differences of opinion aren't only in the bigger world. We don't all think the same in Meeting. We don't always think the same in our family or circle of friends. In Meeting it may be something simple and close to home like the placement of our benches, flea market or Country Fair. Or it may be who we want for President.

Over the years, very close friends have made statements totally opposite of my beliefs in politics and other issues. Two things can happen. Sometimes these feelings get in the way of friendship. Hopefully that's not the case. Other times, I just stay clear of the conversation. I realize they are still the wonderful and special people I have grown to appreciate and befriend for so many special qualities. It reminds me that not everyone feeling different has two heads and is evil. I know my close friends are special in so many ways. I know the same is true of many strangers. Isn't there a light in everyone?

What do we do? Often we just don't bring up the issue. It's easier not to argue or discuss something uncomfortable. Is that best? Might we learn something from each other and gain a greater understanding of other people if we have an honest conversation. Can we ask "Why do you feel that way?" Can we listen without judging? Can we tell them why we feel the way we do? There may be times we change a mind. Most times we won't. Change doesn't need to be the reason for conversation. Can we walk away not acting or reacting, but letting the conversation settle. Maybe we will understand and respect the opinions of others just a little more. Should we try?

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### **Queries for the Tenth Month**

#### **Stewardship of the Environment**

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

*How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?*

*Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life?  
Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?*

*Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?*