

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

August 2017

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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*

*Note that two midweek worships have been added to the original schedule*

### **Aug 1**

Midweek/outdoor worship. If the world is feeling a bit loud for you, come be quiet with us from 7:00-7:30 pm for Meeting for Worship and continuing with worship sharing from 7:30-8:00 pm. Worship will be held outdoors, in our backyard. Let the sounds of the waterfall, birds and crickets help to center you. In case of rain, we will meet inside.

### **Aug 15**

Midweek/outdoor worship

### **Aug 29**

Midweek/outdoor worship

### **August 19**

Pot luck and continued discussion on compassion; 6 PM - 9 PM

### **Aug 26**

New member pool party! 4 Dublin Rd., Pennington

**Looking ahead**

### **Sep 9**

**Autumn Market.** Save the date!

## *Around the Quarter/PYM*

### **Aug 5th, 9:15 am - 3:15 pm,**

Extended Meeting for Worship  
Central Philadelphia Friends Meetinghouse

### **Aug 20**

Quarterly Meeting - Hosted by Plumstead at United Friends School, 1018 West Broad St., Quakertown, PA

### **Looking Ahead**

### **Sep 23**

Bucks Quarter Peace Fair at Buckingham

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

## **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**

uniqueness. Time is much too short to be living someone else's life.

Kobi Yamada (Contemporary) American

This month I share with you what I have written for the annual report to Bucks Quarter. If anyone has any comments or suggestions please let me know. This report will be presented at the next Quarterly Meeting at United Friends School - 1018 W. Broad Street, Quakertown, PA 18951 on August 20.

### **Yardley Friends Meeting Annual report 2016-2017**

In a year of unrest and fearful, uneasy feelings Yardley Friends Meeting has worked on making our Meeting a place of compassion. We continue to work on our own feelings and hear the feelings of others. We explore our thoughts while working on listening compassionately to those we may not agree with. Our circle is growing. A lot started with a talk by Dan Gottlieb. In March we filled the meetinghouse for his talk on Cultivating Compassion in a World that Seems Inhumane. We followed up the next week with a pot luck to extend our talk. The pot lucks have turned out to be a monthly event. This is bringing more people from our Meeting and also the surrounding community.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Membership Development Fund provided a grant which paid for Dan Gottlieb's fee. Having grants available for the purpose of trying to increase awareness and membership is a big help. We recommend to any Meeting with ideas to increase their membership to contact Membership Development about a grant. Yardley Friends Meeting thanks Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the Membership Development committee!

At least four new very regular attenders and a few others have become very active. Others who have attended for quite a while have become members. New members are two adults and five children, including one infant. This month we will celebrate our new members with a pool party for the whole Meeting. Dan Gottlieb talk and the pot lucks are only a couple of exciting things we did this year. A few other events were:

- Simple Gifts (an uplifting workshop and concert by two women playing international folk music with instruments from around the world. We were joined by many from the surrounding community)
- Game nights for young friends.
- Autumn market
- Milk weed planting (intergenerational)
- Spring Fling (book sale, car wash, milk weed give away, ice cream)
- We continue our tradition of 11s (snacks) and have a discussion after Meeting for Worship

We hired two teachers for middle school and younger friends. This enabled us to focus on each age group and bring more interest to children of all ages.

Jenna Schwoyer, who has been teaching middle school, took a leave to have a baby boy. With the help of Jeff Bishop the children made a wooden toy chest for the baby and had a luncheon to give Jenna the gift and meet the baby Oliver. The children miss Jenna and hopefully she will work with the high school friends in the future. One member, Linda Sepe, who moved to Maryland a few years ago, officially transferred to Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting.

We had a holiday party in December at Pennswood Village, where many of us got to share a beautiful evening with Carol Cadwalader. She passed soon after at 102. Carol brought so much love, caring and wisdom to the Meeting for many years. With the passing of Carol, only a couple of that generation are among us. Many things they've said and done throughout the years live on. We trust their example helps us in life and in our work at Yardley Friends Meeting.

## **Eighth Query, 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?*

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*editor's note - the following is a reprint, with minor edits, of an article written in 1994; there was some discussion about the history of our Meeting at the last midweek worship and we thought you'd enjoy this. Coming up...a more detailed history of the building of the current Meetinghouse.*

### **Brief History of Yardley Meeting (written by Sid Cadwallader)**

#### **Early Days**

Yardley Monthly Meeting was formerly a part of Makefield Monthly Meeting, which had been founded in 1750; it, in turn, was formerly a part of Falls Meeting, the first religious organization in Bucks County, which was established in 1683. Rumor has it that Friends in the Yardley area complained that, in the winter and early spring travel was so difficult that they could not get to Dolington through the mud and snow.

Thus Yardley Meeting was allowed to become an "Indulged Meeting for Worship", which meant that the Monthly Business Meetings were held at Makefield and all records were kept at Makefield. A Meeting House was built in 1869 [picture following says 1863 - ed.] at the corner of Main Street and College Avenue on ground donated by Jolly Longshore (not a Friend). The Meeting House was built of stone too small to be sold from the quarry which existed back of the Meeting House, probably operated by the Twining brothers, Stephen and Edward, who owned the quarry. The Meeting felt the building should be stuccoed.

It is said that the comfortable benches we now enjoy came from a concern somewhere way down in south New Jersey, and that friends in the Meeting and Makefield farmer friends with their horses and wagons brought the benches to Yardley in cold weather when farming work was light.

There is no known record of the original members or the attenders of Yardley, because all Friends were members of Makefield Meeting, but doubtless the Twinings, Knowles, Cadwalladers, Pickerings, Staplers, Hamptons, Houghs, etc. were among families represented. When the writer was a boy growing up in the teens and twenties, attendance was down to an average of 15 to 20, and seven of the attenders were the J.A. Cadwallader family.

The Meeting Room was one large, almost square room, with facing benches, with an elevated gallery of two tiers. There were two "Chick Sales" toilets on either side of the building. There was no basement but a low crawl space. Heat was furnished by two pot-bellied coal stoves about midway on either side of the room. The ceiling was very high, with long electric cords with lights hanging down from the ceiling. In cold weather, it was pretty cool at the edge. In winter, after hot air heat was put in, the lights got to swinging wildly in the updraft.

A wrought iron fence ran along the building on the Main Street and College Avenue side, and a slate sidewalk also ran along the street. Eventually a barberry hedge was planted along the fence to discourage people from sitting on the fence while waiting for the trolley. This was not entirely successful. Two large horse-chestnut trees stood beside the walkway leading to the porch which ran long the front of the building. The shiny horse chestnuts which fell in profusion were an irresistible attraction to small boys from all over town. At one time, it proved to be an attraction to small boys within the Meeting who, on occasion, would place the chestnuts in the ashes in the fireplace, whereupon, with sufficient heat from the fire, the chestnuts exploded.

The front and side yards were mowed. The back yard was pretty rough and overgrown. Parking was along the curb on both sides, which made things pretty tight with a trolley track running down the center of the street. The most difficult part of the parking was due to St. Ignatius Catholic Church across the street to the south, which met at the same time as our Meeting, and with many more members who usually got there firstest with the mostest.

## **Renovations**

About 1928, the Meeting decided to modernize the building, for more comfort and better use, and so the large one-room meeting room was divided into three rooms: a large room consisting of the northerly half of the building with a handsome brick fireplace and mantel in the southerly wall of the large room, and two small rooms on the southerly side; the front one was to be for the meeting room, the rear from for the kitchen, which had a pass-through door to the large social room.

The side porch on the south side was enclosed for an additional cooking area. Many chicken and waffle suppers were served here to raise money for the AFSC etc. A hot air furnace was installed at the time of the modernization, which made Meeting more pleasant on cold days. One winter day, when the heater failed to work, we met of necessity in the social room around the fire, and found it so pleasant we never went back to using the small front room for Meeting. Thereafter, a fireplace for Meeting was forever mandated.

During these extensive renovations, we met at private homes. When the renovations were complete, the Meeting began to grow and prosper, and a small First Day School was started.

## **Independent Meeting**

In about November 1949, our Indulged Yardley Meeting had grown to such a number of members and attenders that it was felt that we might ask to become an independent monthly meeting. After talking with members who were attending mostly at Dolington and Bucks Quarterly meeting, the establishment of Yardley as an Independent Monthly Meeting was allowed, and with the advice of such weighty Friends as William Eves III of Newtown, the division of Yardley and Makefield Meeting was accomplished. All Friends of former Makefield Meeting were simply permitted to make an election of which meeting they preferred.

With this the Yardley property was transferred by the Trustees of Makefield Meeting to Yardley Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends with the right of Yardley meeting members to use the Friends Burial Grounds at Dolington with joint representation on the Burial Grounds Committee. The division was most amicable.

Thus was our Yardley Monthly Meeting born.

### **Present Day Meeting House**

After World War Two, about 1950, the U.S. Steel Fairless Hills plant was built, and many young families moved into the area, and some attended Meeting, which began to cramp our space.

Fortunately, Sarah W. T. Cadwallader, administrator of open grounds on North Main Street, generously proposed giving the land, consisting of 7 & ½ acres, to the Meeting if they could raise the money for the Meeting House. The Meeting discovered that the Yardley Savings & Loan had also outgrown its little quarters, and so we arranged to sell the Meeting building to them and we started to plan a new Meeting House.

A division of opinion arose as to whether we should build a one-story building or a two-story building. After many meetings, with opinion still divided, and the matter being laid over again and again, in proper Quaker fashion, we decided to hire Mather Lippincott, a Quaker architect familiar with Friends Meeting. After studying the problem, he recommended, since we had such a large, wide, level lot, that a one-story building would look and work better – and everyone was satisfied, so we proceeded to raise more money to build. Strangely, at the time we prepared to move, the Catholic Church back on Main Street, near the old Meeting House, decided to move its location, and a fifty-year parking problem was finally solved for everybody.

The building was to have no basement, but a shallow foundation was dug to install radiant heat in the floor. William DeCou, a Quaker builder from Morrisville, erected the frame and Dominic Mercaldo, a mason-builder who had built a lot of stone houses in the area, enclosed the frame in with four beautiful stone walls, and added a fireplace – of course. Then the members took over the job themselves. We found an electrician, plumber, carpenter, and tilelayer within the membership. Everybody literally joined in, and the Meeting House was finished to the satisfaction of all. The spacious grounds were ideal for picnics and flea markets.

May 1994



136. BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) VIEWS. Arnold Bros., Printers, Rushland, Pa. YARDLEY FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE. Built 1863.

**Built 1863 – Main Street and College Avenue**