

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

September 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

Sep 1

Committee Meetings following Meeting for Worship

Sep 9

Autumn Market!

Sep 10

Meeting for Business in the Spirit of Worship

Sep 17

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBD

Sep 23

Raindate for Autumn Market

Sep 24

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBD

Looking ahead

Oct 1

World Quaker Day. We will recognize World Quaker Day with a "Come back/Show up" day - if you haven't been to Meeting in a while, please "Come back." If you come irregularly, please "Show up" so we have a nice crowd.

Around the Quarter/PYM

Sep 3

Wedding celebration for (our own) Gracie Coscia and Eli Collins, along with Rachel and Nora (from Fallsington Meeting who were married the weekend before them) at Fallsington Meeting directly following meeting there around noon. All are invited.

Sep 15

Lift Your Spirits Fundraiser for Friends Home and Village at Friends Home, 7 PM.

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

O Lord, help me not to despise or oppose what I do not understand.

William Penn

FCNL and You

I do fairly well living my beliefs and doing what I think is right. I have naturally felt living my values matter. My philosophy is that added to this I should always try just a little bit harder. Yet I'm asking myself if a little bit harder is really hard enough?

It's great for our stress level to just get our feelings out. Isn't the next step to figure what we can do to make the world a better place? Each of us is different. One may go to rallies, another contact your congress person, write letters to your newspaper or reach out to people in need. Maybe you do all of the above. Every bit helps! Is each little thing enough? We are all connected. What affects others advent ally affects us and loved ones who come after us. How do we figure what makes our efforts count for more?

Quakers have an organization working since 1943 on much of what seems so important today. The Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. A team of lobbyists work with a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people across the country to advance policies and priorities established by a governing General Committee. FCNL is a nonpartisan organization that seeks to live Quaker values and builds relationships across political divides moving policies forward.

FCNL draws on the expertise of registered lobbyists in Washington, DC and the commitment and passion of people around the country in their advocacy network,. They cultivate relationships with elected officials and community leaders. The work of FCNL has helped establish the Peace Corps, pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, and approve the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, just to name a few. The website shows their history and lists of what they've done over the years.

Quaker organizations are by no means the only way we can work. However it is a good tool at our disposal. This connection should make our work easier and more effective. If you click on the website <https://www.fcnl.org/> on any given day you will see what is new. When I first looked the headlines were "White Supremacy Is Wrong, and We Must Act." The next morning they had already added "The president's "new" strategy will cost the U.S. more money and result in more deaths of Americans and Afghans."

At last Meeting for Business, Cathy Heilferty volunteered for a team created by four meetings of Bucks Quarter to work with The Friends Committee on National Legislation. We will learn more about how this team will work to broaden communication between our Meetings and FCNL. So far we know FCNL contacts grass roots teams about a bill coming before Congress or the Senate. Cathy can fill us in to what happens when she has learned more.

This can be a very powerful tool to help us. I think it's extremely important to be aware of what is going on. Think back in history and you'll see! Don't underestimate what every little bit can do. Doing nothing is part of what writes history! With problems come heightened awareness and a chance to make things right. Nothing is inevitable. Let's look at how we can work with FCNL. Let's listen to each other. Let's all ask if what we are doing enough!

Congratulations...

To Gracie Coscia (Yardley) and Eli Collins (Fallsington), who were married on September 19 in a traditional Quaker ceremony at George School. It was a beautiful and moving event!

Ninth Query, Ministry of Outreach

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?

What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance?

How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

Are we tender to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and to nearby Meetings seeking support?

How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare myself to share my faith and beliefs with others?

Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?

Do I seize opportunities to tell others about the Religious Society of Friends and invite them to worship with us?

Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?

Collaboration In what ways does our Meeting respond to opportunities to join with other faiths in worship, in social action, and in spiritual dialogue?

How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends world wide?

What opportunities have I taken to know people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, to worship with them, and to work with them on common concerns?

What opportunities have I taken to know, to work, and to worship with Friends outside of my own Meeting?

editor's note - last month we gave you a "Brief History of Yardley Meeting." This is a reprint of a more detailed history of the building of the current Meetinghouse, compiled by Betty Steckman in 2006.

YARDLEY BUILDS A MEETINGHOUSE

This year, 2006, marks the 50th anniversary of the building of the Yardley Friends Meetinghouse at 65 North Main Street. The following article commemorates this event. Many thanks to Sid and Carol Cadwallader, the late Dorothy Boothstone, and Ellen Northrup of the Bucks County Traveler, for the information contained herein.

Until March of 1955, Yardley was an Indulged Meeting under the care of Makefield Monthly Meeting. On March 10, 49 persons expressed their desire to be members of Yardley Monthly Meeting. The minute states:

The members parted from Makefield Monthly meeting in a feeling of love and brotherhood, expressing much gratitude for the cooperation and understanding shown during the meetings necessary in the accomplishment of the establishment of Yardley Monthly Meeting.

With enrollment of members rising, and some eighty children attending First Day School, it was clear that something had to be done to get more room. The options were to remodel the meetinghouse (a stone building at the corner of South Main and College Avenue); merge with Makefield; or build a new meetinghouse.

As Dorothy Bootherstone wrote,

I can remember my husband, Paul Comly French, coming home from a meeting at the Meetinghouse and saying that he was going to pay Grandma Cadwallader a visit, which he did. He knew that she owned a lovely piece of ground on North Main Street so he asked her if she had any plans for doing anything with it. He said she replied that she really never thought about it, and he told her the situation with the Meeting and asked her if she would consider donating it to the Meeting so that we could build a larger place for people to worship. She said, "Paul Comly French, thou hast spoken. That must have been what I was saving it for, and I can even watch it being built."

And so Yardley Meeting began to plan their new meetinghouse. A building committee and the finance committee studied and debated how they might afford the project. It seemed feasible if much of the labor could be undertaken by the members and attenders themselves.

The architect chosen was H. Mather Lippincott, an experienced Quaker architect. The building was projected to cost not more than \$45,000. In December 1955, Meeting approved the plans as well as the sale of their first building to the Yardley Savings and Loan Association for \$16,000.

Ground was broken in January 1956, and the present meetinghouse was underway. Quoting an article by Ellen Northup in the Bucks County Traveler:

A professional contractor was called in to lay the foundation, which was then filled and leveled by members of the meeting, working evenings and weekends, whenever they could afford time. Mindful of the actual man-hours this job would consume, the building committee requested a large turn-out. The response was so good, and all hands dug with such enthusiasm that "more fill was put in than needed and some actually had to be hauled out again." A second contractor installed piping for radiant heat and poured the concrete floor; steel work and framework also were the work of professionals. Then the membership again took hold, putting on sheathing and roofing. A stonemason was called in to add the stone facing and the two fireplaces and chimneys. Three different quarries supplied the stone, creating a pleasing variety of color.

Yardley Meeting was especially fortunate to have two engineers in their "crew." Rudd Guttshall and Morris Trimmer both contributed their technical skills, which the Meeting could hardly have afforded to buy. Elizabeth C. Baldwin was always on the scene or on the phone, spurring everyone on—and always in the lead herself. James Satterthwaite, President of the Yardley Fire Company, spent his entire vacation working on the building. Robert Cliver helped to wire the heating plant the day after he was released from the hospital. Many who were nonmembers at the time pitched in too: Charlie Clappison, Leonard Caputi, Carlton Leedom, the Rynikers, Frank Chestnut, Edward Garlitz, Kenneth Honeyman.

The painting jobs fell primarily to the women. Elizabeth Baldwin could be seen up on the ladders painting the A gables at the ends of the building, worrying those on the ground.

Children pitched in to help too, carting stones and dirt in their wagons, helping with the insulation up in the rafters or running wires with the fearless agility of the young.

One chilly day, Dorothy Ryniker felt too ill to help with the painting, but stayed at home making aprons to be sold at the Christmas bazaar. The bazaar was but one source of funds. Generous financial pledges were made by members and attenders and many fund-raising activities were undertaken. The women and young people sold

cakes, pies, nut bread, fancy sandwiches, needlepoint and knitting, flowers, fruit, and vegetables. Newspapers were collected and sold. A bake sale and a square dance were held, as well as two theater benefits.

Work continued through the summer. At one point the “Midnight Moonlight Builders and Plumbers Association” were finishing up the cesspool. Conrad Baldwin took off his glasses and placed them on the wall. The pool was then capped, to general applause and celebration. It was only then that Conrad realized his glasses were still on the wall—inside the cesspool! “Hold it!” he roared, diving down through the manhole. He emerged shortly, glasses firmly on his nose.

The Meeting’s children continued to play an important role in keeping the work areas tidy. One young man, Lawrence Woodhouse, took on the responsibility of mowing the lawn all summer. Other kids helped clean up after the builders—sometimes a little too enthusiastically, as the stonemason discovered when he went looking for his scaffolding.

The whole year of construction brought minor mishaps but no major catastrophes. One near-miss occurred when Paul Comly French was inspecting the nearly-completed rafters. “It’s a wonder no one’s been hurt by falling lumber,” he remarked. Just then a two-by-six came hurtling down from above, narrowly missing him.

During the construction period, Meeting for Worship was held at Makefield. Meetings for Business were held in various members’ homes. By the end of the year the Meeting had eleven new members and a thriving First Day School with many children.

The first Meeting for Worship in the new building was held in November 1956, followed by a Christmas bazaar.

And that’s the story of the building of Yardley Friends Meetinghouse at 65 North Main Street, fifty years ago this year.

Donations *(editor's note - it was (very) recently suggested that we should run an article on donations and how to make them; my records show this very article ran in July 2017...apparently it didn't have much of an impact, so...here it is again! Sorry if it comes across as nagging; we traditionally do not ask enough.)*

Friends, this is a reminder that we don’t pass a collection plate or otherwise badger for donations. But we still need money to operate, and most of that comes from donations from members and attenders. How much is really up to each family or individual – the average is somewhere around \$700 per family unit, but some give more and some give less. Anything is better than nothing! How to donate is described below, with more info on the website (www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/donations/).

Donations to Yardley Friends Meeting can be made in several ways:

- Simply write a check to Yardley Friends Meeting and drop it in the donations box or mail it to Yardley Friends Meeting, 56 North Main St., Yardley, PA 19067.
- Ask your bank to send a paper check, usually on a regular (monthly) basis. More and more folks have elected this option. You have to talk to your bank but most offer this kind of service. NOTE: You can use this for other payments, say Baldwin Fund loan repayments. Just put that on the memo line, and to be sure, let Ted Taylor know to look for it.
- By credit card or ACH through PYM - see website for details.
- In-kind donations of stock using a broker - see website for details.