

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

November 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

Nov 5

Committee meetings following Meeting for Worship

Nov 12

Meeting for Business following Meeting for Worship

Nov 14 (Tuesday) 7 PM

Called Meeting regarding gun violence

Nov 17

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBA

Nov 26

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBA

Looking ahead

Dec 2

Yardley Christmas Parade; YFM to provide baked goods

Dec 26

Blood drive at YFM. Details to follow.

Around the Quarter/PYM/Local events

Nov 12, 2:45 PM

Celebration of one-year anniversary of Syrian refugee settlement; see article following

Nov 19

Quarterly Meeting, at Newtown

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

Do the best you until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

Maya Angelou

...and another quote, submitted by Janet Zimmerman...

The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.

Hubert H. Humphrey

Faith and Practice

What is new also comes from what is old. When we become part of Meeting we hear of and receive Faith and Practice. A lot Quaker history, basics and how things are done are found in this book.

Keeping everything the same forever isn't the Quaker way. In 2009 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting appointed a revision group to bring Faith and Practice up to date. Some of you were present when Howard Cell (a longtime member of Yardley who since moved and transferred) visited to talk about this project. Howard was a part of the revision group.

As I read through the beginning, I look for answers to a few questions often asked. Is Faith and Practice our bible? Are we to do everything exactly as this book says? Are Quakers Christian and do we need to believe in God to be Quakers? How do we prepare for worship?

The foreword starts with a quote from 1656 which addresses the first two questions. "not from letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." It reminds us that Faith and Practice is a guide. We as Quakers follow the light within each of us which in turn is the light within our meeting.

Faith and Practice states that early Friends considered themselves Christians. Today Friends come from diverse religious backgrounds and experiences and have different perspectives. Not all Friends today consider themselves to be Christians or even Theists. Together we are a community. Our inner light shines strong among us.

Preparing for worship is talked about in the old Faith and Practice and the new. We prepare for meeting with open hearts. Additionally it mentions some things which can enrich our experience. The new addition adds to currently suggested practices such as prayer, Bible study and journaling. Mindfulness meditation, yoga, immersion in the natural world and similar things are now included.

Many quotes in the old Faith and Practice inspired me, whether from 1650 or 1970. Glancing through I see quotes well into the 2000s. New inspiration will come from these. I don't know what else is new yet, but do see it is a testimony to continuous revelation.

We've been sent a draft while the published books are printed. Although I haven't read it all, I hope to. When I first came to Meeting I read the old one cover to cover. I was hungry for all that I could read about Quakerism and (as the Quaker saying goes) it spoke to my condition. Over the years, I've used it for reference about procedures and other work day things.

I'm glad to share this first copy if anyone would like to peek. Soon there will be new ones for all of us. I thank the revision group. I look forward to the guidance and inspiration the new Faith and Practice brings to us all.

...and yet another quote, I gleaned this one from The First National Bank's trust department quarterly newsletter:

There's something amazing about America's democracy. It's got a gyroscope and just when you think it's going to go off the cliff, it rights itself.

Albert Einstein in a letter to his son in 1953

Eleventh Query, Stewardship of Resources

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?

Update on refugee settlement/Invitation!

On Sunday, November 12th the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement will celebrate the one year anniversary of the arrival of our two Syrian Refugee families. It is an afternoon of Music, Art and Stories. The music will feature noted keyboard soloist Jeff Dershin plus Jack Kessler, Stan Slotter and Joy Tayoun of the unique ensemble Atzilut. The art will consist of a silent auction of handcrafted stained glass, jewelry, quilts, woodwork, ceramics and paintings for sale. The stories will feature our Syrian families talking about the memorable moments of the past year and sharing with you their hopes for the year ahead. Please join us.

Date: **Sunday, November 12th, 2017**

Time: **2:45 pm** (when viewing of the silent auction begins). Program runs from 3:15 pm to 5:30 pm.

Place: **Hosted by Congregation Kol Emet, 1360 Oxford Valley Road, Morrisville, PA**

For tickets and further information, contact us at bcicrr@gmail.com or visit <http://afternoon-of-music-art-and-stories.eventbrite.com>

submitted by Mercy Ingraham





Nice turnout for World Quaker Day, October 1

about...**Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

from the website: <https://www.fcnl.org/about/who>

The Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL fields an expert team of lobbyists on Capitol Hill and works with a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people across the country to advance policies and priorities established by our governing General Committee. FCNL is a nonpartisan organization that seeks to live our values of integrity, simplicity, and peace as we build relationships across political divides to move policies forward.

#LoveThyNeighbor campaign



Flyers, bumper stickers, yard signs, etc available here: [#LoveThyNeighbor](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/love-thy-neighbor-376)
(link should be active but here is full address: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/love-thy-neighbor-376>)

Act Every Week for Peace and Justice

What is the simplest way to get involved when so many things are competing for our attention? Sign up for the weekly email that will link you to issues you care about and quick action you can take. Sign up to get a weekly dose of advocacy delivered right to your inbox, from the biggest lobby for peace on Capitol Hill.

Here's how: [Act Every Week](https://act.fcnl.org/signup/one-action-every-week/?_ga=2.48162660.2104349540.1508246566-642583190.1508246566)

(link should be active but here is full address: https://act.fcnl.org/signup/one-action-every-week/?_ga=2.48162660.2104349540.1508246566-642583190.1508246566)

submitted by Cathy Heilferty

Quaker Oaths

What if everyone who came to your wedding had to sign off on your divorce? The premise is flawed (and they make it clear that it's really a voluntary effort), but the result is a funny, witty and ultimately heartwarming movie. It was screened at the Newtown theater on October 8, and we had a nice crowd, including many from Yardley Friends Meeting. It was a low budget operation (\$50,000 total, funded largely by the writer/director, with most of the cast being friends and relatives) but for me, was way better than some movies I've seen that were in general distribution. It's currently only being screened at festivals and special showings, but if it ever gets more widely distributed, it's worth seeing.



It was great to see Rosemary Sites at the Autumn Market!



Fall foliage was hard to come by but I've included a few pictures of what I could find around the Meetinghouse.

How Many Quakers Are There in the World? (from the QuakerSpeak Video we saw on World Quaker Day)

There are approximately 400,000 Friends around the world, and Friends World Committee for Consultation thinks about it and divides it into four sections of the world. The section of the Americas has about 140,000 Friends and that includes all of North America and Central and South America. Europe and Middle-East section has approximately 25,000 Friends, and then the Africa section has about 200,000 Friends; it's the largest section. Then there's the Asia/West Pacific section which has about 25,000 Friends from many countries. So, Friends are all over the world, literally.

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