

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

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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

Feb 3

Committee Meetings following Meeting for Worship.

Feb 10

8:30. Men's Group. (Q. What is the Men's Group?
A. We meet in the office by the Meeting Room
and read excerpts from a book, currently *Life Lessons
from a Bad Quaker*, and discuss it...and whatever else
might come up.)
Meeting for Business following Meeting for Worship.

Feb 17

Adult education following Meeting for Worship

Feb 24

Adult education following Meeting for Worship

Looking ahead

Simple Gifts folk duo, **May 11**. Workshop in the
afternoon, concert in the evening. Save the date!

Around the Quarter/PYM

Feb 17

9-3. Bucks Quarterly Meeting at Buckingham

Mar 9

2 PM. Sam Snipes memorial at George School.

Mar 31

1 PM. Film "I'm Not Racist...Am I?" at the
Newtown Theatre. Followed by discussion with
the producer.

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

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

We humans make things so difficult for ourselves,
when, in reality, our job is simply to accept what is
and get on with love's work in the world.

Dorothy "Bonnie" Snyder

If you have info for the next newsletter, please e-mail me at ed@mrppplansinc.com. We welcome book reviews, opinions, random thoughts as well as news.

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.**

Newsletters can be found on our website at <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/news/>

The Library is Open

When starting to attend Meeting, some of you have said “I’d like to read and find out more about Quakerism, but don’t know where to start.” Faith and Practice tells us the basics. This includes history, how to live within Meeting, and words of wisdom. Friends Journal is a publication telling about things happening with Friends. A subscription for a year is our gift to you when you join Yardley Friends Meeting. QuakerSpeak, a video project by Friends Journal, develops videos to watch and learn. We’ve used QuakerSpeak in adult education to start discussions.

I first visited Meeting after a combination of things made me curious. One was my appreciation of James Michener. Many of his books mention Quakers. He was raised by a Quaker aunt in Doylestown and Quaker principals stand out in his writing. Being in an exploring stage of life, I felt open to new things. I went to the public library and borrowed a book on Quakerism. I didn’t think I was looking for a faith. I just wanted to learn. What I read meshed with what I believed already. So I decided to visit a Quaker Meeting.

Like many of you, I was hooked when I walked in the door. I don’t remember where I ever felt more at home. The greeter handed me a handful of flyers and I devoured them when I got home. These added to my interest in reading and finding out more.

In those days, at the rise of Meeting, the clerk of the library committee would announce “The Library is open.” I took that invitation seriously and read a number of books. Nobody has announced it recently but the library is always open. The books aren’t new but they have a wealth of information. Pick a book or books. Sign it out in the back (the old fashioned way). Read it and become more familiar with Quakerism.

Over the last couple of years some of the library committee dedicated Saturday afternoons to creating an online filing system. Many of us joined them for pizza and going through books. As a result you can see what we have by going to Yardley Friends Meeting website and looking for the library section. It doesn’t tell you the exact location of the book. However, the shelves are categorized.

There are a few books that tell of Quakerism through the years. I started with a couple of these and found different people or subjects to explore from there. *A Procession of Friends: Quakers in America* is a history of Quakers in the United States, written by Daisy Newman. She is a Quaker novelist. Daisy was asked to write this history because of the life she puts into her writing. I also enjoy her novels because they convey of the warm beautiful feeling of Quaker Meeting and being a Quaker.

George Fox started it all. William Penn brought this holy experiment over the ocean to start the area that became Pennsylvania. John Woolman is a well known Friend fighting slavery. Rufus Jones brings us to the 20th century and his life is of interest and appreciation to many of us. Some Quaker women are Margaret Fell, Mary Dyer, Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, and Susan B. Anthony. Books on all of these are in the library.

There are many more suggestions than mine. Most of us have taken some journey to become familiar with Quakerism. Don’t hesitate to ask anyone. And remember. The Library is open!



Query 2. Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business

Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?

How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?

How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?

Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?

Update on Ted Taylor's Ministry of Healthcare Chaplaincy

This month marks 12 years as director of pastoral care & training at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton, NJ. My ministry of healthcare chaplaincy has been nurtured during that time by Yardley Friends, with intentional support noted in the recording of my ministry by the meeting in 2008, and by the reaffirmation of my recorded ministry late last year.

The spiritual nurture committee that has provided regular grounding for me over these years includes Betty Steckman, Linda Flower, Mark Woodford, Clare Eggers-Hewitt, Chris Lucca, and Mickey Edgerton. These Friends have challenged me to make sure I allow our meeting to know the depth and breadth of the ministry you all support at RWJ Hamilton.

With their encouragement, I offer the following summary of the work in which I have engaged in 2018.

Clinical Chaplaincy

I continue to direct the work of over 25 volunteers and interns at our academically affiliated community hospital. The hospital has 24 / 7 coverage with clinically trained chaplain adjuncts or interns on site from 8 am – 8 pm weekdays, 2 – 8 pm weekends, and on-call all other hours. We cover regular pastor care visits on all nursing units, after-hours needs in the hospice unit, and emergency support around the clock. I also assist with pastoral care needs for our hospital's palliative care program.

Supervision of Clinical Pastoral Education / Training

In the spring of 2018 I completed the supervision of 2 large cohorts of trainees in Hamilton, many of them completing a 4th unit of clinical training (each unit comprises 400 hours of supervised seminars and clinical care) in preparation for board certification in chaplaincy. A full-time summer unit of training was made up of 3 seminarians (Princeton Theological Seminary and Drew Theological Seminary). I began work with two new part-time groups of trainees in October: a group of 4 in Hamilton, and a new group of 4 in Livingston, NJ (at the Saint Barnabas Medical Center campus).

Bioethics Consultation

I continue to pursue my interest in clinical bioethics, especially in the area of end-of-life ethics. I have presented to the NJ Governor's Council on End of Life Care. I serve on the Medical Society of NJ Bioethics Committee, the RWJ University Hospital (New Brunswick) Ethics Committee, and I coordinate the work of the RWJ Hamilton Ethics Committee. I also participated as a panel moderator at the bi-annual Suydam Bioethics Conference sponsored by New Brunswick Theological Seminary, focused on the current addiction crisis.

Community Education / Outreach

A series of educational presentations targeted at religious leaders in our community included “brunch & learn” programs on issues including advance medical directives and organ / tissue transplantation. I also help host periodic “Death Café” programs in East Windsor, NJ. Finally, I work closely with the Windsor – Hightstown Area Ministerium, participating in clergy fellowship gatherings and season inter-faith worship events in Mercer County.

In the coming year I hope to continue to share insights into the ministry at the hospital, giving our meeting a regular glimpse into the work that you continue to undergird with your loving and Light-filled support.

Ted Taylor

Sam Snipes, an Inspiring Gentleman

(Editor's note – Sam Snipes, a member of Fallsington Meeting and a Quaker institution, passed away at the age of 99 on December 31, 2018. Below is a reminiscence.)

I never really knew Sam, but I met him briefly several times. Even in those brief times, he left me with the impression of a quiet but gentle man. I knew that he was much respected in the Bucks County area, but it wasn't until I read his obituary and other articles that I realized what a truly great man he was. What impressed me most was when in 1957 he represented the first black family moving into Levittown and even stood on their lawn and held off a mob for 45 minutes. What a brave, brave man!!

Reading about Sam's heroic act reminded me of a trip my family took to Dallas, Texas shortly before Rosa Parks' act of defiance in 1955. I don't remember where we were going, but my father insisted that we ride the bus. He wanted to give us an illustration of the discrimination still prevalent in the South. He pointed out to us that the black people had to ride in the back of the bus and that as the bus proceeded gathering more passengers, the sign on the bus separating the black and white people was moved further and further back so that the white people would always have seats. I can still remember sitting in my seat on the bus and watching the sign move. Why didn't I get up and offer my seat to a needy old person or tired lady?

My excuse is that I was then a little girl just beginning to learn about the injustices of the world. But I have no excuse now. My hope is that when I am faced with a similar unjust situation, I will have the courage to stand up like Sam. What an inspiring man he was!

What a challenge for all of us!

Carol Sundeen

Lots of folks interested in the adult ed discussion on Islam led by Graham Leonard...



...as well as making the Meetinghouse more accessible and friendly to the LGBTQ community, led by Annika Gage.

