

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

## NEWSLETTER

February 2021

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00 (til 10:45 currently for Zoom/COVID)

First Day School 10:15–11:00 (currently suspended)

Peg Smedley and Linda Jacobs Snyder, Co-Clerks  
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

### *This month at YFM*

Zoom Meetings for Worship continue at the normal 10 AM Sunday time. Onsite outdoor worship by the outside fireplace is held concurrently, with a Zoom feed – depending on the weather. ***Please check the google group emails Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning to confirm onsite worship.***

Women's group Wednesdays at 2:30 PM.

### *Around the Quarter/PYM*

Quakerphernalia, the Bucks Quarter newsletter, is being sent almost entirely electronically. If you are not on the list, or if you have articles or announcements for Quakerphernalia, please contact Wendy Kane, the coordinator, at [quakersbucks@gmail.com](mailto:quakersbucks@gmail.com).

Check out the (***new and improved***) quarter website: <https://www.quakersbucks.org/> for other news and events.

### **Inspiration for the month\***

The winter tree Resembles me,

Whose sap lies in its root:

The spring draws near

As it, so I Shall bud, I hope, and shoot.

~ Thomas Ellwood, 1639-1714

\*My report of the demise of the "Quaker Calendar was premature. (I think) someone has tracked down the editor/publisher and ordered them. In the meantime, this is an old Quaker quote that might bring inspiration to a snowy February.

### **In memoriam – Ann Bishop**

Yardley Friends meeting lost a very good hearted caring member last month. Ann Bishop will be missed by many. Ann helped others as a nurse and as part of meeting. She was also active in the auxiliary of Chandler Hall, Grange Fair and the Peace Fair. She helped our flea market by running the bake table and sharing her own fine baked goods. In remembering Ann, many have commented on her welcoming greetings and hearty hugs. A highlight in her last few weeks was becoming the grandmother of Ayden Shah Bishop. Ann will be missed by her husband Jeff, son George and his wife Aditi and all of us at Yardley Meeting.

To read more about Ann and her life please see the Bucks Quarter Website and Quakerphernalia.

## Query 1. 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?*

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## CLERK'S CORNER

By Linda Jacobs Snyder

### What helps

Hopefully we are headed to better days. It's easy to think we have been going through the worst of times. Covid was enough to bring us down. On top of that is the unrest and divide in the country. No matter what your politics, Quakers believe in equality and integrity. We want love, truth and unity in the world. Those who ignore their moral code to follow power and their own best interest do great harm. It's not the first time in history people feel hopeless. Is there anything we can do?

Does being Quaker help? We are a caring and supportive community. Active participation in our meeting helps us move deeper into meaningful lives. Living everyday with purpose is part of our spirituality. We are nurtured and enriched by the process. Our differences don't stop us from being there for each other. We all meet challenges as individuals and as part of the today's world. We try to help each other see more clearly.

Quakers believe in the light within. Yet, I'm not sure we always think about what that means in how we live. Our guidepost is not shaped by the ways of the world. The light within is our guide. We sit in silence in expectant waiting, searching for the truth. Faith and Practice states that Quaker testimony originally meant responding to the truth within as we see it. Wouldn't it be a better world if everyone lived this way?

Does being a Quaker help us to be better citizens doing more for our country and the world? Does it help us be there for each other? Does it give us peace within and help us to cope with the things that are so hard to face on our own. I think all are true. I also think our Quaker ways are so embedded into our daily lives we don't always recognize them.

In a way, silence is a Quaker ritual. I think of my daily routines. I know that doing some of the same things every day brings peace and well-being to my life. I hear some of us missing rituals of their old faith. Quakers think of rituals as being empty. Whatever you do that brings memories and fullness to your life has meaning. We need to go within and find our own peace and well-being in troubled times. Do whatever helps you to make your light shine brighter.

When things feel hopeless it's time for inner work. I believe firmly that it's not only the things that are happening, it's the way we react to them that makes a difference. I think that is true in society too. In the best of times, we might not feel the need and try as hard. We are challenged in troubled times. Out of the work we do comes some positive change.

We've had so many negative things happening. The question comes "Is all going to fail? Will bad and evil take over all the good in our country and the world?" I racked my brain many times to remember a quote by Leon Bass. Leon is a late member we were blessed to have among us for many years. His wisdom made an impression on many. Around Christmas, Ted Taylor read us something from the first chapter of the gospel of John. As he read I heard what might have been what Leon quoted. "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." When all seems forever lost, I will try to remember these words.