**Yardley Friends Meeting Annual Report**
August 2025
Ted Taylor, YFM Clerk

Yardley Friends meeting has continued to grow in commitment, engagement, and spiritual depth over the past year. Our worship experiences, communal events, witness in the world, and care for one another have all become stronger.

MEMBERS & ATTENDERS STATISTICS

As of December 31, 2024:

- Number of Adults (Members 21 and over) - **107**
- Number of Minors (Members Under 21) - **1**
- Number of Associate Members - **0**
- Estimated total number of Attenders – **66**
- Number of Applications for Membership - **2**
- Number of Births/Adoptions - **1**
- Number of Transfers Out - **1**
- Number of Deaths – **1**
- Number of Transfers In - **0**
- Number of Resignations - **0**
- Number of Releases - **0**

REGULAR PROGRAMING

We gather for Meeting for Worship each First Day at 10:00 AM, with an invitation to participate remotely via our Zoom link. We have between 20 and 40 attending in person, and a faithful few (2-3) participating remotely. Childcare has been provided every Sunday by a local high school student we hired. Each month, we also schedule programs after our fellowship time following worship ("Elevenses"), including topical discussions in "Ponderings" and Adult Education meetings.

Meeting for Business in the Spirit of Worship is scheduled monthly on the second First Day of each month. Twelve to twenty-five Friends regularly participate in these hybrid decision-making sessions, both in person and via Zoom.

Religious Education classes for children meet twice a month – we have a small but dedicated group of teachers and students. We also enjoy monthly Game Nights on one Saturday of each month.

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Yardley Friends also enjoy annual projects and activities that strengthen the life of our meeting. This past year we offered an impromptu and well-attended pot-luck Thanksgiving Day meal. The winter holiday season was highlighted by our annual Meetinghouse Decorating Party – with a shared meal and hall-decking, a Candlelight Worship event held on December 22, and our hosting the Quarter's Red Cross blood drive on December 26.

The annual Flea Market, held last year on September 7, remains a key part of our Yardley Friends community. We had another successful market in 2024, with over 90 vendors filling our meetinghouse grounds. The over $5,000 raised supports our meeting's facilities maintenance and yearly donations to charitable organizations. After the event, Habitat for Humanity collected unsold items, and vendors and shoppers donated food to be shared with the Mercer Street Friends food bank.

Yardley Friends hosted the Bucks Quarterly Meeting in November, inviting speakers from the Braver Angels organization to lead the main presentation.

MINISTRY IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

The **Outreach & Social Action** committee is responsible for connecting Yardley Friends to the wider world through peace and justice-oriented service and by sharing our story of service and worship with the community. This year, the committee participated in several important projects, including:

- Using Kirkbride funds from the quarter to buy more "Look Within" tote bags for distribution to visitors.
- Publication of an individual guide on peace and justice advocacy.
- Establishing a Yardley Friends in Action communication network through Google Groups
- Hosting a well-attended rock painting event
- Sharing information regarding the work of the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement
- Engaging our meeting in the work of Bucks Food for Friends
- Displaying banners from the quarter, inviting visitors to attend meeting for worship
- Supporting efforts by a member in a project to collect personal items needed by the unhoused
- Leading our holiday donation to Mercer Street Friends of mittens, hats, and scarves that decorate our Christmas tree

In their outreach work, the committee oversees the staffing of greeters each week, welcoming members, attenders, and visitors with a friendly attitude. Our prominent sign on Main Street is regularly updated by the committee, sharing words of inspiration and challenge to drivers passing by. The committee also continues to explore other opportunities to invite the wider community, including partnerships with a local bookstore that brings the community into our meetinghouse.

Members of Yardley Friends continue to offer leadership to a broader circle of Friends, including American Friends Service Committee (Board of Directors), Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Travel & Witness Granting Group), Bucks Quarterly Meeting (Budget & Nominating and Outreach committees), Friends Foundation for the Aging, Camp Onas, and Mercer Street Friends.

Thanks to Charles Chichester, we also continue to support Singularity Botanicals Plant Medicine Network with medicinal herbs grown behind our meeting house. And the healthcare chaplaincy offered at RWJBarnabas Health System by Ted Taylor continues 16 years after first recording his specialized ministry.

In January, the meeting issued a support minute of support to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, backing its lawsuit against the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for its sudden policy change that allows federal immigration enforcement officials to access houses of worship for immigration enforcement actions.

CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Our Worship & Care committee has a mission to tend to the individuals, families, and overall worship life of our meeting. In support of our worship life, the committee provides for a rotation of worship hosts, who read monthly queries and facilitate a time of Light-holding, announcements, and introductions following the rise of worship.

The Worship & Care committee also supports the diverse pastoral needs of Yardley Friends. This compassionate support is clear in their efforts to nurture members and attenders facing challenges: meals are provided during illnesses, and notes and flowers during times of loss serve as reminders of how we hold each other in the Light. This past year, a revived Quaker Eights dinner party program brought many members together to share food and fellowship in each other's homes. Since the beginning of the year, two memorial services were also held to honor the lives of Janet Zimmerman and Skip Garlits.

This year has been marked by new regular attenders joining us in person or via Zoom. Their presence has strengthened our community, and many have become involved in various aspects of our meetings – such as First Day Worship Greeters, participating in Adult Religious Education programs, or providing treats for our Elevenses gathering after worship.

Yardley Friends continues to support many individuals in their education and spiritual growth. This year, the meeting provided both financial and spiritual assistance to five individuals to participate in the Spiritual Care Collaborative, including their attendance at the program's retreat at Pendle Hill this past spring. Generous financial support from the meeting enabled a young member to take part in the Snipes Farm Camp Leadership program. We also continue to offer tuition scholarships to children of members attending tuition-funded educational institutions and provide no-interest loans to college students associated with our meeting.

## EDUCATION

Religious Education classes for children are held twice a month. Four families with children attend regularly, totaling five children ranging from three and a half years old to fourteen. Members of the Religious Education committee have volunteered to teach the First Day School lessons, using Faith and Play lessons along with other resources. The Worship and Care committee plans our monthly Adult Education series.

## CARE FOR OUR RESOURCES

### Property

After several years of extensive repairs and rehabilitation of our building, no major capital improvements have been made in recent months. Attention continues to be paid to the many trees on our property, protecting them from damage and removing those that are in danger of falling.

### Cemetery

The burial ground jointly owned by Yardley and Makefield meetings suffered damage to a section of the stone boundary wall. The meetings, directed by a joint cemetery committee, have committed to significant repairs to the property.

### Finances

Our meeting's finances remain healthy. Members and attenders exceeded the budget by over $5,000, and building rentals went over budget by more than $2,000. Total expenses were almost exactly on target. Our net income was $6,600. The meeting's positive net investment income was impressive, considering market fluctuations, and our cash and invested assets continue to stay strong.

## CONCLUSION

Yardley Friends remains dedicated to growing in the Light, nurturing our meeting community, and sharing our joy with neighbors in the Mercer–Bucks area and the wider world. We are grateful to the many Friends at Yardley Meeting who paved the way for us, including those who built our meetinghouse, funded our endowments, shared their spiritual journeys across generations, and established a legacy of justice and service. We remain deeply grateful.