



Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

www.YardleyFriendsMeeting.org

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship: 10:00—11:00

First Day School: 10:15—11:00 (except summer)

December 2010—January 2011

Coming Events

Dec. 5—Committee meetings
after Meeting for Worship

Dec. 12—Meeting for Business
after Meeting for Worship

Dec. 19—Meeting for Worship;
Children's pageant

Dec. 24—Candlelight Worship,
7:00 pm

Dec. 26—Meeting for Worship

January 2—Meeting for Worship

Jan. 9—Committee meetings
after Meeting for worship

Jan 16—Meeting for Business
after Meeting for worship

Jan. 23—Meeting for Worship

Jan. 30—Meeting for Worship

Superintendent for December:
Pamela Retseck

Superintendent for January:
Terry Christensen

NEW CURRICULUM BEING EXPLORED

The ad hoc committee for teaching First Day School is exploring the use of two teaching programs—Godly Play and Faith and Play. These both involve storytelling, but also much more than that. They provide a rich classroom culture of welcome and support that nurtures wonder and honors the spiritual lives of children. In January YFM will have an opportunity to see a demonstration of storytelling using the Godly Play and Faith and Play techniques.

The curriculum does require training on the part of the teachers—a minimum of 14 hours. If the meeting is interested in pursuing this opportunity, several more teachers will be needed, especially people without children in FDS. This would give parents an opportunity to attend meeting for worship instead of having to always be in the classroom on Sundays.

Friends General Conference offers workshops called "Playing in the Light" that use the techniques of these two programs. Pendle Hill has offered this workshop, and FGC occasionally runs regional workshops as well.

Candlelight Worship on Christmas Eve

On December 24 there will be a candlelight Meeting for Worship at 7:00 pm. Bring a candle that can stand up, or pick up one at the Meeting when you arrive. You might also bring some cookies to share afterwards.

(If you won't be here on Christmas Eve, you can attend a Candlelight Meeting for Worship on New Year's Eve at 7:00 at Middletown Meeting.)

Around the Meetinghouse...

Holding in the Light...

Laura Clappison, whose husband Charlie died a few weeks ago. A memorial service will be held at Pennswood Village on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 10:00 am.

News notes...

If you ever need transportation to Meeting, call our transport coordinator Ernie Schlieben at 609-530-0756. Give him a little advance notice and he'll see that you get a ride.

Still not on the YFM Google group? You're missing out on current news! Contact Ed Snyder for information and to get subscribed (mrp.ed@verizon.net).

On the Internet...

Steve Davison is currently writing two Quaker-related blogs on the Internet. "Through the Flaming Sword: Exploring Quaker Spirituality, History, Faith and Practice" can be found at <http://throughtheflamingsword.wordpress.com>.

A second blog, on the topic of the Bible, is "BibleMonster: Contemporary Issues in the Light of a Radical Bible." This can be found at <http://biblemonster.com>.

For a selection of current writings on matters Quaker, you might want to check out www.quakerquaker.org.

(What is a blog? From "web log," it is a sort of ongoing commentary or journal written by the "blogger" and posted on the internet. Readers usually can add comments and have an ongoing dialog with the blogger or other readers. This interactivity is one thing that distinguishes a blog from a website.)

Do YOU have news for the Newsletter? Starting with the February 2011 issue, your contact will be Steve Davison at sourlandr@gmail.com (609-333-8542).

Around the Quarter...

Caroling Offered in Quarter

Do you miss singing the old Christmas carols at this time of year? Consider attending either the Candlelight Meeting for Worship and Caroling at Southampton Meeting on December 19 at 7:30, or the Candlelight Carol Sing at Wrightstown Meeting on December 19 at 7:30 pm. (a tradition since 1941). Southampton Meeting is at 710 Gravel Road, Southampton; and Wrightstown Meeting is at 535 Durham Road, Wrightstown.

Annual Skating Party

Don't be left out in the cold on New Year's Day! Come to the Bucks County Ice Sports Center (formerly Face Off Circle) in Warminster and join Bucks and Abington Quarter Friends, parents and children as we skate, smile and stumble. Enjoy the decades-long tradition of the Annual Skating Party, the fellowship and fun for the entire family. Party starts at noon, so you can sleep in.

Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 14 and under (includes skate rental). BCISC is located at 1185 York Road, Warminster. For further information contact Holly Olson at 215-860-9747 or email hollybqc@verizon.net.

51st Annual Peace Pilgrimage

By coincidence or by planning on the part of the early settlers in Pennsylvania, the towns of Nazareth and Bethlehem are close enough geographically to allow a Peace Pilgrimage walk each year in December. This year it will be held on December 11, and will start at noon at the Moravian Church in Nazareth. Everyone is invited to join for a portion (or all) of the walk, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph. For more information, see December's [Quakerphernalia](#) or contact Holly Olson at hollybqc@verizon.net.

PARTING THOUGHTS

Betty Steckman

An organization's newsletter is like a thread that helps sew the organization together. It functions not only as a distributor of news within the community, but also as a way of building community. When we read news about our group—whether it's personal news about one of our members or attenders, an event we shared or are planning to share, a community need we're invited to fill—we feel that we're part of the community, even if we ourselves don't know the people involved or won't be attending the event or filling the need. Names become familiar, so that when we meet someone we can make the connection. We may find common interests by reading items about member activities. At the very least, a newsletter helps keep everyone more or less in the loop.

But a newsletter is also more than just that. When you pick up any issue from the past, you get a little snapshot of what was going on then. What events were happening? What issues were we struggling with? Who was doing something? Who were we holding in the Light, and why? Names of Friends and attenders who are no longer with us live in the pages of past newsletters. It's a historical record, different from our monthly meeting minutes but in some ways just as important in understanding the character (and characters!) of a Meeting.

I picked up the editorship of the Yardley Friends Newsletter in May 2005—just over five years ago. Over some 50 plus issues, I've had my share of frustrations and unrealized goals, but I've enjoyed putting together every issue. I've always wished it could have been more, and better, but it was what I could do, with the help that all of you have given me—news, announcements, articles, reminders, and always your encouragement. It's time for me to explore other avenues of service to the meeting and other interests. Steve Davison will become the next editor. I'm sure you'll continue to help and support him as you have done for me.

May the newsletter continue to act as a thread that helps knit us together as a community. Thank you for five years of editorial challenges and joys!

TWELFTH QUERY: Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives--in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?

ELEVENTH QUERY: Stewardship of Resources

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in the 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?

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