



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: 10:00—10:45 (except summer)

February 2009

Coming Events

- Feb. 1—Committee meetings
after Meeting for Worship
First Day School goes to
Chandler Hall
- Feb. 6—Friday Fun with
Friends, 7:00
- Feb. 8—Meeting for Business
after Meeting for Worship
Family Worship Sunday—no
FDS
- Feb. 13—Quarterly Worship &
Ministry program, Doyles-
town Meeting, 6:00pm
- Feb. 15—Quarterly Meeting,
Wrightstown; no FDS
- Feb. 22—Book discussion
group, 1-3
- March 1—Committee meetings
after Meeting for Worship
- March 8—Meeting for Business
after Meeting for Worship.
Family Worship Sunday—no
FDS

Greeters for February: Biz An-
trim and Jeffrey Dalgliesh

Superintendent: Sue Madiera

SO MUCH FUN, WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN!

Planning is afoot for a spring flea market on the Friends meeting grounds, tentatively to be held on May 9, with a rain date of May 16. Keeping it simple, there will be no White Elephant and a smaller menu of food to be provided, perhaps only hot dogs and hamburgers. The meetinghouse will not be used for any flea market activities but will be open for use of the rest rooms and as a place of quiet and sanctuary.

The grounds will be set up as in the fall, with spaces rented to vendors for the day, and parking in the front. Many of our regular vendors have expressed interest in doing a spring event at YFM, so this year will be an experiment to see whether it's something we might want to do as a regular event.

NEXT BOOK: LIVING BIBLICALLY

The next book for discussion is *The Year of Living Biblically*, by A.J. Jacobs. The author, a secular Jew, becomes interested in the relevance of faith in today's world. He decides to explore the Bible's directives for living—not just the Ten Commandments, but the hundreds of lesser known rules as well. Trying to follow these literally leads him to some hilarious, befuddling, thought-provoking and even profound new territory. How is he to avoid clothing of mixed fibers, love his neighbor (in New York, already), treat his slaves well, avoid menstruating women, stone adulterers? His adventures and insights will keep you reading, chuckling, and pondering as well.

This book is available from Amazon in both hardcover and paperback editions, new and used.

Around the Meetinghouse

Holding in the Light...

Kimberly Fulton, whose mother is not doing well.

Hold the date...

Sunday, May 17: Quarterly Meeting at Yardley. Planning is underway for a program, but in general, the day will encompass registration and light refreshments, program, worship, a light lunch, and the business meeting. Child care will be provided, and there will be a morning program for First Day School children.

Quarterly Worship & Ministry program on **Friday, Feb. 13**, 6:00 pm. Open to all, the program (after brown bag dinner) will be about prayer: who we pray to, what we want, when we do it, where, what it is.

Quarterly Meeting will be held at Wrightstown Meeting on Sunday, **Feb. 15** at 9:00, with Meeting for Worship at 10:00. At 11:00 a panel will discuss "Sense of the Meeting: WMM our Personal Journey". Programs for the children and young adults will focus on the Food Pantry and Bucks Food for Friends.

After a brown bag lunch (desserts and beverages provided), at 1:00 the Meeting for Business will begin, clerked by Yardley's own **Chris Lucca**. Children and teens are invited to a movie and other activities in the Social Room.

FRIDAY NIGHT FOR YOUNG FRIENDS

Specially for middle school and high school Friends and their friends and parents—Friday Night Fun! On February 6, participants will cook a pasta dinner and share fun and fellowship starting at 7:00 at the meetinghouse.

For further information, please contact Chris Lucca at 215-943-5478 or Christopher.lucca@doc.state.nj.us.

RE-USABLE GROCERY BAGS WANTED

The Food Center at the Morrisville Presbyterian Church would like to thank you for your donations of baby food and "used" plastic bags. The volunteers go through so many bags each week and it's an expense that they are spared because of your donations.

Speaking of bags, the coordinator at the Food Pantry has put out a "wish list" and one of the items she would like to have is a stash of those "green" reusable bags that are available at most grocery stores for 99 cents. Most of us spend a dollar on things we don't think twice about.

Here's something to think about: 99 cents can go a long way in helping an elderly person carry a bundle of food comfortably. If you are so inclined to donate one or two, please put them in the box in the foyer with the plastic bags marked for the Food Pantry.

HOPE

Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so powerful as hope. With hope, one can think, one can work, one can dream. If you have hope, you have everything.

—Unknown

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

In 1899, brown eyes
of a baby girl, in chestnut
soft flannel skin, follow
her father, bent like
his shepherd's crook,
out the cottage door.

He hikes into the hills
to protect the master's
sheep from the white
lions in the mountains.
One hundred and nine
years later, at the top

of a wheelchair ramp,
a screen door squeaks.
Those same brown eyes
open, magnified, in
bottle-bottom glasses,
set in a pond of wrinkles,

like gathered fallen cloth.
She stirs in her nest
of calico pink, her throne
an old Lazy-Boy. They
have come to tell her
the news. She sets

those eyes, barely sighted,
full of history, on their faces.

Eyes that have seen
109 years of images—
gnarled hands of slaving
elders, lines of marchers
pushed back, in the blast
of a fire hose, signs black
and white, Whites Only,
Colored Entrance.

They turn on her television.
Look, Mama!

Her damaged eyes see a
crowd of color—cobalt,
amethyst, jade and
fuchsia, waltzing
cheering, sobbing, a headline
blares Breaking News
Barack Obama Elected
President
of the United States.

Her children describe
a woman kneeling
on the ground, her face
in her hands and then,
lifted, her arms to the sky,
a torrent of joy-tears
on the faces of the path
clearers, Jesse Jackson holds
a disbelieving finger
to his mouth as if waiting,
for the other shoe to drop.

"The White is over everything,"
she says, "I never thought
I'd see the day when the colored
would rise up."

She looks to the wall—
She cannot see the words
of the hymn that hangs there,
but she hums its tune,
and imagines
The Old Rugged Cross
shining, on the faraway hill
where her father tended
his master's sheep.

Tricia Crawford Coscia
November, 2008



PREVIEW OF MARCH SESSIONS OF PYM

Our Yearly Meeting will gather
March 27-29, 2009 at the
Fourth and Arch Street Meet-
ing House in Philadelphia for
worship, fellowship, and busi-
ness. As we explore how to
live up to the Light together,
we will also engage the fol-
lowing business items:

* The Future Life and Leader-
ship of our Yearly Meeting:
Continued discernment and
decision on the Interim Meet-
ing Governance report; and

* Heeding God's Call to Ac-
tion: Report from the 2009
Gathering on Peace and con-
sideration of follow-up ac-
tions.

Further details including
schedule, registration, meals,
lodging, and youth programs
will be available online at
[http://www.pym.org/
annualsessions](http://www.pym.org/annualsessions) or contact
Sessions Coordinator Michael
Gagné at (215) 241-7238.
Remember: the Yearly Meet-
ing is YOU!

*If you would prefer to receive this
newsletter digitally, please let me
know and I'll take your name off
my mailing labels. If I don't hear
from you, I'll keep you on my
"paper route."*

*Do YOU have news for the News-
letter? Contact Betty Steckman at
alphabetty123@earthlink.net,
609-393-0015. Deadline is the
25th of each month.*

SIXTH QUERY: Equality

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?

What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class and feeling of inferiority or superiority?

What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

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