

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
 16th Day, Fifth Month, 2021
 Hosted by Southampton Friends Meeting via Zoom

#	Agenda Item	Person	Suggested	
			Start	Time
1	Opening Worship		12:45 PM	5
2	Welcome	Leo Fitzpatrick	12:50 PM	5
3	Review and Approval of Agenda	Leo Fitzpatrick	12:55 PM	5
4	Role Call of Meetings	Terry Christensen	1:00 PM	5
5	Reading and Approval of corrections for May & August 2020 Quarterly Meeting minutes	Wendy Kane	1:05 PM	5
6	Reading and Approval of Minutes from February 2021 Quarterly Meeting	Terry Christensen	1:10 PM	10
7	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:20 PM	10
9	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:30 PM	10
9	Bristol Meeting - Annual Report	Paul Shaffer - Video	1:40 PM	5
10	Fallsington Meeting - Annual Meeting	J. David Brimmer	1:45 PM	5
11	Buckingham Meeting - Annual Report	Bethann Morgan	1:50 PM	5
12	Break		1:55 PM	5
13	Treasurer's Report	Ed Snyder	2:00 PM	5
14	Presentation and Approval of 2021-22 Budget	Ed Snyder	2:05 PM	10
15	Proposal and Approval request from BQ Outreach	Ed Snyder	2:15 PM	10
16	Budget & Nominating: request nominations for Assistant Treasurer and Alternate Clerk	Betsy Bayardi	2:25 PM	5
17	Chandler Hall - Annual Report	Betsy Bayardi	2:30 PM	5
18	Lehigh Valley - Annual Report	Louise Young	2:35 PM	5
19	BQ Oversight - Annual Report	Lisa Collins	2:40 PM	5
20	BQ Clerk - Annual Report	Leo Fitzpatrick	2:45 PM	5
21	Guilford College Announcement	Marie Branson Knapp	2:50 PM	5
22	Closing Worship		2:55 PM	5

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 15th Day, Eighth Month, 2021 at Wrightstown Meeting

*The suggested times for agenda items are offered to guide us in our work
 These suggestions should never hinder, however, the expression of the Spirit among us*

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business 21st Day, Second Month, 2021

Held under the care of Solebury Friends Meeting via Zoom

Clerk: Leo Fitzpatrick (Wrightstown)

Recording Clerk: Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown) / Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 12:52 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome, Review and Approval of Agenda – Leo Fitzpatrick – Agenda Approved

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 2; Doylestown – 4; Fallsington – 8;
Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 2; Middletown – 4; Newtown – 10; Plumstead – 0;
Quakertown – 4; Solebury – 3; Southampton – 5; Wrightstown – 6; Yardley – 2

Review and Approval of Minutes from First Day, November 15, 2020 – Approved

Nomination of Terry M. Christensen as Recording Clerk – Betsy Bayardi – Approved

Stories of Vitality & Strength – Buckingham MM reports that they are holding meeting for worship-sharing on Wednesday evening oftentimes using Quakerspeak videos as focus point; a **Solebury** Friend reports that one of their members will soon be celebrating 100 years of age – there is some interest in having young friends interview the Friend – celebrations and interviews will be contingent on that Friend's health; **Wrightstown** reports that during COVID, fellowship after the rise of meeting has become especially important to members; **Quakertown** friend reports on efforts to preserve a cemetery for non-members owned by QMM led to the rediscovery of a nearby cemetery for enslaved people and they hope to gather some historical records; **Fallsington** Friend reports that most weeks they are having themed gatherings prior to meeting for worship – the music sharing gathering and the meeting for healing (hosted by Friend Lisa Collins) are particularly popular; **Lehigh Valley** Friend reports that this past Saturday night (February 20th) they held a virtual scavenger hunt as fellowship activity that was very well received

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane – (report attached) Wendy reports that in response to COVID Friends continue to find new and innovative ways to gather for worship; one positive aspect of COVID is that virtual meetings make it easier for folks to attend (Wendy noted 96 people were present for the program this morning); Wendy reports that the Eldering Workshop held on January 30th by BQM was well attended; WK reports that the 2021 edition of Calendar & Appointments (including the Quarter Calendar) has been mailed; WK continues to facilitate gatherings of various BQM committees and activities organized by BQM; WK has attended various PYM thread-gatherings and workshops; WK reports that while COVID complicates our outreach efforts, we continue to develop new methods of sharing; to that end, if a Friend is on Facebook, it is very

helpful to like the BQM Facebook page; one Friend suggests that “hearting” the page has more impact

Annual Report – Friends Home & Village – Chiyo Moriuchi – CM reports that FH&V has been very successful in dealing with COVID – to date, no FH&V residents have contracted COVID; all FH&V personal care residents have been vaccinated; last Thursday (Feb 18) FH&V received word from CVS pharmacy that FH&V Independent Living residents could be vaccinated that day and that despite the severe winter storm it would not be possible for CVS to postpone to a foreseeable date – FH&V staff took heroic measures and were able to get IL residents from Paxson campus into be vaccinated; FH&V now has non-Quaker members on the board (CM names current board members); CM updates FH&V Strategic Plan and comments on the use of “Query Teams” – FH&V is focused on wellness and purposeful living in an intentional community – FH&V will strive to be employer of choice; FH&V working to improve communication to more effectively tell our story (e.g. FH&V spends a lot of time and energy helping residents and families evaluate options if that resident cannot remain at FH&V); FH&V is hiring a Wellness Coordinator; in sum FH&V is working to create new model for senior communities – FH&V is requesting support from quarter (volunteer as well as financial); Fallsington Friend asks if FH&V require staff to be vaccinated – FH&V *encourages* staff to get vaccinated but some have chosen not to do so

Special Report – Discussion on Eldership – Bethann Morgan – Friends reflect on the role that elders have in our quarter; one Friend remarks that elders play an important role in monthly meetings and PYM; another Friend hopes that eldering be seen in a constructive framework; a Yardley Friend remarks that in Yardley, Elders were perceived rather than be appointed; another Friend notes that having appointed elders may discourage others from stepping up to that role in the moment of need; One Friend asks about Yardley having a recorded minister (reply: YFM simply notes that this Friend’s professional work is part of his personal ministry. He is not an Elder in the sense being discussed); one Friend recalls sitting on “Facing Benches” and being corrected after MFW and wonders if utilizing facing benches (for weighty Friends) would make for a more structured process; another Friend suggests that Eldering can be positive (i.e. not viewed as censoring but as guidance); a Middletown Friend suggests that we can facilitate Eldering by having the host of Quarterly Meeting provide Elders similar to the manner in which host meetings assign folks to bring refreshments or see to child care (i.e. specific members have that role for a given meeting); another Friend remarks that self-appointed elders can be problematic; another Friend notes that elders can be mentors; **Bethann Morgan REFLECTION** – eldering has both positive and negative aspects and we need to exercise careful discernment; Friends within BQM will continue to study this issue.

Annual Report – Doylestown Meeting – Joe Simek – Doylestown has had to be creative in dealing with COVID – technology has enabled them to continue first day school – they have found that using Quakerspeak videos promotes discussion; they had a successful

[virtual] Christmas eve program; looking forward, they are investigating using a hybrid meeting arrangement to accommodate distant and-or non-driving members; Doylestown Friends are active as a corporate body in Black Lives Matter activities; one Friend is curious about the proposed Post-COVID Hybrid Meeting model.

Treasurer's Report and Preliminary Budget FY21-22 – Ed Snyder (report attached) - Shares balance sheet – we are on sound financial footing – we will double contributions to Chandler Hall, etc., - BQM committee activities are down – Friends Fiduciary Funds have performed well – preliminary budget detailed – Quakertown Friend asks if the preliminary report would be shared with monthly meetings (response: BQM conveys this to monthly meetings by way of the [electronic] packet provided to MM clerks at Quarterly Meeting; we can also email them directly) – discussion ensues – MM clerks are reminded to present this document to their MM

PYM Nominating and Call for Nominations – Betsy Bayardi / David Smith – PYM Nominating Council is seeking members – in particular, they are looking for a volunteer to serve as assistant treasurer – they are also seeking volunteers to serve as recording clerks for PYM; a Friend remarks that their experience as a member of Quaker Life Council was very enriching; there were no volunteers.

BREAK – 2:33PM – 2:40 PM

Annual Report – Friends Camp Association (FCA – Camp Onas) – Scott Hoskins – Camp Onas will be open this summer; applications were posted February 14; in compliance with COVID safety protocols Camp Onas will run at 80% capacity; consequently, Camp Onas will have an operating deficit (this will be two consecutive years of operating at a deficit); additionally, Camp Onas will need to replace the bathhouses – while there is money set aside for that project it may be insufficient in the short term; Friends Camp Association is seeking support from within and outside the Quaker community; one Friend asks if FCA is reaching out to Camp Onas alumni (response: absolutely); another Friend thanks Scott and the FCA Committee; another Friend asks how, in light of reduced enrollment levels, Friends can best arrange for their children to attend (response: it is best for Friends to work through their monthly meetings, whenever possible, Camp Onas will make every effort to accommodate members of MM); another Friend asks if there are handouts / pamphlets available (response: it would be best to visit the Camp Onas website < www.camponas.org >)

Committee Report – Bucks Quarter Outreach – Doug Meaker – Outreach is requesting feedback from BQM; BQ Outreach is seeking more participation from MM; BQ Outreach does not currently have a clerk; **QUESTION:** What should BQ Outreach focus on? BQ Treasurer reports there is ample money available for this committee and that this is important work; one Friend asks how outreach is handled in Abington Quarterly Meeting (response: – Abington QM does outreach (and “inreach”) slightly differently; AQM focuses on individual MM); another Friend remarks that Outreach is one of the most important committees we have; another Friend expresses concern that we are

missing people who are seeking; another Friend suggests that MM are not always responsive to inquiries; a Friend asks if AQM has any Quarter-wide events such as the Peace Fair (response: no); a Friend asks if we should consider a hybrid model (combining BQM and AQM approaches) that includes Peace Fair; Friend notes that there are currently five active members serving BQ Outreach; Friend reiterates need for members and a clerk; Yardley Friend notes that BQM Outreach can have more than one member per MM; another Friend asks if we can involve Quaker schools in our outreach efforts (response: Buckingham school is involved in Peace Fair; another Friend notes that George School and PYM Young Friends are involved in Peace Fair); a Yardley Friend reports that a new member has returned to Quakerism after student teaching in a Quaker school; another Friend is concerned that we are missing many seekers – WK will advise MM clerks of next Outreach meeting.

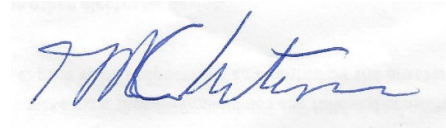
Annual Report – Makefield Meeting – Jerry Taylor – Makefield is in the process of renovating their meetinghouse; they have lost two trees, one of which was particularly significant to members – in searching for a replacement tree they found that Haverford College was propagating the legendary Penn Treaty Elm. Haverford donated a 4-foot-tall fourth generation scion that was planted in November. members of Makefield MM who reside at the Styer campus of FH&V are working to improve garden on that campus.

Annual Report – Quakertown Meeting – Pat Stover – Attendance has been a challenge – able to meet in person with social distancing and masking – Quakertown has been able to recover some minutes of meeting and these have been submitted to Swarthmore; nearly all QMM members are working to support local food pantry – several members began supporting Black Lives Matter in Flemington – many of these members have gone on to support ongoing Black Lives Matter vigils in Milford; report notes that (QMM member) Karen Tibbal’s book *Persuade – Don’t Preach*, served as the basis for the program at our last BQM (Nov 2020); Quakertown members continue to knit scarves and hats for donation to Mercer Street Friends preschool.

Announcements – Southampton Friend introduces Louis LeFevre of Trenton Monthly Meeting who announces collaboration with PYM monthly meetings on Anti-Racism Project; Friend Olivia Brangan calls attention to upcoming PYM Events (see PYM Calendar < [Philadelphia Yearly Meeting · Quakers \(pym.org\)](#) >); these include “The Practice of Worship” (Wed. February 24th); the Ministry and Care Thread Gathering (Sat. February 27th); PYM Continuing Sessions – Q & A About Climate Change as a Yearly Meeting Witness (Tue. March 23rd); PYM Spring Continuing Sessions Multigenerational Fellowship (Fri. March 26th); PYM Continuing Sessions (Sat. March 27th); Friend announces that PYM has an upcoming survey on restructuring of PYM with emphasis on how PYM connects with monthly meetings; Southampton Friend announces that Southampton continues racial justice vigil each Sunday at 3PM.

Closing Worship – After a period of closing worship, Friends departed the Quarterly Meeting at 3:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry M. Christensen", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 16, 2021
Under the Care of Southampton Monthly Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom

Last year's May Quarterly Meeting was our first ever held on a virtual platform. Cases of COVID-19 were rising, hospitalizations were soaring, and we began to wear masks whenever we left the house—if we left the house. We thought that these restrictions would last a few weeks, a few months at most. It was unimaginable that they would last a year – but they did. This year has had its challenges but also its blessings. We have lost beloved Friends to the virus, and become reacquainted with distant Friends on Zoom. We have reduced our carbon footprint by driving less and attending virtual meetings more. Thankfully, with vaccinations available, we are emerging from this unusual time, but we will not return to our previous normal. There will be a new normal, a better normal, a new appreciation for the simplicity of seeing a smile on a Friend's face, giving a hug to a loved one, and seeing our children play at our meetinghouses. I know I shall not take any of these simple pleasures for granted again. I am truly grateful in so many ways for all the Friends in our community, and how we have kept Spirit alive through this past year.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

As the number of COVID infections continue to decline, and the number of people vaccinated continues to increase, our meetings are beginning to consider opening their meetinghouses for in-person meeting for worship. With the warmer weather, some have chosen to have outdoor worship, using the spring and summer months to discern the logistics of returning to in person worship. This discernment may include if that worship will be hybrid. Our smaller meetings – Bristol, Quakertown and Plumstead – have already discerned that they will not be having hybrid meeting for worship. Other meetings with larger memberships would like to retain those distant Friends who have been joining them virtually. The Queries for Opening that were generated by our Ad Hoc Technology Group have proven to be helpful for meetings in discerning how much technology Friends in each of the meetings feel comfortable with; there is no “one size fits all Zoom kit” that will work for every meeting. It is especially important at this time that we listen deeply to each other with a sense of the Spirit among us to truly come to a sense of each meeting.

Miscellaneous Inreach

This quarter I updated *Quakerphernalia*'s design, and developed an invoicing system for billing and tracking payments for ads.

Next year our two publications, Bucks Quarter Handbook and the Buck Quarter Calendar & Appointments, will be merged into a single document that will be the responsibility of the Coordinator to

update. The last update to the Bucks Quarter Handbook was in 2009, and many of the position descriptions will be updated before the next publication date of February 2022.

Quarter Committee Meetings

A regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of Clerks was held where the main topic was the joys and challenges of re-opening our meetinghouses for worship and discerning whether to explore including a virtual option. The newly formed PYM Bridge Contact position was also discussed, and meetings were encouraged to nominate someone in their meeting to this position

A meeting of Recorders of Membership was held where we discussed a variety of topics particular to tracking meeting members and attenders. The annual request from PYM for 2020 membership statistics has been received, and the yearly meetings has offered to supply a copy of each meeting's membership list to them. I will be taking advantage of this offer in order for me to update my quarter records.

The Ad Hoc Technology Committee met and developed a list of queries designed to help meetings with discerning how they would like to move forward with hybrid meetings. These queries were sent to monthly meeting clerks. Members of the group will also offer their expertise if meetings would be interested.

Our creating safe spaces group has not met due to scheduling conflicts with members but plans to resume meeting in the near future.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- *First Day School presentations* at Yardley, Fallsington and Solebury Meetings.

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- *PYM Thread Gathering: Ministry & Care Thread Gathering*
- *PYM Continuing Sessions:* the agenda included fellowship, worship, business and exploring the issues of membership, climate change and racial equity.
- *Bridge Contact Tea With Olivia:* a discussion on how we as Bridge Contacts can support each other and share information.
- *Tea with Christie:* a time to chat with Friends from around the yearly meeting and view a presentation by Christie about the current work of our yearly meeting.
- *PYM Runway to Annual Sessions:* building on the success of last year's Runway, the yearly meeting has scheduled a variety of virtual evening workshops to be held over the next few months, culminating in Annual Sessions at the end of July. I attended *The Gathering on Reopening and Hybrid Meetings*, and *Roots and Branches of Quaker Advocacy*.

Greater Quaker Community:

- *Caln Quarter Membership Development:* I attended two workshops: using Facebook as an outreach for meetings and quarters, and a summary and review of the previous five sessions. I found most of these sessions very helpful and informative, and have incorporated information I learned, both in developing our website and in how I use Facebook as an outreach tool.
- **Researching New Jersey Quakers:** this virtual event was held by the NJ Genealogical Society, and focused on Quaker history in New Jersey, and researching the Quaker genealogical records.

Outreach

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee's new clerk, Doug Meaker of Quakertown Meeting, has been very proactive with recruiting new members for the committee; Leslie May, Plumstead Meeting, has joined. The committee will be bringing a request to the quarterly meeting to approve a \$500 annual outreach grant from the Kirkbride bequest for monthly meetings to use in their outreach efforts. They are also exploring holding a virtual version of *Quakerism in a Nutshell*.

Website & Facebook

Much of my time is spent making sure our new website is full of interesting stories, up to date information, and getting quarter and monthly meeting events on the calendar. I have posted Stories of Vitality about Newtown, Bristol, Fallsington, Yardley, and Wrightstown meetings, as well as Friends Home and Village. I am tracking traffic metrics, which seem fairly stable over the last three months with most visits occurring when a new issue of *Quakerphernalia* is available. One notable change was an increase in traffic from Ireland – one of our meetings reported having a regular Irish Friend who finds it more convenient to worship virtually with them, rather than driving an hour to their home meeting.

Facebook continues to be one of the Quarter's major avenues of outreach; Friends are reminded to "like" the page to increase our reach. Posts are made daily, and include shared information from other Quaker organizations, notice of events, and general information of interest to Friends. In honor of Women's History Month, I scheduled posts of women's quotes throughout the month and engagement and sharing metrics for these posts were very high. I have also paid for my first post "boost" which is supposed to increase our reach.

Fall Festivals

The Peace Fair Committee met and declared that the 2021 Fair is on! It is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th. Peter Ray will contact previous participants and vendors, and conversations have started with BFS concerning how much participation might be expected from their students. The event has been added to the website calendar and publicity information is ready for publication closer to the event date.

The Quarter has historically participated at three other fall festivals: Historic Fallsington Day, Historic Bristol Day and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day. All of these events were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, but are on the calendar for 2021. It is my hope that we can participate in all of them this fall.

Miscellaneous Outreach

I attended a meeting of Quarter Coordinators and PYM support staff focused on how Quarter Coordinators can support and communicate more easily with one another. To that end, I will be taking a leadership role for the group, organizing our next meeting and setting up a new Google group to enable better communication

I continue to volunteer one day a week at the Mercer Street Friends Food bank assembling food packages for those in Mercer County who are experiencing food insecurity. The need for volunteers continues.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bristol Friends Meeting Annual Report
Presented at Quarterly Meeting - May 16, 2021

Bristol Friends Meeting attendance continues to be in the single digits. 2020 was a hard year in many ways, so it is not surprising that our numbers remain low.

During the warmer months we gathered outside under the big tree. These outdoor meetings were usually attended by 4-6 people, and it was the sense of the meeting that in-person worship was an important part of the spiritual health of the members and attenders. One of the many things that was lost in 2020 was our chance to participate in *Historic Bristol Day*. We are happy to announce that *Historic Bristol Day* will return in October 2021.

In the past year Paul helped BQ coordinator Wendy update the Bucks Quarter website. This is an ongoing process, and Wendy is doing a wonderful job of keeping the Quarter's website fresh and up-to-date. Paul is now able to do updates to the BFM web page as needed.

The other pervasive technology in 2020 was Zoom. While Bristol Friends Meeting did not opt for worship on Zoom, there were many online committee meetings that kept things going. In the case of committee meetings, the online experience has been positive, as members no longer have to put in the commuting time to all arrive at the same physical space for a meeting. The business meetings for Bristol Friends have been conducted online via email. We have continued our contributions to Quaker and community organizations at these meetings.

Bristol Friends Meeting holds hope for the future as we all become vaccinated and the world slowly begins to reopen. We are excited about the potential for the Anabaptist-related Redemption Church to rent our building for some of their activities. Finally, we are happy to have a new attender who has been joining us for worship in-person under the big tree.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shaffer, clerk

FALLSINGTON FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

To Bucks Quarterly Meeting

May 16th, 2021

Greetings from Fallsington Friends Monthly Meeting. I've divided the year in two parts, pre-pandemic, and post-pandemic.

Pre-pandemic, before recommendations and restrictions on public gatherings set in

These included our standard traditions and activities, punctuated by the film premiere-

- Contra dance
- Ministry to Chandler Hall (in person)
- Bucks Food for Friends
- Premiere of Polly Wells' film "We began to sing" was held at the meetinghouse

After restrictions were imposed

Then things got interesting. The Meetinghouse was closed, and Zoom meetings began. Major work this year was focused on undoing racism, which included-

- Minute on anti-racism, following the death of George Floyd
- Members participating in Black Lives Matters protests held over the year at different venues and locations across the area.
- Commitment to substantial funding over the next 3 years for two Trenton, NJ organizations supporting African American communities- the Men for Hope Reentry Program and the Father Center of New Jersey.
- Peace Center training on undoing racism (Three sessions were held, with more sessions continuing currently.)

Children's programs

Our First Day Teachers did amazing work this year, continuing to engage our younger members both virtually, and out of doors-

- First Day School continued via remote connections; but also,
- FDS happened numerous times in person at Snipes Farm and once on the meetinghouse grounds

Activities conducted or continued despite social distancing required by the pandemic

These included-

- Easter and Christmas traditional programs conducted remotely. "We persevered through Zoom"
- Some outdoor activities at the meeting continued: leaf raking, taking care of the property
- Meeting for healing, led by Lisa Collins
- Jonathan Sprout continued to create his Force for Good films
- Wednesday MFW outside, when the weather allowed for it, was held several times in the fall
- Support to Wm Penn Center, through our funding for window replacement
- Mercer St Christmas gifts collected and delivered
- More effort to stay connected happened via email and also through the newsletter
- New and old Friends at a distance joined us for MFW; visitors too, enabled by the virtual nature; this was especially valuable for FDS
- Continued or expanded our engagement with Friends beyond our meeting (i.e., wider Friends' groups), virtually
- Property committee efforts both inside and outside continued throughout the pandemic
- Care and concern committee continued their work, several members who were ill needed support and this was coordinated by C&C
- All committees have stepped up throughout the year, by looking out for each other

(A shout out to all our committees and clerks, who really stepped up during these trying times. C&C went above and beyond, keeping us connected and knowing that we were held and loved. The Property committee, working in concert with the Finance committee, made repairs possible on the William Penn Center, as well as keeping us abreast of the usage of the meetinghouse during the lockdown, and crafting a way forward to deliver on our promise of sizable donations over the next three years. Worship & Ministry kept us going with wonderful, innovative Zoom Holiday celebrations, as well as adult classes.)

Joys and Sorrows

- In sorrow, we lost two beloved members this year, Nancy Adams, for whom our Property committee was able to research and facilitate a Covid-safe memorial service, and Rich Wagner. Words cannot express our grief at their passing, and our love for their bereaved families. We will always hold them in the Light...
- In Joy, we welcomed three new members this year, Eugene (Zhenya) Pevzner, Anna Schwartz, and Washanna Rateze Leggett. Zhenya and Anna were also married by the meeting, in our first ever wedding held over Zoom!

All in all, a strange and epic year. Respectfully submitted,
J. David Brimmer, clerk

Buckingham Monthly Meeting
Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Fifth Month 2020 to Fifth Month 2021

As with all Meetings, the unprecedented challenges of 2020 had a significant impact on Buckingham, its members, and our spiritual life. We recorded 68 adult members and 24 minor members, for a total of 92. For the first time in recent memory we gained no new members, but also did not have any deaths.

When the COVID shutdown began in March we immediately suspended in-person Meeting for Worship, and quickly followed other Meetings in meeting virtually on Zoom. Our technical setup is effective and fairly simple, and enables us to have a hybrid meeting with Friends both online and, weather permitting, in-person outside. (We have not yet resumed any use of the Meetinghouse.) This format was surprisingly fulfilling, both spiritually and in being able to connect with members. The need to change our practices also created new opportunities in the midst of hardship. Friends from across the country and around the world were able to join our worship on a regular basis, and we were also able to include local members who otherwise would have been unable to travel to regular in-person worship. In some ways committee work was strengthened by being able to meet more flexibly and being more inclusive using our Zoom account. We also began a mid-week meeting “not just for worship,” usually on Wednesday nights, which was an informal way for members to share, feel connected and discuss queries and other topics. More of us than ever were also able to participate in Bucks Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting programs and events by meeting virtually rather than in person. We hope that we can retain many of the good aspects of what we have learned once life returns to “normal.”

In-person activities and social activism were of course severely curtailed, but we still managed some successes. In observance of Juneteenth and our Meeting’s support of equality and justice, members of the Meeting held a physically distant roadside vigil in front of the Meetinghouse. Friends held signs pertaining to the Black Lives Matter movement and waved to passing cars. We had a very robust virtual worship with families at Buckingham Friends School, as well as alumni who joined from across the country. The pandemic required the suspension or modification of many other traditions. The Peace Fair was cancelled, and while this year was the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of our Meeting, our planned celebration did not happen. In the Christmas holiday season we had a virtual candlelight worship, and to make sure we still had donations for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, we had a socially distanced event on the porch of the Meetinghouse where Friends brought items to donate in exchange for a cup of hot cocoa or cider and a gift from the Meeting.

On the downside, we recognize that meeting virtually allowed some to participate more fully, there were many others that we did not see on Zoom who normally would have attended Meeting for Worship in person. We have had only a few “visitors” to our virtual meetings, and therefore fewer opportunities to interact with new people. The strong recent growth in our First Day School program was halted by the pandemic. It was impossible to meet with children

in person, and difficult to do so virtually. We had several after-Meeting picnics in the graveyard for families, which were very enjoyable, but they were just not the same as regular First Day School.

We took advantage of the downtime to work on some significant maintenance projects, and one member donated his labor as well as the materials to re-roof our carriage shed. Falling trees and limbs due to severe storms were an expensive liability. Financially, the Meeting continued to receive strong donations from our members and attenders, and our investment revenue was not impacted as much as we feared. However, our renter in the cottage on the Plumstead property that we own was unable to pay rent for most of the year, leaving our budget in a significant deficit.

Overall, the sense of our Meeting was that it was surprisingly fulfilling and spiritual given our state of affairs.

8:23 AM
04/20/21
Cash Basis

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2021

	<u>Mar 31, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	57,104.32
Total Checking/Savings	<u>57,104.32</u>
Total Current Assets	57,104.32
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	54,460.63
Total Other Assets	<u>54,460.63</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>111,564.95</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	23,960.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	108,016.26
Net Income	-20,411.74
Total Equity	<u>111,564.95</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>111,564.95</u>

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2020 through March 2021

	Jul '20 - Mar...	Budget	\$ Over Bud...	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	885.74	1,770.00	-884.26	50.0%
Total Interest and dividends	885.74	1,770.00	-884.26	50.0%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Pledged	169,199.50	271,245.00	-102,045.50	62.4%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	169,199.50	271,245.00	-102,045.50	62.4%
Other contributions	1,100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	560.00	1,500.00	-940.00	37.3%
Total Income	171,745.24	274,515.00	-102,769.76	62.6%
Gross Profit	171,745.24	274,515.00	-102,769.76	62.6%
Expense				
Administrative				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Total Administrative	0.00	550.00	-550.00	0.0%
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	144,852.00	193,133.00	-48,281.00	75.0%
Total Contributions	144,852.00	193,133.00	-48,281.00	75.0%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	300.00	150.00	150.00	200.0%
Chandler Hall	300.00	150.00	150.00	200.0%
Friends Home and Village	300.00	150.00	150.00	200.0%
Total Gifts/Donations	900.00	450.00	450.00	200.0%
Insurance Expense	940.00			
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	2,279.26	7,000.00	-4,720.74	32.6%
Other				
Advertising	250.00	2,200.00	-1,950.00	11.4%
Liability Insurance	-42.45	860.00	-902.45	-4.9%
Outreach Committee Activities	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Programs for Peace	200.00	1,700.00	-1,500.00	11.8%
Quakerism Classes	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total Other	407.55	7,610.00	-7,202.45	5.4%
Personnel	50,223.18	65,772.00	-15,548.82	76.4%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	52,909.99	80,382.00	-27,472.01	65.8%
Total Expense	199,601.99	274,515.00	-74,913.01	72.7%
Net Ordinary Income	-27,856.75	0.00	-27,856.75	100.0%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	10,349.01			
Total Other Income	10,349.01			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	2,904.00			
Total Other Expense	2,904.00			
Net Other Income	7,445.01			
Net Income	-20,411.74	0.00	-20,411.74	100.0%

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING BUDGET FOR 2021-2022 F/Y

Last update 4/23/2021

	Budget FY 20-21	Projected FY 20-21	Budget FY 21-22	Change from FY 21-22 budget
1 REVENUE				
2 Monthly Meeting "Pledged" Contributions	271,245	269,068	276,540	5,295
3 Additional Contributions		5,724		0
4 FFC Int & Dividend Income	1,770	1,770	1,810	40
5 Interest Income, other	0	0	0	0
6 Quakerphernalia Ads	1,500	1,860	1,500	0
7 Grant Income	0	0	0	0
8 Other contributions	0	0	0	0
9 Total Revenue	274,515	278,422	279,850	5,335
11 EXPENSES				
12 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Contribution	193,133	193,133	198,785	5,652
14 BQM Administrative				
15 Clerks, Treasurers, Auditors	500	500	100	(400)
16 Budget & Nominating Committee	50	50	50	0
17 BQM Worship & Ministry (Piano tuning)	0	0	0	0
18 Total, Administrative	550	550	150	(400)
20 Programs, Activities, Outreach				
21 Program Administration (Coord)				
22 Personnel	65,772	68,669	66,775	1,003
23 Operating (postage, printing, phone)	7,000	4,000	6,000	(1,000)
24 Total, Program Admin.	72,772	72,669	72,775	3
26 Other: Programs, Activities, Outreach				
27				
28 Programs for Peace - Peace Fair, Bethlehem walk	1,700	200	1,700	0
29 Outreach Committee Activities	2,000	500	2,000	0
30 Advertising	2,200	1,700	2,200	0
31 Liability Insurance	860	940	940	80
32 Quakerism Classes	500	0	500	0
33 Young Friends and Other Activities (net)	350	0	350	0
34 Total, Other Activities	7,610	3,340	7,690	80
36 Total, Programs, Activities, Outreach	80,382	76,009	80,465	83
38 Gifts/Donations				
39 Friends Home/Village	150	300	150	0
40 Camp Onas	150	300	150	0
41 Chandler Hall	150	300	150	0
42 Other Donations	0	0	0	0
43 Total, Gifts	450	900	450	0
45 Restricted Expenses				
46 Total Restricted Expenses	0	0	0	0
48 Total Expenses	274,515	270,592	279,850	5,335
50 REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	0	7,830	0	0

Proposal for Outreach Granting Fund of Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends

Purpose

The purpose of this fund is to provide individual meetings within Bucks Quarter the financial resources to support their Outreach efforts. Examples of such efforts might include:

- Merch it! Buy branded merchandise such as mugs, pads, or pens for handout.
- Build it! Make an attraction on meetinghouse grounds, such as a labyrinth.
- Give it! Donate to your favorite local charity.
- Sign it! Create or update a sign.

Size of Individual Grants

Up to \$500 per cycle.

Cycle

Cycle 1 shall run from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Individual Eligibility for Submission of Request for Grant

Any meeting within Bucks Quarter can apply for a grant.

Time Limit

Individuals may submit their application for grants anytime during the fiscal year: July 1 – June 30. The Outreach Committee will review applications at its regularly scheduled meetings.

Funding Source

Funds will be distributed from the Kirkbride estate bequest.

Procedure for Submitting an Application

The meetings' Outreach Committee or another committee designated by the meeting shall prepare applications and send to the Coordinator at quakersbucks@gmail.com.

Supervisory Oversight

The Bucks Quarter Outreach Committee shall review applications for and distribution of outreach funds for approval. The Outreach Committee will review the granting program annually and make a recommendation whether to renew for another cycle at each May Quarterly Meeting for Business, until such time as funds are exhausted.

Reporting to Quarterly Meeting

Meetings receiving grant money shall report on its use in their Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting.

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Outreach Grant
Application**

Meeting Name: _____

Date of Application: _____

Description of Outreach Plan: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____

Mailing address to send funds: _____

Submit this application to the Coordinator at quakersbucks@gmail.com

CHANDLER HALL 2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING

A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND CREATIVE ADAPTATION

The appearance of the Covid 19 virus in the spring of 2020 sorely tested our ability to maintain efficient and high quality operations. State and local health departments prohibited long term care facilities from accepting new admissions. Facilities were also limited regarding how they could conduct on site marketing. Chandler faced the simultaneous problems of developing an infection control plan to protect both staff and residents and maintaining its outreach to potential patients.

Protecting our residents and staff - Following on the restrictions on new admissions, Chandler's clinical leaders implemented interventions and policies to minimize the impact of the virus. All staff and residents were immediately tested. Residents who tested positive were isolated on site. Staff who tested positive were advised to stay home until they were clear of infection. Staff and residents continue to be routinely tested. **It is important to note that there were no deaths among patients or staff during the first six months of the pandemic.**

In addition to routine testing, temperature checks were conducted for staff upon arrival at Chandler and at the conclusion of the work day. Travel clothing was placed in lockers as staff changed into work clothes. Staff changed back into travel clothes to return home.

One of the most difficult infection control measures for both residents and families was the closure of the facility to visitors. Even the most simple of affectionate gestures required thought and logistics. Our own Wendy Kane can tell us. Her mother is at Chandler Hall, and for the past several months she could not visit with her Mom. How then, do you get Mom's favorite peanut butter swirl ice cream to her? It often took multiple phone calls to get someone to meet you outside to pass the precious cargo along.

Keeping resident comfort and morale up - One of Chandler Hall's priorities is to constantly monitor and improve our residents' experience. Our goal is to support our patients' feelings of contentment and safety as they receive services. To that end, we had installed sensory development areas where residents could experience music, spoken word and images which would foster feelings of satisfaction and security. Additional staff are being recruited to work with the residents to take advantage of these new capabilities.

Staff provided assistance to residents with electronic communication with their families. Computer tablets quickly became the vehicle of choice for communication. Further, live and still images of family members could be shown on a big screen TV or wall monitor.

Meal time was another challenge. Congregate dining was not allowed by state regulation. "ToGo" bags replaced sit down meals. It is also hard to imagine how difficult it would be for an elderly person with both hearing and visual impairment to communicate in the Covid environment. A six-foot separation between people would be a difficult stretch for both seeing and hearing. The staff worked very hard to keep people from feeling isolated.

The pandemic also proved challenging for Chandler Hall leadership. Our Executive Director, Dakia McMillian, left her position this spring, and the position of Interim CEO and Nursing Home Administrator has been filled by Samantha Roos-Meiser.

Lifting the restrictions - May 3, 2021

From Wendy Kane – "Chandler Hall has opened for visitors, and I got to visit my Mom IN PERSON and not socially distant for the first time today – she was so pleased that I could come to her room and deliver her peanut butter ripple in person! As long as Covid stays at bay, we can keep up the visitation. Fingers crossed!"

**Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting, 2020 Annual Report
to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 16, 2021**

In March 2020 LVMM closed its meetinghouse doors and it remains closed for worship. However, the life of our Meeting has continued in creative and fruitful ways. For Friends, *Meeting for Worship draws the community together out of a shared hunger to know the Christ within and to care for one another (Faith and Practice, pg. 6,7)* During the pandemic this hunger for Light seemed pronounced and further, within our shared sorrow and vulnerability, care for one another became vitally important.

Virtual worship became the way to connect, to see and to hear one another. Vocal ministry enhanced the truth of Light's presence. On Zoom we are not distanced. We are not six feet apart...we are shoulder to shoulder. We are not masked...we can see one another. We can "unmute" and speak and hear one another. The **Worship and Ministry Committee** attended to the quality of worship by opening and closing our time. They would monitor "the room" assisting with "tech needs". This was particularly helpful in maintaining a silent space and we would simply unmute to give a message. Following this time a Friend designated to do a roll call would introduce a worshiper who would then say good morning or just give a wave. One could then make an announcement about the life of our Meeting or share a personal message of joy or concern. It was this design that helped us learn what was happening in the lives of members and attenders and guided our connection with one another.

The Zoom platform with its advantages was also a disadvantage. Although we had the joyful experience of people from a distance joining us, including members who had moved and new attenders from other countries. For some Friends, for various reasons, a "virtual meetinghouse" was not attended. For some, outdoor worship became a valuable substitute when weather permitted. Our mid-week Meeting for Worship attendance increased during quarantine. It seemed the opportunity to connect was welcomed.

LVMM has 117 adult members, seven children under 21 years and six associates under 26 years. We lost four long-term devoted members: Annette Benert, Dee Kruschwitz, Kris Gallup, and Howard Gallup. We welcomed Kurt and Lorelei Oelschlager as new members. Attendance at Virtual Meeting for Worship has averaged in the 40's and occasionally reaches 50. Our **Nominating Committee** was able to find 85 members and attenders who generously agreed to serve on committees or in named positions(119 total positions of service), a tribute to the commitment and care of our community.

The **Care and Concern Committee**, charged with care of Friends, required a refocusing on their efforts and needed to more closely follow the health and welfare of our members and our meeting as a whole. Memorials planned by this committee for two deceased members are on hold and one was held via Zoom (the attendance and honoring of our Friend was not diminished by the virtual platform in this case). The committee assisted with a wedding in Mexico, and only through Zoom was this joyous event possible. Another avenue for news and care of one another is through a weekly publication named "The Light Board".

The Worship and Ministry Committee is also charged with the care of attenders and they too use a flock list to ensure attention to friends. Further, in addition to "hosting" our Meeting's worship, this committee prepares and leads a monthly Query discussion, and this has continued throughout the pandemic. Our queries over this past

year included themes of interconnection with all of life to include earth, examining darkness of night, season and self and its restorative dimension, the meaning of membership, the joys, learnings and challenges over the year, what it means to gather remotely for worship, and eldership with a concern for unity. Our February query gave attention to PYM's Statement Concerning the January 6th Capital Insurrection and their accompanying queries.

Throughout the pandemic the **Adult Religious Education Committee** enriched us with programs, many of which could only happen virtually. We were privileged to meet with Quakers from Latin America including Mexico, Bolivia and El Salvador. We shared beliefs, worship and educational practices. The committee featured a panel of younger friends, many whom are now living outside the Lehigh Valley; they reflected on the question "How I Do 'Quaker'?" Additional programs included Mass Incarceration in the LV, stewardship and how to manage our money in ways that cohere with our Quaker values. Eileen Flanagan, a Quaker activist, offered a program focusing on "Finding our Role in This Time of Social Change". A group of Friends are now meeting to view Eileen's video series on the subject.

Our **Religious Education Committee**, charged with the First Day School program, faced the challenge of young friends' lack of response to programming on Zoom. Eventually, with the **Adult Presence Committee's** support our two paid child care workers created a monthly newsletter for young friends. The publication is an impressive, creative piece of news and art.

The **Social Concerns Committee** needed to make some changes in their outreach programming but continued to remain active. Primarily they were instrumental in creating a fund for "Jail Release Assistance". Monies from our Meeting and individual contributions were used to help five people with bail and housing. Our local newspaper recently featured an article on our bail fund. The annual fund-raising Harambee, a Kenyan meal to raise funds for education support for young Kenyan women, took the shape of a faux-meal. The monthly meal prepared for Safe Harbor, a transitional shelter for homeless women and men, continued. Friends were encouraged to continue with monthly postcard writing on issues of concern to local and state representatives.

Although some of our committees have not been able to function according to their "job descriptions," they have all continued to meet virtually. Members continued to be faithful to their stewardship and contributed generously to faux frugal feasts in support of the PA Avenue Interfaith Food Pantry. The library is not being used during the pandemic but the **Library Committee** has stayed abreast of adding to its collection. One of our members has continued to be a "mobile librarian," delivering books to members in a safe manner. **Hospitality Committee** was inactive, but they used their budgeted money to donate to a local interfaith food pantry in honor of Friends who would be alone for the Christmas holidays due to the pandemic.

When the **Connections Committee** realized they did not want to wait to plan "live" events they found ways to "connect" friends socially online. In December they hosted a Carol Sing on Zoom where individuals sang or played an instrument while the rest sang along while muted. They hosted a virtual scavenger hunt and an origami workshop. The committee revised and then delivered new Meeting directories by email. Although not under the care of this committee but under the care of the whole community we managed to have our favored Christmas Eve program, with Zoom to the rescue again, making the celebration of love and joy a reality.

LVMM has a newly formed committee, **Outreach and Communications**, because the Meeting realized there was a need to have some oversight of our various communications and technologies. Members include the website manager, the newsletter editors, administrator for our internal and external Facebook page. They recently prepared a LVMM Tech Manual as a guide in using these avenues of communication, as well as instructions on scheduling and hosting a Zoom meeting.

Further, our Meeting has an active participation with a local peace organization, LEPOCO, The Lehigh Conference of Churches (sponsor of the annual Peace Pilgrimage), and the Bethlehem Interfaith Group, BIG. These groups found ways to continue their mission virtually throughout this past year.

Presently an ad hoc **Reopening Committee** is actively researching options for Meeting for Worship. They, along with the whole meeting, are discerning when our meetinghouse can safely reopen. Recently, they along with the Outreach and Communications Committee, held a Threshing Session for our meeting to explore hybrid meetings.

Under the care of our whole Meeting a Black Lives Matter Vigil began on Juneteenth 2020 and has continued. We have an ideal place for our witness as our property is adjacent to a major road; there are many stories to be told of responses from passersby, and one Friend on vigil noted:

“I try to breathe messages of hope
to the passengers as they rush by encased
in closed containers, *May you be well.*
May you be loved, May you be at peace.”

This report portrays our Testimonies lived out in some new ways. It is also a testimony to Friends and attenders guided by the Light within and their care for one another. In the darkness and crisis of a pandemic we found ways to connect and to care. We experienced the power of Light and the truth of ongoing revelation, and ways opened.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise H. Young
Clerk, Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting

Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator
Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 16, 2021

The Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator is charged to meet with the Coordinator, the Quarter's paid staff person, on a regular basis to review recent activities, provide support and guidance, and to complete an annual performance review on the position. It is comprised, ideally, of a representative from each meeting within Bucks Quarter and the Clerk of the Quarter. We gather on the second Thursday of the month at Buckingham and, in addition to supporting the work of the Coordinator, we share our joys and concerns in fellowship with one another.

Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic and the disruption of "normal," the Committee has seen a settling back into its role of supporting the Quarter's Coordinator, Wendy Kane, now serving her second year in that position. This has been made easy by Wendy's quick adaptation to the job's tasks and her enthusiasm to take on the work of the Quarter.

Turning the pandemic into an opportunity for technological ingenuity, Wendy focused on ways to connect to meetings and to keep meetings connected to one another in a virtual world. A new website was built, Quakerphernalia received a makeover, and collaborative meetings with Quarter clerks were facilitated over Zoom. Ways to make this "new normal" feel "normal" were found. We are certain that some of the technological and logistical improvisations learned during this "interesting time" will be retained and integrated as pandemic restrictions are eased.

Our own Committee continued to meet virtually and, while many are anxious to return to meeting *in vivo*, we also recognize some of the advantages of meeting virtually. Reducing our carbon footprint and increased attendance are two that come to mind.

Committee membership remained largely unchanged with only Makefield Meeting passing the baton from Jerry Taylor to Kim Gronek. Laying aside the long tradition of the committee clerk taking meeting minutes, the Committee created a recording clerk position. Bill Daly of Middletown Meeting has stepped into his role of "scribe" most admirably. The committee clerk welcomes this change.

We are grateful for this opportunity to serve Bucks Quarter and its Coordinator and look forward to continuing to support this beloved community.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Bellet Collins
Oversight Committee Clerk

Annual Report of the Clerk
Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Presented to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 16, 2021
Hosted Virtually by Southampton Meeting, PA

Despite more than a full year of Covid-19 restrictions, Bucks Quarter has remained active with several accomplishments. The Black Lives Matter Weekly Demonstrations sponsored by Lehigh, Newtown and Southampton Meetings stand out as positive actions in raising awareness to the general public that change is needed in race relations. As a Quarter, I hope the work on racial equality continues.

The Quarter has a new website thanks to our coordinator, Wendy Kane. Given that the Quarter has not met in person for over a year, the new website along with the Quarter's Facebook page have been an important communication tool and a go-to source for Quakerphernalia and related documents.

At the end of January 2021, George Schaefer of PYM presented an Eldership Workshop for the Quarter with forty-five Friends in attendance. A follow-up discussion took place at February's Quarterly Meeting which brought forth both the positive & negative aspects. It remains unclear how eldering may be used in the future, but many who attended the workshop thought they came away with a better understanding of its good practices.

Several monthly meetings are looking at reopening in-person worship possibly in the fall and are discussing what changes may occur. Hybrid meetings are being considered since many Friends at a distance (both from far away states and countries) are regularly attending weekly zoom meetings for worship. Our coordinator has organized a tech committee to advise monthly meetings on what equipment is required. Also, grants are available from the yearly meeting to help fund these projects.

Many thanks to the Meetings who hosted the Quarterly Meetings over the past year: Plumstead, Newtown, Quakertown and Solebury. The guest speakers arranged for these gatherings were well chosen – Newtown had Young Friends speaking about Racial Justice, Quakertown hosted Karen Tibbals, author of *Persuade Don't Preach*, and Solebury had Cynthia Baum Baicker, clinical psychologist, speak about how our spirituality are can guide us during these stressful times.

Thank you, Friends, for all you have contributed over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Leo Fitzpatrick, Bucks Quarter Clerk