

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business  
15<sup>th</sup> Day, Eighth Month, 2021  
Held under the care of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting via Zoom

**Clerk:** Leo Fitzpatrick (Wrightstown)

**Recording Clerk:** Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

**Friends gathered** at 12:50 PM and settled into a period of worship.

**Welcome** – Clerk Leo Fitzpatrick welcomed Friends at 12:54 PM

**Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved** with one correction

**Roll Call of Meetings:** Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 5; Doylestown – 1; Fallsington – 1; Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 0; Middletown – 5; Newtown – 3; Plumstead – 0; Quakertown – 2; Solebury – 2; Southampton – 3; Wrightstown – 6; Yardley – 3.

**Review and Approval of Minutes from 16 May 2021 – Approved** with one grammatical correction.

**Stories of Vitality & Strength –**

A Southampton Friend reports that they will be scheduling a visioning session with an eye toward growing their meeting. Plans for renovation, remodeling or replacing meetinghouse are being considered.

A Lehigh Valley Friend reports gifts of [spiritual based] books to First Day School.

A Wrightstown Friend reports the formation of Pendle Hill Pamphlet Reading Group. They meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

A Middletown Friend reports Quaker Women’s Social Hour has resumed in-person meetings.

A Fallsington Friend reports that their upcoming Hour of Music (10 AM, First Day, August 29<sup>th</sup>) will be shared throughout PYM; a link to this meeting will be published in *Quakerphernalia* and on the BQ website.

A Lehigh Valley Friend reports formation of a crafter group whose work will feature social justice and well-being themes (e.g. suicide prevention).

A Buckingham Friend reports that a story about the ongoing work on their graveyard wall has been published in a local paper; as a consequence of this article, two local stonemasons have volunteered to help with this project.

A Fallsington Friend reports that they have discovered that their cemetery map has errors; to rectify this situation their Young Friends are working with adult Friends to match gravesites with the extant map and correct the record. The Young Friends are enjoying this work and one Young Friend has helped the project considerably by employing colored chalk to highlight the text on the gravestones

**Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane** (see attached) – Highlights include: A combination of vaccine/mask resistance coupled with the emergence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 has slowed progress in reopening meetinghouses to in-person Meeting for Worship; This situation is further complicated because children under 12 cannot be vaccinated; Wendy provided a summary of how BQ meetings are responding as variants of COVID emerge.

**BQ Inreach** – Wendy reminds that BQM has created an ad hoc technology group to assist meetings develop and implement hybrid meetings, as they are led; Wendy has helped Fallsington with a succession plan for new clerk; WK has attended FGC, a PYM Gun Violence Workshop; and a workshop on Quaker Burial Grounds.

**BQ Outreach** – BQ has received applications from monthly meetings for Outreach funds; WK reminds all to like our page on Facebook; that stories of vitality are posted to our website; BQM will have a presence at Yardley Flea Market, Historic Fallsington Day, Historic Bristol Day, and Old Langhorne Harvest Day; it is expected that, barring COVID restrictions, all these gatherings will take place as scheduled.

**Peace Fair** – The Peace Fair is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>; BQ has signs available to those who want to advertise the Peace Fair; WK will deliver Peace Fair signs to MMs as requested.

**Annual Report – Middletown Meeting – Lance Mervine** (see attached); Friend Lance reports that Middletown has been conducting hybrid Meeting for Worship since July 11<sup>th</sup>; First Day School continues (virtually) with up to 11 children attending; Ministry and Nurture have been reaching out to older friends who cannot attend meeting in person; Middleton MM held a hybrid auction to support Ministry & Nurture – very successful online; MMM currently has 87 members over 21 (3 deaths this past year); much work being done on schoolhouse; this year MMM celebrated Juneteenth (outside); MMM has begun a Rwanda book project (self-funded); Christmas display last year was very well received – MMM held a virtual Christmas pageant and concert.

**Special Report – Peace Fair Update – Tim Cunningham** (see attached); Peace Fair Update – the Peace Fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>; there are concerns about COVID variants impacting the event; they are monitoring the situation and planning to hold a smaller event (fewer tables – socially distanced). They are asking for volunteers at the PF; Noted that PF will not have Buckingham Friends School students – PF will get some young friends from PYM; PF is doing outreach at Farmers Markets at Wrightstown and Yardley; PF is looking for books to sell – Peter Ray will be the contact person; can also drop books off at carriage shed at Buckingham Meeting.

**Annual Report – Yardley Meeting – Linda Jacobs Snyder** (see attached); YFM began Zoom meeting last year in response to COVID; this past year they have met outside when weather permits; their Women’s group meets weekly via Zoom; in the past year, YFM has gained 2 new members and 3 members have passed away; YFM is renovating the meetinghouse – this will include making a handicap accessible restroom; YFM is getting ready to build long-delayed labyrinth on their grounds; YFM had resumed MFW inside on July 4 (with open windows, social distancing, masks) – recent developments have caused them to go back to meeting outside – they have maintained a Zoom option; YFM will hold smaller version of Flea Market (September 11th – Rain date Sept 18th) without inside food or silent auction; YFM is looking forward to hosting BQM in November.

**Treasurer’s Report – Ed Snyder** (see attached); Ed shared balance statement for the entire fiscal year; we are in good shape – we had additional contributions and ended up with gross revenues of \$8,000 more than budgeted; BQM gave a contribution to PYM and doubled our contributions to Chandler Hall, Camp Onas, Friends Home & Village; BQM’s operating expenses were considerably less than anticipated – ergo, net income is \$20,000 over budgeted amount; budget and nominating will review BQM budget to see where and how we can effectively spend excess funds over budget.

**Bucks Quarter Outreach Grant Update – Doug Meaker**; Friend Doug notes that one outreach grant has been approved (Middletown MM) and funds have been distributed – another application is in progress – they hope to have distributed all grant monies by the end of the fiscal year; Doug notes that these grants can fund any form of outreach; Doug and WK field questions about application for outreach grant (applications are on BQM website – under members tab); Friend asks how do we learn from others experience with these projects (e.g. with technology); WK suggests that she would gather these reports and share stories of vitality at the end of the year as funds are distributed – we may also learn from efforts that did not succeed; Friend asks if this information is widely available (published 2x in Quakerphenalia; MM Clerks have received email); WK shows access point on BQM website.

**Budget and Nominating – Betsy Bayardi** – Friend Betsy notes that Budget & Nominating have work to do discerning how best to invest budget surplus; Betsy notes that at end of year, various leadership terms expire (e.g. Friend Leo’s term as Clerk; we also have an opening for Alternate Clerk) – Also, Betsy will be stepping down from service as Clerk of B & N; Betsy requests that Friends consider being of service to BQM.

**BREAK** (2:10 – 2:15)

**Annual Report – Southampton – Carolyn Peters Michener** (see attached) – Friend Carolyn reports that reports that Southampton MM are meeting via Zoom on Tuesday evenings (7:30 PM) and having hybrid MFW on Sundays (10 AM); they are continuing weekly racial justice vigils (10 – 25 participants); their annual Christmas candlelight celebration was held via Zoom; last May Southampton hosted BQM for the first time in several years; SMM has replaced the roof on their meetinghouse; SMM has been sending its records to Haverford for historical preservation; SMM has sent Minutes to government and legislative bodies (e.g. to POTUS to protest the resumption of capital punishment); SMM members have been active in BQM and PYM; Steven Moyer taking over as Clerk of SMM (Carolyn has served as Clerk of SMM for 18 Years).

**Annual Report – Solebury – Marian Hepburn** (see attached) – Solebury Friends gathered at Friends Village (in person and via Zoom) to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (!) of Friend Irene Fisher; Solebury resumed in-person MFW this past spring – attendance has been light – there is a virtual option via Zoom, but this is not widely used; Solebury is concerned about a lack of connection between Friends during COVID pandemic – they have been discussing hybrid worship but have not reached clearness - Solebury has members who serve on the board of the several Quaker organizations, George School, Buckingham Friends School, Camp Onas, Friends Home & Village, Chandler Hall, and Mercer Street Friends; Solebury maintains an educational grant fund available to students attending Quaker schools; despite pandemic, Solebury meetinghouse, cemetery, and grounds are in good repair thanks to the ongoing efforts of Friends. Friend asks if Solebury MFW are outside – Response – MFW are inside, but Delta variant of COVID is a growing source of concern.

**Annual Report – Wrightstown – Olivia Brangan** – Olivia reports significant transitions at Wrightstown MM – Friend Olivia has succeeded Betsy Bayardi as Clerk – Betsy continues as Past Clerk; At the outbreak of COVID 19, Wrightstown MM pivoted to online MFW via Zoom - averaging 15-20 people attend (virtually); WMM is aware of, and concerned about, those members who do not attend virtually; Wrightstown Nursery School continues to operate under care of WMM; First Day School finished the academic year 2019-2020 and continued this past year via Zoom with 4-10 young Friends attending; WMM Care and Counsel Committee is reaching out to those who are averse to Zoom; WMM have had to alter their Christmas program; Wrightstown Nursery school finished the year in online format – they plan to reopen in the fall; Zoom has enabled distant Friends to connect with meeting; First Day School was closed fall 2020 to Jan 2021 then opened via Zoom – on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month (during school year), they join PYM virtual First Day School (“Giant” FDS meeting); Nursery School reopened with COVID protocols in place to “COVID Capacity”; beginning in spring of 2021 WMM has had parallel MFW – some Friends gathered outside and others via Zoom – they are averaging 15 attending outside and 15 attending via Zoom; In May 2021 sense of the meeting was they needed to resume in-person MFW – an ad hoc committee formed to discuss resuming in-person MFW with COVID precautions; currently having hybrid MFW – on August 28<sup>th</sup>, WMM will have called meeting to assess how to respond to COVID; on October 23<sup>rd</sup> WMM hopes to have a community conversation about meeting the needs of families and those impacted by COVID – also will discuss being more involved in PYM wide ministries (e.g. addressing racism).

**Annual Report – Bucks Food For Friends – Wendy Kane (for Carol Richardson; (see attached))** – Bucks Food for Friends operates entirely with volunteers, COVID has interrupted service – BFFF has changed its format and rather than hosting a sit down meal, BFFF offers food to go (Advocates for the Homeless distributes these meals to camps they service); in coming weeks BFFF will be evaluating the possibility of reverting to in-person meals (possibly in January 2022) – this will require more volunteers will be needed; at the Peace Fair, Holly’s Helpers will be selling pet treats and pet toys with the proceeds going to support BFFF.

**Special Report – Summary of PYM Annual Sessions – Wendy Kane;** several decisions were made at PYM Meeting for Business; three areas of corporate witness stood out: Climate Change, Racism, and Membership; earlier in the year, Sprints (ad hoc, short term committees) were formed to address these issues and at annual sessions they provided a synopsis of their work. Friends are encouraged to visit the PYM website for more detail regarding the work and recommendations of these sprints.

**The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Sprint** – This sprint produced a minute (which was approved) instructing the administrative council of PYM to appoint 2-3 midwives to carry forward the Truth and Transformation Process. This process includes PYM developing Mission and Vision Statements addressing racism. There was also a recommendation for the creation of a Racial Justice Holders group. The DEI Sprint was laid down and racial justice work is to be continued by PYM Councils, Quarterly Meetings, and Monthly Meetings.

**The Climate Change Sprint** – this sprint has discerned 5 areas of action they would recommend. These were reflected in minutes (which were accepted). The five areas of action were Activism, Education, Reducing our Carbon Footprint, Making Better Financial Choices, and Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope. The sprint was laid down and the Climate Change work will continue through the efforts of Quaker Life Council, the Eco-Justice Collaborative, and EQAT (among others). It is hoped that Quarterly and Monthly Meetings will consider ways in which we can accomplish these goals.

**The Membership and Belonging Sprint** (see attached) – This sprint was formed in part to address concerns of Young Adult Friends (YAF) who wish to identify themselves as Quakers but for various reasons (e.g. a profession that requires frequent relocation) find it difficult to become involved in monthly meetings. The Membership and Belonging Sprint proposed a year-long trial of “At Large” membership where Friends could become members of yearly meeting without joining a monthly meeting. PYM asks Bucks Quarterly Meeting to consider whether we would offer an at-large Quarterly membership. WK invited Friends to comment on this proposal.

**Discussion ensues:** After approximately 15 minutes of discernment, the Clerk suggested that we let this proposal season until our next meeting.

**Announcements – WK announces Fall Events** – (see listings in Quakerphenalia); FHV has new Wellness and Engagement Coordinator (Ashley Opitz). They are looking for volunteers to support the Spirituality of Residents as well as volunteers to help facilitate activities (e.g. craftwork; accompanying residents on excursions).

Friend Olivia announces PYM Fall Continuing Sessions (Nov 6th; hybrid, at Friends Center), Spring Continuing Sessions (Mar 25, 2022), 342<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions (Jul 26-31, at TCNJ)

Friend Rick announces Peace Pilgrimage (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Closing Worship – There being no further business, Friends settled into Silent Worship**

**Adjournment – Clerk Leo Fitzpatrick adjourned the Meeting for Business at 3:37 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
August 15, 2021  
Under the Care of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting  
Held Virtually via Zoom

Just as we thought that we were winning the fight against COVID-19, two obstacles were thrown into our path. One is the reluctance of a certain segment of our population to get vaccinated, and the other is the emergence of the new, more virulent and more transmissible delta variant of the virus. As a result of these two factors we have seen a rise in infections and hospitalizations that haven't been seen in many months. We are fortunate that Bucks County has a high vaccination rate, and while transmission has increased somewhat, it is still relatively low. Friends remain cautious, as evidenced by our holding this Quarterly Meeting virtually and not in person, even though many of our meeting houses are opening for in person worship. Out of an abundance of caution many have returned to wearing masks to slow the spread. It is important for us to listen to the science as it emerges and accept the guidelines offered; it is the only way that we will come out on the other side of this pandemic. In true Quaker spirit, our meeting communities continue to make every effort possible to remain grounded in the Spirit and to embrace community, in any way they feel they safely can.

## Inreach

### Care of Meetings

**Re-opening our Meetings:** in May, as vaccination rates were rising and infection rates waning, Friends reached out to ask about the reopening plans for meetings around the Quarter. Areas of interest included re-opening time frames, special accommodations planned, hybrid options and equipment, etc. I contacted all monthly meeting clerks asking them for their reopening plans, and spoke to members of our ad-hoc technology committee as well. Some meetings are reopening slowly, beginning with outdoor Meeting for Worship weather permitting. Others are meeting indoors, with windows and doors open to increase air circulation and ventilation. Some meetings have invested in equipment to enable them to hold hybrid meetings. Many of these decisions, however, have been affected by the emergence of the delta variant of COVID-19 and are causing Friends to change or even put their reopening plans on hold. The Quarter has made available information gathered by Friends on our ad-hoc technology group, who are also available for consultation to meetings who would like to explore hybrid technology.

### Miscellaneous Inreach

I have been assisting a meeting with conflict resolution issues and I helped facilitate a panel discussion at Fallsington Meeting which dealt with their need to discern a succession plan for their next clerk as well as the possibility of changing from a single clerk to co-clerk model. Their discernment process continues.

### Event Attendance

#### **Within the Quarter:**

- Fallsington Meeting's Clerking Workshop

### **Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:**

- PYM Quarter Leadership meetings held in May and July
- PYM Runway to Annual Sessions Workshops
- PYM Annual Sessions

### **Greater Quaker Community:**

- Force for Good Gun Violence Prevention presentation
- The History and Caretaking of Quaker Burial Grounds
- Friends General Conference
- Pendle Hill's Reading Group

## Outreach

### Outreach Committee

A \$500 per monthly meeting annual outreach grant was approved at May's Quarterly Meeting. An application form is available on the website, and to date we have had two applications: one approved for Middletown Meeting and one pending approval for Buckingham Meeting. The availability of these grants has been widely publicized through information sent to meeting clerks, and announcements in *Quakerphernalia* and on our website.

### Website & Facebook

Keeping the website up to date with events and stories is time consuming, but continues to be a labor of love. I try to focus on Quarter-wide Events and Stories of Vitality. These stories are either submitted by meetings, or I reprint stories from monthly meeting newsletters. The average continues to be two per month; they are also posted on Facebook. Monthly meeting pages have been updated to reflect the change to their worship modes and schedules. Friends are encouraged to reach out to the coordinator with stories of vitality from their meetings.

### Fall Events

Preparations continue for the 21st Annual Peace Fair which is scheduled for Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The committee has been meeting, vendors and non-profits are registering for space, and a request for volunteers was emailed to the entire BQ community. The event is being publicized on Facebook and in the Times Publishing publications. Flyers are scheduled to be mailed by Quakertown Friends, and your Coordinator will be at the Wrightstown Farmers Market on August 28 and the Yardley Farmers Market the following week. We will have flyers for the taking and tile painting for the children. Given the ever changing pandemic situation there has not been a decision made about BFS student participation as ambassadors. I have reached out to Newtown Friends to see if there is any interest in their students participating in the Fair.

Bucks Quarter will be a presence at the Yardley Meeting Flea Market scheduled for Sept 11, and applications for space at Historic Fallsington Day and Historic Bristol Day have been submitted. Bristol Meeting plans to have the archeological dig on their property again this year. Application for Olde Langhorne Harvest Day has been submitted and is pending approval from their committee.



## Miscellaneous Outreach

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

**Middletown Friends Meeting at Langhorne**  
**Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting**  
**August 15, 2021**

Middletown Friends have experienced the same challenges as other meetings over the past year during the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to search for ways to gather in meaningful, Spirit-led worship; communicate with our members and attenders and provide opportunities for fellowship; keep up with the business of the meeting and maintain our historic meetinghouse; and engage with the broader community to respond to the many concerns in today's world.

**Meeting for Worship**

Middletown Friends began worshipping together virtually on Zoom in mid-March 2020 when the pandemic stay-at-home orders were issued. While we all missed in-person worship in our beloved meetinghouse, virtual worship has had some upsides, too, most notably the participation of several Friends afar. As of July 11, 2021, we have resumed in-person meeting for worship with a Zoom option. We received a grant for \$993 toward the purchase of equipment needed to hold hybrid worship as well as a grant from Bucks Quarter for \$500 to cover the cost of Verizon hotspot service for one year. Friends appreciate the time and technical expertise Tom Olson has contributed to make this possible. Our midweek meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. also resumed in July under the care of Jerry Belew.

**Our Children's First Day School**

Our First Day School consists of 11 children ranging in age from 7-17. The Covid-19 crisis moved us to Zoom meetings and a socially distanced treasure hunt for the Meetinghouse grounds for one family at a time. Our young Friends hosted a double donation drive-through event for the Penndel Food Pantry, collecting 353 pounds of food and approximately 150 toys! In May, our FDS families met in person for a socially distanced, outdoor gathering with a cornhole tournament and s'mores around a firepit. The FDS is planning to have a booth, Holly's Helpers, at the Peace Fair in September. They are having workshops to produce pet items to sell to earn money to donate to Bucks Food for Friends, another "pet" project of our late Friend Holly DiMicco Olson.

Several young Friends from Middletown are attending Camp Onas this summer.

For several years we have had a monthly family-friendly movie night and potluck supper. This event is building community both within the meeting and with Friends from throughout Bucks Quarter. On hold since February due to Covid-19, we look forward to resuming this monthly event once children can be vaccinated and it is safe for families to gather.

**Ministry & Nurture of Our Members and Attenders**

The Ministry & Nurture Committee engages in visiting our shut-ins and those who are ill or in the hospital, providing clearness committees as needed, sending cards and flowers on joyous and sad occasions, and tries to be aware of other needs within the meeting. Ministry and Nurture was especially concerned this year with the pandemic affecting the needs of members and attenders who are isolated, and reached out to them with notes, e-mails and phone calls to help them keep connected with the Meeting. Normally we coordinate volunteers to help with worship services at Chandler Hall but of course this is still on hold. Kathleen Parry, of our Meeting, has served as the Coordinator of the weekly services at Chandler Hall for the last 15 years. The support of Bucks Quarter Meetings that send their

members to help with services is most appreciated. We hope to be able to resume this program in some form in the future when it is safe for residents and volunteers.

Our annual auction has been one of the highlights on Middletown's social calendar for decades and serves as the sole fundraiser for the Ministry & Nurture Committee, which uses the proceeds to meet unbudgeted requests throughout the year. While we all missed the warm fellowship of our traditional auction-night potluck supper, the auction itself went on in true 2020 style – online! We came up with our own system—an auction “catalogue” featuring photos and descriptions of all 114 of the donated items that was updated and sent out twice a week via email. We had some wonderful items to bid on this year, including many hand-crafted by our young Friends. Thanks to the generosity of the bidders and donors, we raised significantly more than previous years and more people, including Friends from the Quarter and members of the Langhorne community, were able to participate. Our Zoom grand finale on November 6 when the winning bids were announced was “attended” by local Friends as well as those in Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Pittsburgh. While we all hope that we'll be able to safely gather in person this November, we are planning to do a hybrid version after the excitement that last year's virtual auction generated.

We stay in touch with our members and attenders through our newsletter, Facebook page, and website, and send minutes from our business meeting out each month via email. We started the year with 87 members 21 or older and 3 under 21. Sadly, three cherished meeting members have passed away in 2021.

### **Community and Global Outreach**

Our food pantry collection locker has been moved outside the meetinghouse and donations have increased as a result. Nancy and George Pickering pick up the donations each week and deliver them to the pantry in Penndel. A special drive thru Food Collection was held on June 26 to honor the 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Nancy and George. 1,264 pounds of food were collected during this one-day drive.

The meeting participated in Langhorne Council for the Arts' historic banner project by sponsoring a banner highlighting the history of the meeting. The banners are hung on the Victorian light poles throughout Langhorne and are part of a self-guided walking tour of the borough.

In August 2015, Bucks Learning Cooperative (BLC) assumed use of our schoolhouse building. BLC is a home-schooling support group that manages two similar facilities in New Jersey. Two meeting members serve on their board. The meeting worked with the board to establish safety guidelines to allow the Cooperative to reopen last Fall, paying attention to detailed public health measures. The Meeting maintains the outside of the old schoolhouse; extensive repairs are now underway, with stucco repair, a new chimney pot, painting, and interior electrical work, drywall, and painting.

Middletown meeting has a representative to the Langhorne Ministerium, providing opportunities for interfaith sharing and collaboration. Sadly, the Ministerium's community Thanksgiving service and Good Friday Cross Walk did not take place this year.

In June, in collaboration with a Langhorne resident, we displayed a Juneteenth banner featuring a portrait of Frederick Douglas and the words “Finally Free” on the meetinghouse lawn.

Friends are currently supporting the leading of Friend Sally Farneth, who is working on the Friends' Peace Team's Rwanda book project. The group plans to make six children's books for each of the six

libraries in the African Great Lakes region books, plus a librarian's copy/teacher's manual available for each library.

### **Handling Conflict Among Friends**

In November 2019 the meeting prepared a minute to Bucks Quarter (BQ) expressing our meeting's concerns about racist and sexist behaviors at the August 2019 QM, stemming from events reported by several of our members who attended that meeting. The minute ended with a call to action to make BQ Meeting for Business an inclusive place where all will feel safe and welcome. The minute was received with some anger, although many seemed to come around after further consideration. It is hoped that the minute will have any effect on behavior at future QMs and that Friends would be more mindful of how their words and actions (or lack of) affect others, particularly women and people of color. Two Middletown Friends met with the BQ Clerk this past fall to follow up on the minute, which was read again at the November 2020 QM. As a result, a virtual program on eldering was presented by George Schaefer in January 2021, with many Middletown Friends participating.

### **Stewardship of Our Historic Meetinghouse and Graveyard**

The meetinghouse property and graveyard were maintained through our annual cleanup, conducted this year with social distancing and wearing masks, and the ongoing efforts of numerous Friends who simply perform the tasks they see needing to be done. We are grateful to Friends for their care and work. Our graveyard convener continues to answer and assist many researching relative's graves, often upon a referral from our local historical association. A section of our graveyard has been designated for green burials, with one to date.

### **Maintaining Our Christmas Traditions During a Pandemic**

Even though we were not able to gather in person for Christmas this year we came up with ways to maintain some of our most cherished meeting traditions. Instead of a Christmas pageant this year, we had a virtual inter-generational event, The Gifts of Christmas. The gifts were what Friends of all ages bring to share—playing musical instruments, reading, or sharing poetry, art, or meaningful memories, with others quietly listening and supporting Friends through their presence. Another tradition, having a harpist play during meeting for worship on the Sunday before Christmas, continued this year on Zoom from the meetinghouse. And finally, five open house sessions were held at the meetinghouse in the week leading up to Christmas for visitors to come and enjoy the quiet, holiday setting enhanced with a miniature Victorian Village, the Meetinghouse Manger Scene, and the Giving Tree where donations were left to benefit the Bucks County Homeless Shelter and Mercer Street Friends Center.

We look forward to peace and healing in the upcoming year and hold our world in the Light amidst these difficult times. Our hearts are lifted by our faith in the Spirit and the love and sharing we bring to each other.

Submitted by  
Lance Mervine, Clerk  
Robin Hipple, Recording Clerk  
August 15, 2021

## Yardley Friends Meeting Annual report 2021

Like everyone throughout the world our year was different than any we've experienced.

We usually start the season with our Flea Market. The Flea Market we've held for 65 years couldn't happen in September 2020.

As the need arose Ted Taylor and Peg Smedley transferred worship to Zoom. A few of us attended outside worship with masks until all the long johns and blankets didn't keep anyone warm. In the winter it was all zoom. As weather warmed some of us started to worship around an outside fireplace. The spot is beautiful and serene. As rules relaxed we started having snacks and visiting by the picnic table.

July 4 worship inside began. More people came than for meeting outside. It isn't as many people as before Covid yet. There is the feel that we starting to be together again. Hybrid worship continues. Guests are joining us and continuing to attend. There are signs up letting people know they should wear a mask if not fully vaccinated. We have masks, disinfectants and ask for everyone to keep a distance in seating. It is strange not knowing whether to shake hands at the break of Meeting.

At a time where we only could be with those in our own home, it was good seeing each other on Zoom. Most of us agree it doesn't feel as spiritual as worshipping in person. There is an advantage to having evening committee meetings while sitting at home. Some things are better with Zoom.

We found everyone was affected differently. Parents with school age children had a hard time being in touch at all. Juggling children at home and maintaining jobs was challenging. Single people living alone really felt lonely. A couple members did get Covid but are doing okay. Those of us that could made phone calls and reached out in any way we could. Some of us had more time to spend on the care of Meeting. Others had no time at all.

We welcome Rosa David and Denis Copeland as new members. We held clearness for membership on Zoom. Our celebration will be a pool party that will bring many of us together.

We lost three dear Friends but not to Covid. Ann Bishop was a long time member. She was welcoming, helped however she could, and was known for big hugs. Rose Koch attended off and on for years before transferring her membership to Yardley. Rose had a giving way and interesting life experiences to share. We were so sad when she died shortly after becoming a member. We had a Zoom Remembrance for both that brought together people from all over the world. Ed Sites left us most recently. Ed, his wife and two sons have all been an active part of Meeting for many years. A memorial on August 8 will be in person. We miss them!

We made use of the time away from the Meetinghouse to make improvements to our grounds and building. Our Meetinghouse was a gift we've been given by the generation before us. It is our job to maintain the Meetinghouse for future generations and to make it appealing for ourselves and potential new members. Our property committee has grown and many others help. We have new windows, painted walls. Soon new floors, and a unisex, handicap bathroom will be complete. Paving repairs and

many little and big projects were also included. Thanks to Drew Sites and the property committee for shepherding this project.

We will soon build a labyrinth that was delayed a few years back. This is another project we will work on together. We look forward to inviting the community to walk the finished product.

A few of us gain a lot by attending the weekly Women's Group. We got to know each other better than we otherwise would by discussing a question a week. It's a highlight of the year for those who attend.

Aside from keeping in touch we did a few little things to brighten up lives. We sent cards around the holidays and surprised everyone personally delivering a flower to plant as spring arrived. Our Peace and Social Action committee remained diligent helping others outside the community less fortunate than us.

It is with great joy that we enter the Meetinghouse again. I know this time has left a mark and we will find new challenges collectively and individually. Hopefully we will have learned some lessons and will continue to do our best to be a stronger community than ever. We are mindful of continued changes every day.

We look forward to having our Flea Market this September and seeing you all when we host Quarterly Meeting in November.

4:34 PM  
07/19/21  
Cash Basis

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of June 30, 2021**

	<u>Jun 30, 21</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	103,652.86
Total Checking/Savings	<u>103,652.86</u>
Total Current Assets	103,652.86
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	57,067.25
Total Other Assets	<u>57,067.25</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>160,720.11</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	22,196.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	111,280.26
Net Income	<u>27,243.42</u>
Total Equity	<u>160,720.11</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>160,720.11</u></b>

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

	Jul '20 - Jun...	Budget	\$ Over Bud...	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Interest and dividends</b>				
FFC	1,788.36	1,770.00	18.36	101.0%
<b>Total Interest and dividends</b>	1,788.36	1,770.00	18.36	101.0%
<b>Monthly Meeting contributions</b>				
Additional	8,824.00			
Pledged	269,068.00	271,245.00	-2,177.00	99.2%
<b>Total Monthly Meeting contributions</b>	277,892.00	271,245.00	6,647.00	102.5%
<b>Other contributions</b>	1,100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	1,980.00	1,500.00	480.00	132.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	282,760.36	274,515.00	8,245.36	103.0%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	282,760.36	274,515.00	8,245.36	103.0%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Administrative</b>				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
<b>Total Administrative</b>	0.00	550.00	-550.00	0.0%
<b>Contributions</b>				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	193,136.00	193,133.00	3.00	100.0%
<b>Total Contributions</b>	193,136.00	193,133.00	3.00	100.0%
<b>Gifts/Donations</b>				
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%
<b>Total Gifts/Donations</b>	900.00	450.00	450.00	200.0%
<b>Insurance Expense</b>	940.00			
<b>Programs, Activities, Outreach</b>				
Operating	3,704.03	7,000.00	-3,295.97	52.9%
<b>Other</b>				
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	200.00	500.00	-300.00	40.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other</b>	607.55	7,610.00	-7,002.45	8.0%
<b>Personnel</b>	63,900.99	65,772.00	-1,871.01	97.2%
<b>Total Programs, Activities, Outreach</b>	68,212.57	80,382.00	-12,169.43	84.9%
<b>Total Expense</b>	263,188.57	274,515.00	-11,326.43	95.9%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	19,571.79	0.00	19,571.79	100.0%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	11,455.63			
<b>Total Other Income</b>	11,455.63			
<b>Other Expense</b>				
Kirkbride expenses	3,784.00			
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	3,784.00			
<b>Net Other Income</b>	7,671.63			
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>27,243.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,243.42</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



ANNUAL REPORT OF SOUTHAMPTON MONTHLY MEETING  
TO BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING

August 15, 2021

In past years our report started out with the wonderful turnout at the Peace Fair. The Peace Fair, among many other events, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Since March of 2020 at Southampton Monthly Meeting we have had meetings for Worship and Business on Zoom, with about 6-10 people on Sunday mornings at 10 am and 3-12 people on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Our online format at first allowed our local people to attend without risking infection, and now continues to allow our people in Iowa, Florida, Delaware, and Maryland to continue attending. We had missed the in person Meetings during the covid-19 pandemic and only at the end of July did we have the joy of eight people in the Meetinghouse for the first time in quite a while. Our Meetings for Worship have been meaningful and thoughtful. We plan to continue the hybrid style Meetings thanks to our “hotspot” and Stephen Moyer who sets up his laptop.

We have allowed the current NA (Narcotics Anonymous) groups to use our Meetinghouse, using proper ventilation, mask wearing and distancing. We moved some benches and marked 6 Ft. seating locations with tape to help with distancing.

Our Vigils for Racial Justice continue, weekly. We started them following the murder of George Floyd in June of 2020. There is still much work to be done to combat systemic racism. We regularly have 12-20 people at the corner of Street and Gravel Hill Roads from 4-5 on Sunday afternoons (although the time of day varies with the hours of daylight). We practiced mask wearing and distancing during the pandemic before we were vaccinated. Vigils have continued throughout the heat and the cold in all weather. We cooperate with Newtown Meeting on activities for Racial Justice. John Magee has been liaison

Along with the vigils, Hans Peters and Stephen Moyer have had meetings with two Upper Southampton Chiefs of Police, one recently retired and his successor. Although the opinions differ about the existence of racism in Southampton, we try to keep a dialogue going.

Christmas brought a new challenge as to how to celebrate with our Candle Light Christmas. We devised a zoom program, with readings and music where everyone but the speaker (or musician) was muted. For the sharing portion, we had the usual candles in sandboxes in the Meetinghouse with video. As people spoke, one of two people in the meetinghouse placed a lit candle in the sandbox. Some Friends from Newtown and Trenton Meetings joined us. Positive feedback from a Latina Friend in Trenton came regarding our inclusion of singing “Somos El Barco”.

Richmond Shreve of Newtown recorded our program and combined portions with videos of the children of Newtown Meeting for a presentation of a “Quaker Christmas Celebration” shown to Pennswood Village residents.

For the first time in a number of years Southampton meeting hosted Bucks Quarterly Meeting. Our speaker was Helen Higginbotham, Esq., community organizer and law professor, who has organized “When Black Women Gather”. She talked about “Conversation is Action – Getting to the Tough Conversations”. She received positive feedback. Several people asked to be put on her

email list for events. We plan to host BQM again, (but in person!), when our turn comes around again.

Bill Dockhorn has been spending considerable time and effort organizing our records to send to Haverford for archiving. We appreciate his initiative and diligence.

In December 2020, Southampton Meeting passed a Minute addressed to the President of the United States, the Attorney General, and the Senators and Representative that represent us in Washington. The Minute spoke against the (at that time) recent resumption of federal penal executions.

In June 2021, Southampton Meeting passed a Minute addressed to the Pennsylvania state legislature, regarding Equity in Education, requesting that all funds, not just “new” funds, be equitably distributed so schools with lower tax bases could have better funding.

Last year we replaced a 90 year old slate roof on our House on the Hill for \$11,000. Thanks to two generous members who offered matching funds of \$2,000 and \$3,000 plus members’, attenders’ and former members’ contributions, we have been able to regain most of this amount in the past year.

On June 26 Jim and Carolyn Michener celebrated their first Wedding Anniversary with a small gathering of Friends, friends, and relatives in the Meetinghouse. They restated their vows at the beginning of 45-minute Meeting for Worship, which included thoughtful messages from those present. Guests then signed the marriage certificate, something that had been impossible during the wedding, held, as it was, at the height of the pandemic quarantine. Afterward we had a trash free gathering outside – with ceramic plates, glass glasses, washable utensils, cloth napkins and tablecloths. Food scraps were composted or enjoyed by local chickens.

Our members have been active in Quaker activities, outside of Southampton Meeting, such as EQAT actions, and various other organization demonstrations for racial justice. Bill Dockhorn serves on the budget and Nominating for Bucks Quarter. Carolyn serves on the Bucks Quarter Oversight and Outreach Committees in addition to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Anti-Racism Collaborative (ARC). The ARC has collected many resources, which appear on the PYM website. Stephen Moyer is taking over the position of clerk of Southampton Monthly Meeting. We plan to have some listening sessions regarding the future of the meeting and possible changes to the House on the Hill to better suit our needs. Other hopes are directed towards programs/discussions/book readings regarding actions to interrupt structural racism.

Our Meetinghouse with a hybrid meeting is open for Meeting for Worship at 10 am on Sundays. Worship on Tuesdays at 7:30 continues only via zoom. Our picture window looks out into a woods beautiful at any time of year, in the spring when the leaves are coming out, the summer, the fall as the leaves turn and in the winter as the snow falls. All are welcome. Come visit.

Peace and Love,

Carolyn Peters Michener,

Outgoing Clerk (2002-2021).

## **Solebury Friends Meeting's Annual report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting 8th month 2021**

We celebrated Irene Fisher's 100th birthday this spring by sending birthday cards and calls, and Friends Village helped us celebrate with a few people in person, and a great zoom connection so more of us could join in. We are grateful for her continued involvement with her son Phillip. They both attended Meeting for worship in person once in July, along with Irene's daughter Karen.

We are concerned about our lack of connection during the pandemic, and are trying to come up with ways to connect meaningfully with Friends when worship is not available. We resumed worshipping in person at the Meetinghouse this spring, and those who feel safe to attend find it a great joy to be back together. Zoom meeting for worship is still available, but it isn't being used much, and we grieve over the loss of connection it was providing for and with far flung Friends. In person attendance is very light, but that is usually true during the summer months. We hope it will be safe enough for more members to worship in the fall. We have been discussing hybrid worship, but have not reached clearness and will continue to work with each other to discern how to include the most people.

Solebury has active members on many Boards of Directors: George School (2), Buckingham Friends School (4), Camp Onas (1), Chandler Hall (1), Friends Home and Village (1), and Mercer Street Friends (1).

We have an education grant fund named in honor of a past member Mary Blackmar, to give some financial support to Friends attending Friends Schools. While I don't have the details in time for this report, we continue this work. Our connections to Buckingham Friends School, George School, and others are strengthened by our young Friends attendance, and we are grateful for the longstanding ties they help create.

Our House and Grounds, and Graveyard committees have continued to keep our Meeting in good repair, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic, fallen trees, stone wall repair, and historic building maintenance.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marian Hepburn, Clerk  
Solebury Friends Meeting

Wrightstown Meeting Annual Report  
Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
August 15, 2021

What a year of transition this has been for the Wrightstown Friends Meeting - a year and a half of COVID and a transition in leadership for our community. Our longtime clerk, Betsy Bayardi, took me under her wing over the last year, as I served as the rising clerk which has allowed for a meaningful and smooth transition in leadership. Betsy currently serves our community as the 'past clerk', and both an elder and mentor to me. Wrightstown Meeting is incredibly grateful for her continued service.

*A look at where Wrightstown has been:*

As reported by our Recorder, Alice Maxfield, the Wrightstown Meeting statistics for the year ending December 31, 2020 are as follows:

181 members, 21 years of age and older  
6 members, under the age of 21  
18 associate members, under the age of 21  
205 = total membership

We had two new members join our meeting, one death and one resignation. One Associate Member turned 21 and was released.

Kim & Randy Viscio are our new members. Their children, G. Viscio (11/30/2011) and A. Viscio (9/3/2013) became members under 21.  
George Rowe (5/15/2020) died during the year.  
K. Biggs resigned.  
R. Comley turned 21 and was released.

As the COVID-19 pandemic infiltrated our world in February and March of 2020, Wrightstown Meeting began to quickly assess how to create a safe and spiritually connected worshipping community. We closed the meetinghouse and pivoted to an online Zoom platform for worship and social time at the rise of meeting. This was a blessing for some but was not for others. Each week about 15 – 20 folks joined for worship.

First Day School continued and finished the 2019-2020 academic year online and under the care of Kate Whitman Kamara and several other dedicated members. The children's religious education program ran concurrently with Meeting for Worship from 10am – 11am each week. The children attending ranged from K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade; the attendance varied from 4 to 10 children each week.

Wrightstown Meeting is blessed to have Wrightstown Friends Nursery School (WFNS) under its care. It is a beautiful nursery school rooted in Friends spiritual practice of kindness, patience, love and listening. My three children attended WFNS which created a comfortable pathway for our family to come to Quakerism.

The Wrightstown Friends Nursery School finished their year in an online platform filled with arts and crafts, story time, and music.

Zoom has been such a gift for our meeting to unwrap; it has allowed for many members and attenders to connect with us each week (about 15 to 20 people) – one member from Germany and one attender joined us each week from Florida, both of whom found themselves in their respective places for a prolonged period due to safety concerns of COVID.

Our zoom link continues to be available upon request from others outside the Wrightstown Community – we had two guests over the last year; the zoom platform is used to primarily connect with and support the Spiritual Formation of our members, attenders, and families of Wrightstown Meeting.

What about those who are not connecting online with us? What about those whom we are missing? Care and Counsel has done a wonderful job in making phone calls and sending emails during the past year to connect with Friends who are not wanting to or able to join online worship. We have found that Zoom worship is not for everyone.

In December of 2020, we held our longstanding traditional Candlelight Carol Sing – it just looked a bit different this year online. A candle burned in one of our Zoom squares for special effect while we heard singing, poetry, and a beautiful musical instrument piece by one of our young Friends. Children, families and our community far and wide, came together for this special occasion. Sadly, we had to give the Lingohocken Fire Truck the year off – this beautiful antique fire truck traditionally stands watch over our meetinghouse in case of fire. We hope to engage them again this year.

Our Children's Religious Education program took a pause from the Fall of 2020 to January of 2021. From January 2021 through June 2021, we held First Day School via zoom from 9:00am to 9:45am each Sunday, before Meeting for Worship at 10am. It was a wonderful space for the children to worship, connect, and share with each other – attendance varied from 3 to 10 children, ranging from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Each 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, the children were invited to join Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's wonderful online Giant Children's Meeting. They connected with a community of about 30 other Quaker children in PYM's geographic area. They seemed to really enjoy this time and the program offered.

In February 2021, Wrightstown Friends Nursery School re-opened its' doors with a good COVID safety plan and ran at full-COVID-capacity – the decreased class size allowed for safe social distancing; masks were required. The co-directors, Karen Bryk and Claranne Merlo were very creative and flexible in the teaching and playing in the newly configured outdoor learning spaces. WFNS plans to re-open in the fall with nearly full attendance in both the Morning and Afternoon Friends programs.

In the winter of 2021, we began an online experiment and formed a Pendle Hill pamphlet discussion Group on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. This has been a wonderful opportunity to gather together as a community, deepen our spiritual formation, and listen and learn from each other through worship sharing and query reflection. Approximately 10 to 20 Friends gather online each month.

In the Spring of 2021, Wrightstown Meeting began to gather outside on campus while others continued to gather online – parallel worship. We experimented with the hybrid model for a few weeks, but found that it was not conducive to the outdoor space. Approximately, 15 folks joined on campus; 15 joined each week on zoom.

*A look at where Wrightstown Meeting is presently:*

In May 2021, the sense of the community revealed that we wanted to open the meetinghouse for worship. An ad hoc committee on Re-Opening the Meetinghouse met to draft COVID safety guidelines and procedures to gather indoors. Due to the fluid nature of this virus and its' conditions, we agreed to re-assess the protocol every two months as a community.

We currently have a hybrid meeting each week – we welcome Friends to join us on Zoom where participants online can be heard in the meetinghouse and see the meetinghouse, however those in the meetinghouse cannot see those online. In the near future, we will discern as a meeting, how or if we can create blended worship, where we can see & hear, welcome & include everyone joining in-person and online.

*A look forward for Wrightstown Meeting:*

We agreed as a community to re-assess the Wrightstown COVID-19 Community Guidelines and Safety Procedure every three months. We continue to review and monitor the CDC recommendations and local Bucks County Department of Health information on infection rates; this helps us discern the impact on how we will continue to gather as a meeting community.

A Community Conversation (hopefully in-person) is on our calendar for October 23. We will explore how we can center the needs of our children and families in the meeting, welcome and include members and attenders whom we have not seen since before COVID, and discern a way forward on bringing the yearly meeting wide ministries of Addressing Racism and Climate Change into the life of our meeting through some changes, shifts, and religious education.

Respectfully submitted with gratitude,

Olivia Brangan  
Clerk, Wrightstown Meeting

Bucks Food for Friends  
Annual Report August 15, 2021  
Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bucks Food For Friends is operated completely by volunteers comprised mostly of Bucks Quarter Quakers. COVID 19 continues to interrupt the model of how Bucks Food For Friends serves meals. March of 2020 was the last hot meal prepared, packed, and served to our guests “to go”. However, the mission of serving those experiencing food insecurities has adapted to simpler “to go” meals and then delivery is coordinated through the Advocates for the Homeless to the camps they service.

The organization has been so lucky to have a wonderful pool of volunteer resources who historically help with meal preparation, serving, and cleanup. We cannot wait to resume the personal one on one hot meal service for guests. If you are interested in being added to the pool of volunteers or are curious about volunteering, please contact Carol whose email is at the bottom of the report.

BFFF is completely dependent on external donations to support the mission. We are grateful for the continued generosity of monetary donations from individuals and meetings within Bucks Quarter. We are currently in good financial shape, but welcome donations to support the mission. Send donations to Rich Richardson, BFFF Treasurer 1 Atkinson Lane, Newtown, PA 18940.

Submitted by Carol Richardson Volunteer Coordinator  
email: [c.richardson@cbhearthside.com](mailto:c.richardson@cbhearthside.com)