

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business

21st Day, November 2021

Held under the care of Yardley Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Clerk: Leo Fitzpatrick (Wrightstown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 12:49 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome – Leo Fitzpatrick

Review and Approval of Agenda – add Tom Wells to agenda – to follow review of minutes.

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol: 0, Buckingham: 2, Doylestown: 1, Fallsington: 5, Lehigh Valley: 1, Makefield: 1, Middletown: 1, Newtown: 8, Plumstead: 1, Quakertown: 2, Solebury: 0, Southampton: 2, Wrightstown: 4, Yardley: 4.

Review and Approval of Minutes from [previous meeting] – approved.

Special Report – Tom Wells, (Citizen Climate Lobby) – Climate Change and Quaker Involvement; 2 years ago BQM adopted a minute requesting a price on carbon – this has not occurred – but it's possible that such a provision would be included in reconciliation bill currently under review by the Senate – recommends that we send emails and call to elected representatives, especially Senator Casey asking him to support carbon tax; Friend suggests using template and software to facilitate contact with representatives. Tom is also using Twitter to spread message more generally.

Stories of Vitality & Strength – Southampton Friends (along with NMM Friends) went to Harrisburg to lobby for equitable funding for PA Schools; Fallsington Friends is continuing its work on anti-racism – made financial commitment to African American organizations to improve race relations – these include personal education; Newtown Friend reports of annual Simple Supper – Children's RE program – proceeds went to refugee resettlement and 911 first responders; Doylestown Friend speaks of using nearby labyrinth as spiritual exercise – perhaps outreach potential but not yet realized; Newtown Friend reports of family member who has cancer – proactive testing monitoring may help prevent – holding family member in the Light; Quakertown Friend, reports unusually high number of visitors for Meeting for Worship; Wrightstown Friend reports that their Clerk has had some recent health issues and they are enlisting volunteers to assist with clerking – holding Friend Oliva in the Light; Middletown Friend reports that as result Quarter presence at Langhorne Harvest Day (with outreach postcards) they have had 4 visitors.

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane (full report attached): Highlights include recap of COVID-19’s impact on Children’s RE – now that child vaccines are available, Bucks are hoping for more family participation; Wendy is not able to worship with Friends in-person; Some monthly meetings are now employing a hybrid-format (incorporates a Zoom component) – this is a different discernment for each meeting; MM Clerks still meet quarterly to share concerns and ideas – last meeting this group discussed challenges in opening of meetings for in-person worship – includes ventilation issues – MM Clerks also shared ideas about modifying holiday celebrations due to continuing COVID concerns; Wendy also made observations about attendance at events within the quarter, PYM, and broader Quaker community; she notes that four, \$500 grants have been approved by the BQ Outreach Committee – MM can apply for these grants through the BQM website – BQ Outreach committee has printed out 500 outreach postcards which feature a reproduction of Edward Hick’s *Peaceable Kingdom* and the query “You might be a Quaker if:” along with 9 responses to this query – cards also contain contact information for the BQM Coordinator and the BQ website – MM stories of vitality are posted to the BQ website as well as on our Facebook page; Bucks Food For Friends is discerning how and when to reopen for in-person service – meanwhile, the Richardson family is helping prepare meals and deliver to Advocates for the Homeless which delivers to those facing food insecurity ; WK serves on PYM Program Committee; PYM has scheduled semi-annual meetings for Quarterly Meeting Clerks and staff – hopes to improve communication/coordination between entities; WK volunteers at Mercer Street Friends Food Bank once/week; Southampton Friend reports that Bucks County Dept of Health can tell us where we can get vaccination (including boosters); Doylestown Friend would like more focus on outreach.

Annual Report – Newtown Monthly Meeting (full report attached) – Mark Ratliff– COVID-19 remains a source of concern – NMM has an ad hoc committee to review & assess COVID safety – Newtown Meeting opened for in-person meetings in October with expectation that those in attendance will be vaccinated and masked – NMM also has a Zoom option; NMM has upgraded WIFI –and installed air filtration/carbon dioxide monitors to monitor/improve air quality; this past year their Adult RE has conducted 13 programs on various topics; Children’s RE was held remotely much of year due to COVID concerns– in early fall the Children began meeting in-person, outdoors, once per month – with NMM meetinghouse reopened, our young friends meet weekly for First Day School; NMM annual lasagna and soup dinner has been reorganized as a take-out meal; Peace and Justice continue to hold bi-weekly vigils in support of Black Lives Matter; during summer months they held separate meeting for worship outdoors as a way of maintaining and strengthening a sense of connection within the community; there was an average of 20 adults and 3 children in attendance; the NMM held remote Easter program “Walking the Way of Peace from Palm Sunday to Easter ” – in response to Jan 6 Capital Hill riot; NMM has been working to come to unity on the issue of adding additional parking; over the course of the year membership has remained largely flat; Newtown Friends School (under care of NMM) has weathered COVID 19 challenges of the past year – they have offered in-person instruction with mitigation measures in place as well as full-time online option – NFS is financially healthy and enrollment is strong – NFS continues to strive for academic excellence and foster a community that values diversity, equity and inclusion.

Annual Report – Plumstead Meeting – Dafydd Jones (full report attached) – Plumstead Friends met outside during the warmer months; now that the weather is cooler Friends are meeting indoors with appropriate spacing; they will meet as usual for Thanksgiving but brunch will be limited to members and attenders – the annual Christmas Carol sing has once again been cancelled due to COVID concerns– they hope to resume this celebration next year; they have had some maintenance issues (a leak which has damaged the newly laid floor and some large trees in the back that have died and need to come down). Plumstead is under the care of Buckingham Meeting and they have been very helpful with these issues; the meeting has added 3 members in the last year; they are doing a Christmas Hat and Glove Tree and they plan to resume First Day School with children RE meeting outside weather permitting.

Treasurers Report – Ed Snyder (see attached) – we are in good financial shape through the first quarter of our fiscal year; four outreach grants have been distributed for a total of \$2000; Friend asked about contributions to Friends United School – BQM does not contribute to any Quaker Schools currently.

Budget and Nominating Report – Proposed Changes to Budget – Ed Snyder – BQM is, in a fiscal sense, a pass-through organization – checking balance has grown by \$50K over the years – Budget and Nominating recommends making an additional contribution of \$20,000 to PYM; also \$1000 each to Chandler Hall, Camp Onas and Friends Village; Buckingham Friend wonders if extra could be split between Chandler and Friends Village as in years past; Fallsington Friend thanks Ed for report and supports distribution as outlined – Fallsington Friend suggests that we might consider in future contributing to organizations that support racial equity; Newtown Friends wonders if we should stipulate where PYM can spend our excess contribution; Clerk calls on Wrightstown Friend to clarify thought process into giving unrestricted funds to PYM – suggests that Budget and Nominating become aware of Chandler Hall and Friends Village need money to assist residents that have outlived their money – Yardley Friend wonders why not give more to Chandler Hall, Friends Village, and Onas rather than bulk to PYM; Friend speaks against restriction on gifts; Quakertown Friend agrees that restricted funds are problematic – especially for smaller non-profit organizations; Wrightstown Friend feels that bulk of money directed to PYM is rightly ordered; Yardley Friend remarks that more money is available and we have more to give; Friends in chat feel that more money should go to local organizations (i.e. Chandler Hall, Camp Onas, Friends Village); Friend in chat recommends more to local; Ed suggests \$5,000 each to Chandler Hall, Friends Village and Camp Onas, and \$15,000 to PYM – this is **approved**.

Minute of Appreciation for Betsy Bayardi – Bethann Morgan – “Friend Bayardi has served our Bucks Quarter as participant, recorder and/or clerk of our Budget & Nominating Committee with skill and compassion for many years. Her knowledge and dedication supported the behind the scenes work of our beloved community. She will complete her term of this service at the end of this year. We appreciate Betsy Bayardi.”

Committee Report – Budget and Nominating – Betsy Bayardi – Changes in Succession Plan – BQM Clerk – the Quarter needs new Clerk, Rising Clerk and Clerk of Budget and Nominating – Lisa Parry will step up to Assistant Clerk of Budget and Nominating with Leo as Clerk for next two years; Budget & Nominating has some candidates in mind for Clerk of the Quarter and rising Clerk of the Quarter.

BREAK

Semi-Annual Report – Friends Village – Chiyo Moriuchi (full report attached) – Chiyo reviews the history of Friends Village and what sets Friends Village apart from other senior living facilities and importance of Friends Village strategic plan as demographics change (54% of adults approaching retirement age will not have a place to live in community); in response to COVID-19, 98% of residents and 90% of staff are vaccinated; Chiyo introduces new mission and vision statement that emerged from Friends Village Board retreat; Friends Village has a new logo, and new name – formal roll-out of name will happen after Friends Village rebuilds website; Friends Village is aware that more outreach is required; in the past year, Friends Village has added a Community Wellness and Engagement Coordinator – has engaged a food service provider – has developed a monthly speaker series – has developed a technology class in association with Senior Planet; we have engaged three George School students to be interns; is working on establishing a native plant park on the Styer Campus; has reduced energy usage; Chiyo shares Friends Village fact sheet; although Friends Village came through COVID okay – we need to improve enrollment; Christmas singing on Wednesday Dec 8th at the Styer Campus; and at the Paxson campus on Tuesday Dec 14th.

Annual Report – Peace Fair Committee – Tim Cunningham – (full report attached) The 2021 Peace Fair went well with attendance of about 1100 – 1500; enjoyed strong support from other meetings; suffered labor shortage among young Friends (PYM, Buckingham Friends School pulls young Friends); looking forward to next year; Friend comments that music was an asset to the Fair.

Outreach Committee Report – Doug Meaker – only 4 applications for outreach grant so far; Doug clarifies amount to be awarded will not change; meetings may apply for grant even if plans for use not complete; Outreach Committee Friend encourages all meetings to take advantage of this opportunity; Wendy describes our Outreach postcard with QR code; notes that Outreach postcards can be “personalized” for individual meetings at the cost of the Quarter; some meetings request personalized cards.

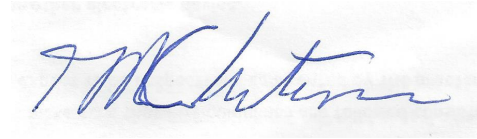
Announcements –

- 2021 Peace Pilgrimage (see information on the Quarter website)
- Update of Anti-Racism Collaborative Carolyn Peters Michener announced an Anti-Racism Thread Gathering planned for Saturday, February 5, 2022; details will be available soon at pym.org
- Nancy Johnston, Lehigh Valley Meeting, reported on a fundraiser she hosted to help fund a documentary about the life of George Lakey and offered the opportunity for Friends around the Quarter to host a similar event.
- Lance Mervine, Middletown, announced that the meeting is holding a Food and Toy Drive at the meetinghouse on Saturday, December 4th
- Carolyn Peters Michener, Southampton, announced that the meeting’s ongoing Vigil for Racial Justice at the corner of Street Road and Gravel Road is now at Sunday’s at 3PM.

Closing Worship – At 3:18 PM Friends settled into worship; rise of BQM at 3:20PM

Upcoming BQM – Feb 20th, 2022, under the care of Buckingham Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
November 21, 2021
Under the Care of Yardley Monthly Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom

One of the tragedies of this pandemic has been the effect on our children's religious education programs. During the 2020-2021 school year, with children attending school virtually, it was no wonder that parents were reluctant to have their children attend virtual First Day School as well. The current 2021-2022 school year has begun with masked, in-person instruction—masked because up until just a few weeks ago, children ages 5-11 did not have access to a vaccine. Now that a vaccine has been approved for 5-11 year olds, our meetings may begin to consider how to have safe, in person, first day school classes for most of our children. This absence of family time at meeting has been felt keenly across the Quarter, and while many meetings have found innovative ways to engage their children, it is just not the same as our pre-pandemic gatherings. It is my sincere hope that we may gather in person as a community—all ages together—for our February 2022 Quarterly Meeting.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

Sharing Meeting for Worship with a different monthly meeting each First Day is the part of the Coordinator position that I enjoy most. For the first time since pandemic restrictions were instituted in March 2020, this summer and fall I have been able to worship with Friends in person. Each meeting has discerned how to best open their worship spaces safely; some embracing the available technology and establishing hybrid worship, others not. The complexity of hybrid worship is individualized across meetings as well; some with elaborate microphone and projectors, others with a simple iPad. But each has discerned what is best for their community and it is a joy to be able to once again share time together in person.

Miscellaneous Inreach

Monthly Meeting Clerks continue to meet quarterly to share their concerns and ideas. This month the group discussed how monthly meetings continue to deal with ongoing pandemic concerns and the re-opening of our meetinghouses, including conducting hybrid meetings for worship and ventilation concerns as the weather becomes colder. They also were concerned about the quality of virtual worship vs in person worship and how children's religious education programs are faring. Planning for holiday celebrations has begun, with meetings cautiously scheduling small safe gatherings within their own meeting communities.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- **Yardley Friends Annual Flea Market:** after being cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, the 2021 Flea Market, held on September 11th, was a resounding success. The BQ tent was set up with outreach materials available for the taking and conversation with Friends available.
- **21st Annual Bucks Quarter Peace Fair:** The Fair was very successful with an estimated 1500 people attending throughout the picture perfect day. Many stopped by the BQ tent to have a conversation about Quakerism and take the offered outreach materials. We had tile painting available for the children with an estimated 75-100 tiles created!
- **Irene Fisher Memorial:** Took place at Solebury Meeting on September 25th as a remembrance of her remarkable 100 years.
- **Historic Marker Dedication at Nixon Cemetery:** On October 2nd, Quakertown Friends Meeting held a dedication ceremony for an historic marker that honors the Nixon Cemetery, a burial site for non-Quakers that the Meeting offered to the community in the mid-1700s. The sign also acknowledges the now forgotten site, across the road, of a former cemetery for enslaved Africans, also founded in the mid-1700s, but destroyed before the 1880s. The dedication ceremony included several speakers, and refreshments were offered afterwards at the Quakertown Friends meetinghouse.
- **Historic Fallsington Day:** The Bucks Quarter tent was set up and staffed by volunteers from Fallsington Meeting; they reported handing out about 100 of our new outreach postcards.
- **Historic Bristol Day:** Many Quaker curious stopped by the BQ tent to find out more about local Quakers. Many of our outreach postcards were handed out by an enthusiastic Friend.
- **Olde Langhorne Harvest Day:** a lovely day to end our Fall Festival season. Bill and Kate Daly and Bob Wharton and I spoke to at least a half dozen Quaker curious. It was later reported that Middletown Meeting had two new visitors as a result of our outreach.

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- **Afghan Refugee Conference Call:** On September 9th many Friends from around the yearly meeting participated in a zoom call to hear how our Quaker communities can help with the influx of Afghan refugees that is a result of the end of the war in Afghanistan. Many meetings in the Quarter are working towards sponsoring two Afghan families through Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement.

Greater Quaker Community:

- **Pendle Hill Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture 2021:** on September 13th, Vanessa Julye, co-author of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* spoke on the topic of *Radical Transformation—Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends*.

Outreach

Outreach Committee

Grants: Four \$500 outreach grants have been approved by the Outreach Committee. An application form is available on the website and the availability of these grants has been widely publicized through information sent to meeting clerks, and announcements in *Quakerphernalia* and on our website.

Outreach Postcard: The Outreach postcard was completed and 500 printed. The card is designed to attract the interest of passersby with a colorful reproduction of Edward Hicks' The Peaceable Kingdom, and the query "You might be a Quaker if" next to it. Nine responses to the query are listed on the back, along with contact information for the Coordinator and a QR code that directs you to the Quarter website. Over 300 cards were given out during our Fall events, and each monthly meeting received ten for their own use. It has proven to be a highly successful method of outreach; the committee is in the process of speaking with monthly meetings and discerning if they would like the same card printed with their meeting's contact information instead of the Quarter's. We are also discussing using these postcards to expand our outreach to Quaker schools and retirement communities.

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 reprinted 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.

Miscellaneous Outreach

Bucks Food for Friends: BFFF volunteers met to discuss when they felt it might be safe to resume in person meals at Fallsington Meeting, which have not occurred since February 2020. On behalf of BFFF, the Richardson family has been preparing meals which they deliver to Advocates for the Homeless, who distribute them to those suffering food insecurity. The sense of the group is that the delta variant surge has further postponed in person gathering, and that the to-go meals should continue for the near future. The group will reassess the situation in January 2022.

Edward Hicks Day: I was invited to join the Langhorne Council for the Arts planning committee for Edward Hicks Day, scheduled for April 23, 2022 in Langhorne; our first meeting was November 10th. They would like this event to be widely publicized among Bucks Friends whom they hope will enthusiastically attend.

PYM Program Committee: At the yearly meeting level, I continue to serve on the Program Committee, which has oversight over Collaboratives, Thread Gatherings, Resource Friends, Bridge Contacts and Young Adult Friends. This group is an active and committed group of Friends from across the yearly meeting and I am honored to represent Bucks Quarter Friends.

PYM Quarterly Meeting Staff: In an effort to improve relationship and communication with Quarterly Meetings, PYM has scheduled twice-yearly meetings of staff and clerks of quarterly meetings. Haddonfield Quarter Coordinator, Linda Lotz, and I have established a Google group of all the paid Quarterly Meeting staff and have been meeting regularly to increase communication and collaboration across the Quarters. Our quarter staff group recently met in November to help plan the agenda for our next yearly-meeting wide gathering for Quarter Leadership which will be held in the near future.

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

Newtown Monthly Meeting Annual Report - November 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a central concern within our community. For most of this year we continued to meet online via Zoom. When vaccines became available at the beginning of the year we had hoped that we could soon return to in-person meeting for worship. However an increase in infections due to a new variant of the virus prompted us to proceed cautiously. We formed an ad hoc committee including healthcare professionals who met regularly to assess the situation and make recommendations to the meeting. In October the meeting decided to re-open the meeting house while asking that all members and attenders be vaccinated and everyone present continue to wear masks. In-person worship has been integrated with our continuing online meeting creating a 'hybrid' configuration that allows both in-person and remote participants to worship together. We continue to enjoy participation from members located in other parts of our country and around the world. To support this hybrid configuration we upgraded the WiFi network and employed a laptop connected to the existing hearing assist system to broadcast from the meeting house while projecting remote participants onto a screen above the facing benches. HEPA filters and carbon dioxide monitors were installed for additional monitoring and protection.

Our Adult Religious Education program included over 13 programs. The topics included: Quakers in Costa Rica, immigration, community safety & peacemaking, Quaker decision-making, Arch Street Meeting Preservation Trust, Emmet Gowin's photography, individual member's spiritual journeys, discussions on parking and placemaking at the meeting house, and other programs led by the Worship & Ministry, Peace & Justice, and Care & Counsel committees.

Children's Religious Education activities continued to be held remotely for most of the year. In December of 2020, we held a remote Christmas program, in which children took turns reading lines from the Christmas story and the "Amazing Peace" poem by Maya Angelou and also shared a wish for the world. Families received monthly spiritual care packages through June. Our traditional soup and lasagna dinners normally held at the meeting house were instead organized as take-out meals. The proceeds from the dinners went to Mercer Street Friends. In early fall the children began meeting together monthly, outdoors, focusing on rebuilding their connections to one another. Now that the meeting house has re-opened, the children have joined us in meeting for worship and attended First Day classes.

The Peace & Justice committee continues to lead bi-weekly vigils in support of Black Lives Matter. The vigils have seen an average of 15-25 people from Newtown Friends Meeting and the surrounding community standing firmly in public opposition to white supremacy, systemic racism, and abuses of power by law enforcement. Through these vigils we have forged relationships with Newtown Borough Police, strengthened ties with members of local Friends Meetings (especially Southampton Meeting), formed connections with other like-minded individuals in the community, sparked conversations with many different passersby, encouraged countless drivers inclined toward our cause, and raised awareness among less engaged citizens. The meeting continues to be an active member of POWER Bucks, which is affiliated with a state-wide organization of over 50 Pennsylvania congregations committed to racial and economic justice.

Our Worship & Ministry committee led efforts to strengthen our member's connections with one another and deepen our worship. During the warmer summer months a separate meeting for worship was held outdoors, providing an opportunity for in-person worship. The average attendance of these gatherings was about 20, including 2 to 3 children and 1 dog. Passersby were intrigued by this outdoor gathering with some deciding to join in worship. The committee also led a series of programs titled "Searched by

the Light” which focused on “the Light Within ... [that] Reveals who we are, including what we would prefer not to see about ourselves, and leads us out of spiritual darkness or dryness.”

Our Easter program, titled “Walking the Way of Peace from Palm Sunday to Easter: A Response to the Capitol Hill Riot”, was held online via Zoom. The Worship & Ministry Committee presented a Quakerly interpretation of Holy Week stories suggesting that the Father of Jesus was not a God of wrath murdering his son to atone for human sins, but rather a God of Love willing his son to accept the cross in the name of Love and thus to bring about someday our human at-one-ment. The Peaceable Kingdom! Special invitations were sent to the high school students of the meeting and several joined the program. It was a delight to have families join in the program during this time of isolation.

The meeting has been working hard to come to unity regarding construction of additional parking on the grounds, and more broadly, on our vision for the use and care of the Meeting property. Having lost our ability to park in the lot adjacent to our property we have secured an agreement to park at the Stocking Works which is a 5 minute walk from the meeting house. Priority for parking in the limited number of spaces currently available on our property will be given to those with mobility issues and families with small children. After many meetings with Newtown Borough engineers, committees, and council we finally received approval for engineering plans describing an extension to our existing parking area and construction of an additional parking area on another side of the meeting house. These plans include catchwater basins and plantings that will address stormwater runoff along with detailed plans for protecting existing trees and replacing trees that would need to be removed for construction. We are now considering how best to move forward while balancing our concerns for the aesthetics of our grounds, the environmental impact of the construction, and our desire to provide a welcoming experience for all who visit our meeting house. We have held several threshing sessions allowing participants to voice their concerns and recommendations. To help prepare us for the process of decision-making Arthur Larrabee delivered a program on “Seeking a Deeper Understanding of Quaker Decision-making” which included an interactive presentation on the roles of the Clerk and members of the meeting in the decision-making process. This entire process has been an opportunity for us to deepen our worship and our practice of discernment in our threshing sessions and meetings for business. This process of careful listening to one another has deepened our sense of community.

Over the course of the year three members died, one member resigned, and five minor members and two associate members reached age 21. Two applications for membership and a request for marriage under the care of the meeting were also received.

	2020	2021
Total Members	345	341
Full Members	335	333
Adult	296	299
Minor	39	34
Associate	10	8

Targeted individual outreach was made to all inactive members (about 150), to all young adults age 18-25 (about 50). Sixty five cards were sent for graduations, illness, and grieving and care quilts shared with those in need. We continue to communicate with members and attenders via our monthly newsletter, regular website updates, Facebook posts, weekly announcements, and articles published in the Newtown Patch, Advance of Bucks County, Bucks County Herald and the Times Publishing Company. Most care contacts were done by phone. Efforts were also made to support families who experienced loss without being able to hold memorial meetings.

We continue to draw on the diverse set of skills and experiences of our members who are engaged in committee work. Our nominating committee has done an excellent job working with committee clerks to identify and recruit candidates for various positions including the new Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the meeting. Recruiting has been more challenging this year due to some member's reluctance to commit to new/additional teleconference meetings and the challenges of navigating the technology required to participate in online meetings.

Despite the many challenges we faced in the past year members of Newtown Meeting have remained engaged, have faithfully sought guidance from the Spirit, have worked together to follow our common leadings, and have supported one another in community.

Newtown Friends School, which is under the care of our meeting, has weathered the COVID-19 challenges of 2020-2021 with creativity and innovation. NFS delivered face-to-face instruction, with a variety of mitigation strategies in place, throughout most of the school year. NFS also offered a fully online learning option for students who chose to learn at home. The success of these multiple, simultaneous strands of programming was grounded in large part in the hard work and dedication of the school's faculty and staff, who embraced opportunities to try new things while still nurturing the traditional, close connections among members of the NFS community. NFS remains financially healthy, with an enrollment higher than the past 10+ years. Goals for the near future include building continued academic excellence, supporting student and faculty well-being, and enhancing efforts to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the curriculum and school community.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ratliff, Clerk of Newtown Monthly Meeting

2021 Plumstead Friends Meeting's annual report to Quarterly Meeting

At Plumstead Friends Meeting we have been meeting outdoors in the beautiful summer weather. It has been noted with mild entertainment that at least one person has multitasked by sunbathing during Meeting. With the arrival of "cooler going on cold" weather we are meeting indoors with substantial spacing between people.

We will meet as usual on Thanksgiving but our traditional Thanksgiving brunch will be limited to members and attenders. Our annual Christmas carol sing on December 24th has been cancelled again this year with the hope it will be possible next year. The thought of inviting a large group of people into a relatively small space to sing lustily required that we not sing this year.

We have had a leak from a window in our old Meetinghouse which caused our new floor to buckle along the length of the Meetinghouse. The leak was investigated, located, and corrective action has been taken. We continue to keep an eye on it and the other windows where rain might penetrate the building.

At the back of our property, we have some huge and beautiful ash trees, at least four of which have died. Because of their substantial size it is expensive to bring them down and not a job for amateurs because of the weight and necessity to land them in specific directions. They are also located right on our rear property line so we must be mindful of not having them fall on the neighbors. Plumstead Meeting is under the care of Buckingham Friends Meeting and they have been helpful with bringing down a couple of the trees.

The population of the Meeting has been very stable this year, a very good thing. I am happy to report the addition of three young siblings as members, all college students whose parents have been members for many years. We are very pleased they have taken this step and we look forward to continuing to see them grow!

Respectfully submitted,

Dafydd Jones
Clerk

2:16 PM
10/18/21
Cash Basis

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2021

	<u>Sep 30, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	94,568.73
Total Checking/Savings	<u>94,568.73</u>
Total Current Assets	94,568.73
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	56,476.75
Total Other Assets	<u>56,476.75</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>151,045.48</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	22,196.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	138,523.68
Net Income	<u>-9,674.63</u>
Total Equity	<u>151,045.48</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>151,045.48</u>

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2021 through June 2022

	Jul '21 - Jun...	Budget	\$ Over Bud...	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	0.00	1,810.00	-1,810.00	0.0%
Total Interest and dividends	0.00	1,810.00	-1,810.00	0.0%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	200.00			
Pledged	56,849.10	276,540.00	-219,690.90	20.6%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	57,049.10	276,540.00	-219,490.90	20.6%
Other contributions	100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
Total Income	57,149.10	279,850.00	-222,700.90	20.4%
Gross Profit	57,149.10	279,850.00	-222,700.90	20.4%
Expense				
Administrative				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total Administrative	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	46,697.00	198,785.00	-152,088.00	23.5%
Total Contributions	46,697.00	198,785.00	-152,088.00	23.5%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Chandler Hall	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Friends Home and Village	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Total Gifts/Donations	0.00	450.00	-450.00	0.0%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	1,847.17	6,000.00	-4,152.83	30.8%
Other				
Advertising	1,500.00	2,200.00	-700.00	68.2%
Liability Insurance	0.00	940.00	-940.00	0.0%
Outreach Committee Activities	60.00	2,000.00	-1,940.00	3.0%
Programs for Peace	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00	0.0%
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	1,560.00	7,690.00	-6,130.00	20.3%
Personnel	19,835.93	66,775.00	-46,939.07	29.7%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	23,243.10	80,465.00	-57,221.90	28.9%
Total Expense	69,940.10	279,850.00	-209,909.90	25.0%
Net Ordinary Income	-12,791.00	0.00	-12,791.00	100.0%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-590.50			
Total Other Income	-590.50			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	1,000.00	7,000.00	-6,000.00	14.3%
Total Other Expense	1,000.00	7,000.00	-6,000.00	14.3%
Net Other Income	-1,590.50	-7,000.00	5,409.50	22.7%
Net Income	-14,381.50	-7,000.00	-7,381.50	205.5%



Friends Village

Semi-Annual Update Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting November 17, 2021 – Yardley Friends Meeting

Who we are:

Since 1897 Friends Home & Village (FHV) has been a caring community for older adults of modest means. Founded by Bucks Quarterly Meeting, and legally still the “Friends Boarding Home of Bucks Quarterly Meeting”, we have a proud 124-year history of putting Quaker belief into practice. FHV’s small size gives it a distinctive intimate and family-like character. We enjoy a dedicated staff with very low turnover, so each person is well known. We are, perhaps, the most Quakerly institution in Bucks County with a Quaker CEO/Executive Director, and Quakers comprising 73% of our Board, and 11% of our residents.

Why choose FHV?

FHV works to keep its residents independent.

- Living in community is an important support for maintaining good health and well-being. Moving to a residential community is a proactive step to maintain health and independence.
- FHV is a rental model. In keeping with the testament of Simplicity, we provide simple, comfortable, functional, and attractive accommodations and common areas. You do not pay for extensive amenities or luxurious apartments.
- We provide support to manage the inconveniences of aging, so residents can maintain their autonomy. While most people will need some form of assistance, 48% of people turning 65 will not need *any* long-term care over their lifetimes (AARP Fact Sheet March 2017). FHV helps its residents with transportation, housekeeping/maintenance, and meals – the kinds of things all of us need periodically, and older friends need more often. Residents of FHV’s personal care apartments also receive help with Activities of Daily Living (“ADL”s) and medication management.

Important Strategic Mission:

FHV’s mission is more important today than ever. A recent study estimates that by 2029 there will be 14 million “middle-income” seniors and 54% of them won’t be able to afford the support they need. These middle-income seniors have been ignored by senior housing developers and policymakers. This is the market that FHV serves.

FHV during the pandemic:

Our small size and dedicated staff proved to be our strength and protection. 98.5% of our residents and approximately 90% of our staff are vaccinated. We held 3 initial vaccination clinics and a booster clinic on site.

New Mission and Vision Statements:

The Board adopted new Mission and Vision Statements. These statements reflect research findings regarding aging well. Social connections, purpose and kindness - both given and received - are powerful contributors to positive outcomes.

Mission: To foster purposeful living and social connectivity through a community of kindness.

Vision: A supportive and kind community that welcomes adults of diverse backgrounds where all members thrive and live enriched and purposeful lives.

New Name and Logo:

FHV undertook a branding study. We will be shortening/consolidating our name to “Friends Village”. This will be easier to say and remember and reflect our philosophy of mutual support and care. We will still operate two campuses and keep our historic building in Newtown Borough. Our new logo emphasizes our spirit as a community rather than a single home. The formal brand “roll-out” will occur after we have completed an update of our website.

Progress in 2021:

- We created a new position of Community Wellness & Engagement Coordinator.
- We retained a new food service provider
- We have started a monthly speaker/discussion series which is open to the public
- We are the Bucks County licensee for Senior Planet – a program to make free technology classes available to older adults to ensure that they can access/utilize information technology.
- From December, we will have three George School interns working with our residents.
- We have reduced our energy usage.
- We are developing a native plant park on the Styer campus.

Your Support is Needed:

- 1) Volunteer
- 2) Come work for us
- 3) Consider FHV for yourself, your family members and/or your friends
- 4) Recommend candidates to join our Board. We are particularly interested in those with legal, health (mental and medical) and financial expertise.
- 5) Provide Meeting Financial Support and Individual Donations.

FACT SHEET
Data as of 9/30/21

UNITS

Business Line	# of units	# vacant	% occupied	Current # of residents
FH- Personal Care	18	3	83%	15
FH- Cottages	14	0	100%	15
FH campus total	32	3	91%	30
FV – West Wing	11	0	100%	11
FV – Cottages	27	5	81%	24
FV campus total	38	5	87%	35
FHV total	70	8	89%	65

RATES: 2021 monthly rates range from \$2,230 to \$4,055 with community fees at entry from \$6,000 to \$36,000

SERVICES:

Personal Care – 3 meals/day; Medication Management; Assistance with hygiene, laundry, housekeeping
Independent Living – 1 meal/day; Bi-weekly housekeeping and annual major cleaning. Maintenance of building & appliances; Groundskeeping; Extra services available for fee.

- No skilled nursing; No secure dementia unit
- Residents must be ambulatory and able to independently evacuate in case of emergency

RESIDENT PROFILE:

	Personal Care	FH-IL	FV- WW	FV-IL	FHV Total
Male : Female	5:10	2:13	2:9	9:15	18:47
Average Age at Entry	86.5	82.1	85	81.1	84
Range of Ages	67-103	75-90	79-95	69-97	67-103
Avg Age of Residents	87	86	88	85	86
Avg Length of Stay	2.9	4.2	2.4	4.9	3.9
Longest Stay	6.6	13.3	5.5	25.7	0.0-25.7
# Quaker	0	0	1	6	7

ORGANIZATION:

Total Operating Expense (2021 Forecast): \$2.9 million

Sources of Income (2021 Forecast):
 6.3% - Application & Entrance Fees
 69.6% - Room & Board (100% private pay)
 4.0% - Grants/Donations/Misc
 21.1% - Endowment/Investment

Employees- Full Time / Part Time / FTEs: 17/14/26 (+Food Service: 12)

CEO/Executive Director: N. Chiyo Moriuchi (since August 2019)

Year Founded: 1897 Paxson Hall completed: 1899 Friends Village completed: 1981

Board: 12 members; 75% Quaker; Terry Christensen (Chair)

Peace Fair Committee
Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
21st Day 11th Month 2021

After the disappointing cancellation of the 2020 Peace Fair, it was especially gratifying that the 21st Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, held at Buckingham on Saturday, September 18, was such a success. Our mission statement continues to be to “promote harmony in the home, community, environment, and the world,” and the need for harmony was never more evident than it has been this year.

The committee was able to begin planning in March, with the knowledge that the COVID situation could require the Fair to be cancelled again at any time. All of our committee meetings were held via Zoom, which enabled Friends who would normally not be able to attend in-person meetings to participate. However, the meetings did have a more “remote” and less participatory feel to them, and were not always well attended. The Peace Fair Committee has contacts or members from eight Monthly Meetings, but again hope that we can have one in every Meeting next year. The Fair was promoted through newspaper advertising, online community bulletin boards, on Facebook, with banners at Buckingham, Solebury, and Plumstead Meetings, and with road signs and color flyers placed around the community. Peter Ray continued as our paid coordinator.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this year’s Fair was the outpouring of support by the Friends of Bucks Quarter. We had outstanding assistance from Yardley, who passed on their flea market books to us, and especially from Jeff Bishop. Quakertown Friends, and Gerry Kirwan in particular, made the long trek to help us set up, and Southampton helped tidy up afterwards. Newtown ran the café; Solebury, under the leadership of John Mathieu, cooked our food; and Middletown made and sold our chili. A finer and more enthusiastic group of volunteers could not have been assembled. However, like the rest of the economy, we still suffered from a labor shortage. Buckingham Friends School students did not participate in an official capacity due to the pandemic. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting pulled their support for the gathering of Young Friends at the last moment, leaving us with few of the teenage volunteers on whom we usually rely. A goal for next year is to make it easier for Friends to volunteer by making personal appeals and providing assistance with SignUpGenius, which can be confusing.

The Fair was somewhat smaller this year by design to maintain physical distancing, but also because fewer exhibitors (about 50, versus nearly 100 in 2019) signed up. Response from a survey sent to exhibitors who did attend was universally positive, and setup and cleanup went very smoothly. (Perhaps a slightly smaller Fair is a happier Fair.) Nevertheless, there were enhancements to the Fair, including a very entertaining dunk tank, a new tractor ride for children, and a golf cart to ferry visitors from the parking area. Our musical attractions were varied and entertaining, including Ecoman (Richard McLoughlin) and bluegrass band Tookany Creek.

The Fair was busy with visitors all day long, with at least 1100 attendees recorded at the entrance. A donation of \$2 per person was suggested at the door. Despite its smaller size, the Fair was also a financial success; we will clear a profit of over \$1,000 *without* contributions from Buckingham and Bucks Quarterly Meetings. With the success of the Fair in recent years we are actually running a significant positive balance in our accounts at this time. The Committee

would like to have a discussion with relevant committees of the Quarter on how to reallocate, and perhaps invest, these funds.

Looking forward, we cannot yet confirm the date for the 2022 Peace Fair, as we need to wait for Peddler's Village to set the date for their Scarecrow Festival. (They allow us to use their parking area as a courtesy.) In the meantime, please visit us at www.peacefair.org, "Like" us at www.facebook.com/peacefair and follow "peacefair" on Instagram.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Cunningham, Buckingham
Meeting