

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business  
21<sup>st</sup> Day, Eighth Month, 2022**

Held under the care of Fallsington Monthly Meeting (Via Zoom)

**Clerk:** Bill Daly (Middletown)

**Bucks Quarter Coordinator:** Wendy Kane (Newtown)

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

**Friends gathered** at 12:47 pm and settled into a period of worship.

**Welcome** – Bill Daly

**Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved**

**Roll Call of Meetings:** Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 3; Doylestown – 3; Fallsington – 12; Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 3; Newtown – 8; Plumstead – 2; Quakertown – 3; Solebury – 2; Southampton – 4; Wrightstown – 2; Yardley – 3

**Review and Approval of Minutes from May 15 Quarterly Meeting– Approved**

**Stories of Vitality & Strength** – Solebury Friend reports Ujima Friends Peace Center visited Solebury Friends.

Lehigh Valley Friend reports hosting summer picnics: these have been restorative to the membership; example: 26 LV Friends took a trip on Joshua White canal boat ride.

Buckingham Friend reports that Buckingham Friends School is very near capacity enrollment and is refurbishing/remodeling/rebuilding buildings with an eye toward sustainability.

Yardley Friend reports that they will host their 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Flea Market – it has energized the members.

Middletown Friend reports that three women doctors with Middletown connections will be added to a mural behind the World Travel Building in Langhorne.

Southampton Friend reports that they held a gathering last weekend at which many former young members of Southampton rejoined meeting.

Lehigh Valley Friend wonders what percentage of Friends attend Buckingham Friends School – 6.5% last year; uncertain about this year; Buckingham Friend reports that scholarships are available for Buckingham Friends School; Doylestown Friend wonders what percentage of Quaker youth apply and what percentage are accepted – difficult number to calculate; four teachers are Friends.

**Quarter Coordinator Report** – Wendy Kane (complete report attached). We had intended this meeting to be a hybrid format (i.e., a mix of in-person and virtual attendance). Sadly, new variants of COVID and higher infection rates have led us to meet via Zoom. This is our 10th consecutive virtual meeting. While we are weary, we are resilient; we have risen to the challenge and are learning to adapt to and utilize new technology and new ways to interact. We are able to connect with more distant Friends and decrease our carbon footprint. Keeping families connected continues to be a challenge; we remain a relevant spirit-filled community.

**BQM Inreach:** In the past quarter, Wendy visited 11 meetings (most in person). Wendy has consulted with Wrightstown and Bristol meetings about graveyard record-keeping. Wendy in conversation with Friends Historical Library archivist, Caitlin, regarding digital preservation of Bucks Quarterly Meeting and Bucks Quarter Monthly Meeting records. **BQM Budget and Nominating Committee** met in July and will bring Lisa Parry Becker forward as BQM new Treasurer. They continue to seek nominees for Alternate Clerk, Rising Recording Clerk, and a nominee for PYM Nominating Council. Friend Bill Dockhorn will be nominated to join Bucks Quarter Audit Committee.

**PYM** – Quarter Staff are now meeting regularly with the goal to improve communication between Quarterly meetings and PYM. Olivia Brangan will clerk; Zachary Dutton who served in this capacity and others has moved on from PYM. Paul Jepson (Interim PYM Communications) has offered support/advice for our YouTube channel and is willing to put our stories of vitality on the PYM website.

**Event attendance** – Song for Ukraine–Plumstead Meeting; Buckingham Friends 300th Birthday Bash; Sam Nicholson Memorial Meeting for Worship; “Gathering Virtually” A PYM Special Workshop; Listening Session w/ Sheila Sorkin (new PYM Aging Coordinator) re “Aging Concerns”; PYM 342nd Annual Sessions; Quaker Call to Action (July 25<sup>th</sup>); attended by almost 200 Friends; They would like yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings to consider: What if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise in extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism.

**Bucks Quarter Outreach Grants:** 13 meetings have each received the \$500 Outreach Grant; more grants are available during 2022-2023 fiscal year information has been posted on the website about how to apply for these grants. Meetings expected to include how their outreach grant was used in their annual reports to the Quarter.

**Outreach Postcard:** additional cards will be printed later this summer.

**YouTube:** we continue to expand our YouTube channel (56 subscribers to date); added presentation from May Quarterly Meeting (Gretchen Castle) and posted our first “Take 3” video featuring Plumstead Friend and clerk Dafydd Jones.

**Bucks Quarter Quaker Meeting Driving Tour** we have submitted descriptions of the meetinghouses located in Bucks County to Bucks County Tourism Bureau; Wendy shares examples; awaiting notification that the driving tour is available on their website.

**Website:** we have a regular section of Quakerphenalia highlighting ‘What’s new on the website’ – this includes links to items of interest and stories of vitality; some of our stories have been reprinted on the PYM website

**Facebook:** Wendy continues to scan Facebook daily to provide interesting links and events for the Bucks Quarter Facebook page followers. She has designed posts of monthly queries that hopefully will be shared across the Quarter.

**Times Publishing:** in addition to paid ads, they published two articles one advertising Buckingham Meeting's 300th birthday and a story highlighting the poetry reading at the upcoming Peace Fair.

**Miscellaneous Outreach:** Chandler Hall: restarting worship services is on hold due to the emergence of the BA.5 variant of the COVID-19 virus; will revisit the CH Worship once transmission level drops to "low."

**Fall Events:** plans are in place for Yardley Flea Market, the BQ Peace Fair, Historic Fallsington, Historic Bristol, and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day. BQM will be offering tile painting for children at each of these events. We received a donation of 200 reclaimed tiles. Wendy announces Quarter-wide book discussion group, *These Walls Between Us* is first read – virtual discussion scheduled for Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Report – Bucks County Advocacy Teams (BCAT) – Betsy Crofts** – reports on work with FCNL; The BCAT is active with FCNL to help citizens establish relationships with members of Congress in support of Peace, Social Justice, Environmental Stewardship; BCAT is one of 125 teams in 44 States; success comes from a commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. There are three levels of participation. 1) Regularly attend meetings (via Zoom – new members may observe); 2) Agree to receive FCNL Action Alerts and commit to writing letters to the editor or opinion columns. 3) Be a Friendly Face; agree to attend (not participate) legislative meetings on Zoom (it's impactful to see more faces on a Zoom call). BCAT is not just for Quakers, but for all who value Peace, Social Justice, and Stewardship. Bucks County Advocacy Team meets Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm on Zoom. RSVP to Betsy Crofts (emcrofts@gmail.com) to receive Zoom link. Advocacy Training is available through FCNL: Contact Timheishmann@fcnl.org for more information. The next training dates are August 22nd at 7pm and September 26th at 7pm.

**Special Report – 342nd PYM Annual Sessions Summary – Bethann Morgan** – Outstanding annual sessions this year; the epistle was particularly inspiring; Bethann suggests that Friends visit the website to see for themselves what was discerned; Bethann reports that 2023 Budget is balanced and encourages financial support of PYM; DEI Deep Listening teams project not going forward at this time; monthly meetings are encouraged to support Ujima Friends Peace Center; Abington Minute read; Federal Truth and Healing Commission is supported by PYM to address genocidal practices of boarding schools for indigenous youth in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century; PYM requests climate steward from each monthly meeting – part of climate crisis group see Earth Care Witness website; membership and belonging, At-Large Membership is now a reality; important to support PYM Committees; new PYM Clerk Melissa Rycroft and Rising Clerk is Nikki Mosgrove.

**Annual Report – Middletown** – Lance Mervine (full report attached): Middletown is moving forward despite COVID challenges. Nonetheless, they have sponsored outdoor social gatherings for families and young people to preserve a sense of community. The meeting hosted two very large memorial services. As a consequence of these meetings, they have learned some important lessons regarding technical issues in large meeting for worship which they have incorporated into regular meeting for worship. They have done work on their schoolhouse which houses Bucks Learning Cooperative; they continue work with PennDel Food Pantry; Middletown Meeting Young Friends served as “Holly’s Helpers” and sold pet-related items at the 2021 Peace Fair – they plan to do this again this year; last winter the meeting found a homeless woman sleeping in utility room; she was assisted by members; the meeting is concerned about proposed PennDOT plan which would widen Route 413 and have a substantial negative impact on the community; the meeting celebrated Edward Hicks Day along with the Langhorne borough community. This fall the meeting will be hosting a movie series on Women’s Suffrage; they are working with Friend Sally Farneth in support of gathering books for Rwanda; in the past year the meeting has gained two members for total of 88.

**Annual Report – Solebury** – Marian Hepburn (full report attached): Marian reports pandemic induced lack of involvement has continued; attendance has been light with a small core group doing all the work; they fear burnout issues; several of their members serve on various boards: George School (2), Buckingham Friends School (4), Camp Onas (1), Chandler Hall (1), Friends Village (1), and Mercer Street Friends (1); thanks to their Blackmar education grant they have young Friends in many local Quaker schools. They now purchase electric from renewable resources.

#### **BREAK**

**Treasurers Report** – Ed Snyder (full reports attached): As of June 30<sup>th</sup> (end of Fiscal Year); we are in good shape; for this fiscal year we are where we expected to be, some items below budget but these are mostly timing issues; last year we gave \$15,000 more than budgeted to PYM; also \$5,000 more than budgeted each to Friends Village, Chandler Hall, and Camp Onas. Buckingham Friend wonders how to explain to membership how the Quarter decides to spend a surplus above requirements; should Monthly Meetings have input on how excess funds are distributed – Ans; a lot of this disconnect is due to timing; BQM is pass-through organization 70% goes to PYM and we pay a coordinator. Wrightstown Friend notes that 2 or 3 years ago, the Quarter gave money back to Monthly Meetings (Ed explained that these were the funds that would have supported the coordinator during May-October 2019 when the position was vacant); Southampton Friend equates Quarterly meeting spending to buying in bulk – by combining resources we have more impact at the cost of fiscal agility; Southampton Friend wonders about timing issue with regard to surplus that has grown over time – Ans: we don’t discern that we have a surplus until August and we want to be sure that we have a prudent reserve in the short term. Southampton Friend wonders if there is a way to anticipate systemic causes of budget surplus and adjust long-term budgeting process. Lehigh Valley Friend wonders if Budget and Nominating will examine this at next meeting.

Yardley Friend remarks that she is not uncomfortable with budget as it stands because it is useful to have a surplus in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Wrightstown Friend remarks that BQM will be going through a transition and that would be an opportune time to revisit this issue; moreover, the budget committee contains representatives from most of the meetings in the quarter; also, members of Monthly meetings should look to our minutes to follow the discernments about budget and spending; Fallsington Friend suggests that we consider a contribution to the African American Museum of Bucks County. The Clerk summarized that Budget and Nominating will revisit this issue with an eye toward how to be more responsive to concerns of monthly meeting. Coordinator suggests sending minutes from Budget and Nominating to monthly meeting Treasurers.

**Annual Report – Bucks Food for Friends (BFFF) –** Marna Matthews (full report attached): BFF has been going for many years, cooking meals for an average of 60 people once per month; because of COVID we are now reduced to making/packaging hoagies that are distributed to encampments via Advocates for the Homeless on the third Monday of each month. When BFF reopens (hopefully soon) they plan to resume in-person meals.

**Annual Report – Southampton –** Stephen Moyer (full report attached): “We are a small but mighty meeting whose longstanding members continue live their faith while walking cheerfully seeking that of God in themselves and those around them”; they have an adult first day school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day of each month; they are proud to be a part of the quarter; they hold monthly visioning sessions that build spiritual community; Friend asks if they are still having vigils for social justice and how many folks attend; they report that the vigil has attracted at least on visitor/attender; vigils continues and attendance is variable. In response to question of when Southampton MM will lay down vigils; “When we see racial justice and equity in the world, we’ll stop the vigils.”

**Annual Report – Wrightstown –** Drew Augenblick (full report attached): The past year membership has dropped from 205 down to 200; 30 to 40 people regularly attend; a large screen TV was donated to meeting and now they can exploit technology to grow their spiritual community – a friend who lives in Berlin is able to regularly join them for worship. Resistance to COVID protocols caused some friction and some members stayed away from meeting for worship; while many members have returned, a few families with young children have not; nursery school has been successful; the meeting had a grand Christmas Carol party last year which was well attended; Easter Breakfast was enjoyed by many; they are looking to do more outreach; they are pleased to note that annual giving is at the highest level ever; this is timely – restoring the care-takers house will cost \$50,000-60,000; also a number of trees have to be removed from the graveyard; the meeting is having trouble filling positions of service to the meeting (e.g., Clerk); they recently found deed indicating that the land was deeded to them in 1722, so Wrightstown Meeting (like Buckingham) is 300 years old.

**Budget & Nominating Committee Report –** Leo Fitzpatrick – the committee met at the end of July; brings forward a request for Lisa Parry Becker to rise to the position of Treasurer – **APPROVED.**

Ed Snyder nominates himself as Assistant Treasurer so that he can assist Lisa – **APPROVED**. Leo reported that the committee approved updating their QuickBooks software to a cloud-based model; the committee has not identified a rising clerk; the committee brought request for Bill Dockhorn to join audit committee – **APPROVED**.

**Annual Report – Yardley –** Marna Matthews (full report attached): As of Christmas, the meeting has returned to meetinghouse; a women’s discussion group has been reactivated; they have adult ed once per month – program content varies; Bucks County Interfaith Coalition has made a presentation; discussions about how to discern priorities that the meeting wants to focus on – they have identified five areas; they are hosting outdoor movie nights (thanks to Bucks Quarter outreach grant); Flea Market will be back this year; the meeting has established a Plant Medicine Committee and have started a medicinal herb garden. The meeting hosted two large memorial services that had been postponed because of pandemic (Rose Koch and Laura Cadwallader Clappison); Children’s religious ed attendance lows; because they lack families with children; they have done a lot of remodeling, including an ADA bathroom – there is a challenge in that the flooring contractor used the wrong adhesive.

**Special Minute – Quakertown MM, re Roe v Wade** (minute attached) Lisa Uchrin: Quakertown Monthly Meeting is asking you to support our belief that a woman has the absolute right to control her own body and to make reproductive decisions within the privacy of her own counsel, the counsel of her doctor and the guidance of the Spirit. Although Quakertown Monthly Meeting is in the State of New Jersey, where, presently, our Governor and our legislators are working to protect a woman’s right to control her own body and her right to privacy, we are still concerned about our fellow Americans whose rights have been grossly compromised through the Supreme Court’s recent reversal of its 1974 decision in Roe v. Wade. Access to safe, legal, reproductive care is a fundamental human right and a necessity to protect women from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.

Discussion: Doylestown Friend wonders if language can be changed to include transgender men who can also become pregnant. Yardley Friend wonders if we are approving here or taking this back to our individual meetings – Ans: while we welcome support from other meetings, we want to approve and forward this to PYM; Quakertown Friend notes if we return this to monthly meeting, we can revisit the language; Coordinator notes that we generally do not take minutes back to monthly meetings; Buckingham Friend suggests grammar change “women, and those folks who can become pregnant” and replace “doctor” with “healthcare provider”; Buckingham Friend supports this minute; Friend offers clarification of transgender men and supports wording of Buckingham Friend; Fallsington Friend wonders if they are asking for BQ endorsement; Ans: Endorsement is inherent in approval and forwarding to PYM; Buckingham Friend notes that PYM is not accepting minutes because this practice implies hierarchy; Makefield Friend is not certain that everyone in his meeting would support it, he would stand aside; Friend reminds that everyone in the quarter is invited to attend, people who attend do not represent their members; Coordinator cites PYM *Faith and Practice* regarding abortion.

Quakertown Friend suggests adopting Buckingham Friend's wording; Quakertown Friend believes we should support this minute; Fallsington Friend notes that this issue deals with bodily autonomy and therefore this is an attack on women's freedom and in contradiction of our testimony of gender equality; Fallsington Friend wonders if we are asked to endorse this minute; Coordinator refers to *Faith and Practice*; we can approve a minute of concern without obligation to take action on referral; what is the next step; or we could have a called meeting to discuss this issue;

Clerk tests sense of meeting: at this point in time, can we support this minute as amended? **APPROVED** (with Makefield Friend standing aside).

Clerk asks for committee to recommend further action; an ad-hoc committee was formed to explore what steps, if any, the Quarter would like to take in support of this minute. Friends who volunteered were Wendy Kane (Newtown), Bethann Morgan (Buckingham), Lisa Uchrin (Quakertown), Marna Matthews (Yardley) and Terry Christensen (Yardley). Wendy volunteered to act as convenor.

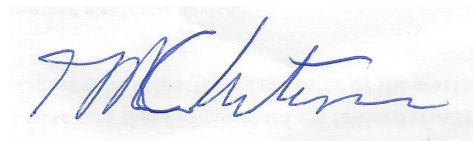
**Audit report – FYs ending 2020, 2021, 2022** – Bill Daly – Bill notes that for a variety of reasons we have gone without an audit for three years; however, given the hour, we will ask the audit committee to resume its work expeditiously and revisit this issue at our next meeting.

**Announcements** – Quakertown recommends Pendle Hill Pamphlet Radical Transformation; the coordinator announces the Peace Fair and volunteers to deliver yard sights to monthly meetings.

**Closing Worship** – There being no further business before us, the meeting settled in worship at 3:47 PM and was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Our next gathering will be on the 20th Day, Eleventh Month, 2022, under the care of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry M. Christensen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
August 21, 2022  
Under the Care of Fallsington Monthly Meeting  
Held Virtually via Zoom

Our August Quarterly Meeting was supposed to be our first attempt at holding quarterly meeting in a hybrid manner. In May, we were hopeful that the pandemic was winding down and that vaccines and herd immunity would allow us to move from a pandemic to an endemic phase. While that may still be occurring, the rate of infection is too high for Friends to meet in person; this will be our tenth Quarterly Meeting held virtually. We are weary but we are resilient. We have risen to the challenge of learning new technologies and new ways to interact. On the positive side, we have connected with more distant Friends and reduced our carbon footprint. We have been challenged to stay connected locally and keep our families engaged. We remain a relevant, spirit-filled community, ready for any challenges that may arise.

## Inreach

### Care of Meetings

One of the best parts of being Bucks Quarter coordinator is visiting a different meeting every First Day. I visited eleven different meetings this past quarter, mostly in person. I have consulted with both Wrightstown and Bristol Meetings about their burial ground record keeping methods.

I started a conversation with the current Friends Historical Library archivist, Caitlin, who moved into the position this past May. We reviewed what Quarter records need to be deposited and explored the best way for the Quarter and our monthly meetings to deposit their records digitally. I would like to explore ways that we can make this process easier for all the monthly meetings.

### Miscellaneous Inreach: Committee meetings

**Budget & Nominating Committee:** The Budget & Nominating Committee met in July and will be bringing Lisa Parry Becker forward as nominee for the next Quarter treasurer at the August meeting for business. The committee continues to work to identify nominees for Alternate Clerk, Rising Recording Clerk, and a nominee to PYM's Nominating Council. Bill Dockhorn will be nominated to join the Audit Committee, and they hope to have more nominees for this committee soon.

**Audit Committee:** Plans are being made to schedule an audit for the most recent fiscal year, as well as the previous two which were delayed because of the pandemic.

### Miscellaneous Inreach: Yearly Meeting

**Quarter & PYM Staff:** PYM Quarter Staff met with Zachary Dutton to discuss and set the agenda for the Quarter Leadership meeting which was held later that month. Topics discussed were improving communication between PYM Quarters and between Quarters and the yearly meeting, and how we can better support each other. These meetings are held about three times per year and moving forward will be



under the care of Olivia Brangan, as Zachary Dutton, after many years of service, has moved on from PYM.

**PYM Interim Communications Director:** Paul Jepsen gave helpful advice about how to reach a wider viewership for our YouTube Channel and how to use social media more effectively as outreach. He is also interested in having some of our website's Stories of Vitality published on the PYM website.

## Event Attendance

### Within the Quarter:

- *Song for Ukraine–Plumstead Meeting:* it was a time to gather to listen to music and hear stories in honor of the victims of the war in Ukraine.
- *Buckingham Friends 300th Birthday Bash:* a well-organized but lightly attended event.
- *Sam Nicholson Memorial Meeting for Worship -* held at Wrightstown meetinghouse to pay tribute to a long-time Friend.

### Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- *Gathering Virtually: A Special Workshop:* facilitated by Emily Provance, who provided an informative document (*Guidance for Meetings*) and spoke about the spiritual implications of hybrid worship, and how we can celebrate how we've changed and been changed.
- *Listening Session with Sheila:* Sheila Sorkin, the new Aging Coordinator at PYM held a virtual listening session to hear about aging concerns around the yearly meeting.
- *PYM 342nd Annual Sessions:* held from July 27th through August 1st, I attended as many worship and business sessions as I was able.

### Greater Quaker Community:

- ***Quaker Call to Action call:*** the July 25th call was attended by almost 200 Friends. They would like yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings to consider: *What if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise in domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy at home and abroad?*

## Outreach

### Bucks Quarter Outreach

**Grants:** 13 of our 14 meetings applied for and received the \$500 Outreach Grant; information has been posted on the website about how to apply for another grant during the 2022-23 fiscal year. Meetings are expected to include how their outreach grant was used in their annual reports to the Quarter.

**Outreach Postcard:** additional cards will be printed later this summer.

**YouTube:** we continue to expand our YouTube channel, encouraging Friends to subscribe (56 subscribers to date). We added Gretchen Castle's presentation from May's Quarterly Meeting and posted our first "Take 3" video featuring Plumstead Friend and clerk Dafydd Jones.

**Bucks Quarter Quaker Meeting Driving Tour:** descriptions of the 12 meetinghouses located in Bucks County were submitted to the Bucks County Tourism Bureau; edits were made and approved. We await notification that the driving tour is available on their website.

**Website:** To get a wider readership throughout the Quarter there is a regular section included in Quakerphernalia entitled "What's new on the website" where Friends can click links to items of interest,

including Stories of Vitality. Some of these stories have been reprinted on the PYM website and have reached a wider audience. Updates that take advantage of some of Squarespace's newest features were made to the FAQ page

**Facebook:** I continue to scan Facebook daily to provide interesting links and events for the Bucks Quarter Facebook page followers. I have designed posts of monthly queries that I hope will be shared across the Quarter.

**Times Publishing:** in addition to our monthly ads, we had two stories published: one advertising Buckingham Meeting's 300th birthday celebration (which made the cover of their local June publication), and a story highlighting the poetry reading at the upcoming Peace Fair.

### Miscellaneous Outreach

**Chandler Hall:** restarting worship services is on hold due to the emergence of the BA.5 variant of the COVID-19 virus; we will revisit the subject once the transmission level drops into the "low" range.

**Fall Events:** plans are in place for Yardley Flea Market, the BQ Peace Fair, Historic Fallsington, Historic Bristol and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day. We will be offering tile painting for children at each of these events. We received a donation of 200 reclaimed tiles.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane  
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting



# Middletown Friends Meeting

453 W. Maple Avenue  
Langhorne, PA 19047

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## **Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting August 14, 2022**

Middletown Friends have experienced the same challenges as other meetings over the past 2½ years 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 schoolhouse; and engage with the broader community to respond to the many concerns in today's world.

### **Hybrid Meeting for Worship**

After holding virtual meeting for worship on Zoom since mid-March 2020, we began holding hybrid meeting for worship – both in person and virtual—in July 2021. As local Covid-19 numbers increased toward the end of 2021, we went back to virtual meeting for worship, reopening again for in-person worship again at the end of March 2022. We continue to offer the Zoom option. The purchase of the equipment needed to conduct hybrid worship was made possible by a grant from PYM for \$993, with the cost of hotspot service for one year funded by a \$500 grant from Bucks Quarter Outreach in July 2021. In June 2022, Verizon Fios internet service was established in the meetinghouse as part of a required upgrade of our phone service, so we are no longer using the hot spot. We are appreciative of the support from PYM and Bucks Quarter, which has made it possible to stay connected with our local members as well as Friends afar and attract a number of new attenders. We continue to hold in-person (no Zoom) midweek meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., with a small but faithful group attending.

Friends also appreciate the time and technical expertise meeting member Tom Olson has contributed to make this possible. During a large hybrid memorial service this year, some technical difficulties made it clear that additional audiovisual equipment, as well as our own Zoom account, was needed for Zoom broadcasts of large events, including Quarterly Meeting, which we will host in February 2023. Friends approved the purchase of this equipment in June and are seeking sources of funding.

### **Our Children's First Day School**

Our children's FDS no longer meets weekly, in part due to ongoing Covid-19 issues and also because the children are getting older. Two FDS participants graduated from high school this year, and the youngest child in the program is 9. The group remains active, however, thanks to the efforts of our FDS co-conveners Nancy Pickering and Gene Sonn, who have planned a number of activities over the past year. Last September, the FDS sold hand-crafted pet-related items at their "Holly's Helpers" tent at the Peace Fair. The children raised more than \$200 and chose to donate it to Bucks Food for Friends. In December 2021, the FDS had a dual food and toy donation drive-through for the Pennel Food Pantry. This summer, the FDS has held "porch potluck" socials on the meetinghouse porch with games and refreshments, providing an opportunity for families to gather in a safe way.

### **Ministry & Nurture**

The Ministry & Nurture Committee engages in support of 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. This year the committee helped several families with arrangements and hospitality for memorial services. The committee has also applied to PYM for emergency grants to help a member in need. We have not yet been able to resume volunteering with services at Chandler Hall.

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. The auction was conducted online again this year due to Covid-19. This year we raised over \$3,000. We hope to return to an in-person auction and potluck supper this year but may do some type of hybrid version to allow more people to participate.

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

The meetinghouse property and graveyard were maintained through our annual cleanup in the fall and the ongoing efforts of numerous Friends who simply perform the tasks they see needing to be done. Over the past year the Meeting has completed some major projects to maintain our schoolhouse building, currently used by the Bucks County Learning Cooperative (BLC). Extensive repairs, including stucco repair, a new chimney pot, painting, electrical work, drywall, tree work, and replacement of an underground oil tank, were completed over the past year. Our graveyard convener continues to answer and assist many families 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.

## **Community and Global Outreach**

- The meeting has a drop-off box on our front porch for food donations, which are collected weekly and delivered to the food pantry in Penndel.
- In September, Middletown Friends made and sold chili at the Peace Fair.
- Friends supported Bucks County coordinator Wendy Kane by staffing a table at Langhorne Harvest Day in October, which brought in several new attendees.
- The meeting collected money to help a homeless woman found sleeping in our furnace room in December.
- The meeting has a representative to the Langhorne Ministerium, providing opportunities for interfaith sharing and collaboration. The Ministerium's Good Friday Cross Walk resumed this year, and meeting members provided hospitality and led a brief meeting for worship at the start of the walk.
- For several years now, in collaboration with a Langhorne resident, we have displayed a Juneteenth banner featuring a portrait of Frederick Douglas and the words "Finally Free" on the meetinghouse lawn.
- The meeting has joined with other churches and organizations in Langhorne Borough in writing a letter to PennDOT asking them to consider alternatives to the proposed plan to redo the interchange of Routes 1 and 413, which would greatly increase traffic in Langhorne Borough. Middletown Meeting's letter to PennDOT focused on the social justice aspects of the disproportionate effects on Langhorne's African American community and the disabled persons residing at Woods Services.
- The meeting was a sponsor of the Langhorne Council for the Arts' celebration of Edward Hicks in Day in April, with several of the day's activities taking place at the meetinghouse. The meetinghouse will serve as the site for several upcoming LCA activities celebrating women's suffrage.
- Two of our members continue to serve on the Bucks Learning Cooperative's board.
- Women from our meeting continue to organize the Quaker Women's Social Hour, providing an opportunity for fellowship among women from across Bucks Quarter.
- Friends supported the leading of Friend Sally Farneth, who is working on the Friends' Peace Teams Rwanda book project, with a \$2,500 donation, in addition to donations from individual Friends.

## **Membership**

During 2021 we had a net loss of 4 members (3 deaths, 2 resignations, and 1 application approved). We ended the year with a total of 86 members, only 3 of whom are under 21. So far in 2022, we have gained 2 new members and lost none. Thus, our current membership total stands at 88. Our clerk recently participated in a workshop on growing your meeting and we hope to put some of the suggestions he brought back into action this fall. We stay in touch with our members and attenders through our newsletter, Facebook page, and website, and send an agenda and minutes from our business meeting out each month via email.

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 14, 2022

## **Solebury Friends Meeting's Annual report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting 8th month 2022**

At Solebury Friends Meeting we continue to be concerned about our lack of involvement during the pandemic, and are trying to come up with ways to connect meaningfully with Friends. Even with worship available at the Meetinghouse, in person attendance is very light. Business goes on with the same 17 people doing most of the work, and we fear burn-out and lack of committee position rotation.

Solebury has active members on many Boards of Directors: Buckingham Friends School (3), George School (2), Camp Onas (1), Chandler Hall (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. 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. We are thrilled with the new Head of Buckingham Friends School, and all of their committed teachers and families.

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. We nudge ourselves closer to energy sustainability by purchasing electricity from renewable resources.

At Christmas time we celebrated with our annual Mitten Tree Program where we decorate the tree with mittens, scarves, and hats to donate to Mercer Street Friends, with the tree outside on the porch, and four kids coming together to perform a new carol.

Solebury Meeting hosted a group of kids from the Summer of Freedom camp, run by the [Ujima Friends Peace Center](#) in North Philly. It was a beautiful day. We have Amy Manoff to thank for starting the day off right. She explained to the kids how she came to be a fruit farmer and, before taking the kids to pick blueberries, answered their questions. Kraig McClendon brought the kids out to the country for the day. He's a photographer and enjoyed capturing the day with his camera.

We are grateful for the connections fostered by involvement with Bucks Quarterly and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings. Wendy Kane, our Bucks Quarter Coordinator, is an amazing resource, helping connect us with other Friends at all levels.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marian Hepburn, Clerk  
Solebury Friends Meeting

3:14 PM  
07/09/22  
Cash Basis

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of June 30, 2022**

	<u>Jun 30, 22</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	57,161.69
Total Checking/Savings	<u>57,161.69</u>
Total Current Assets	57,161.69
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	47,399.98
Total Other Assets	<u>47,399.98</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>104,561.67</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	17,696.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	143,023.68
Net Income	<u>-56,158.44</u>
Total Equity	<u>104,561.67</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>104,561.67</u></b>

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

	Jul '21 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budg...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	1,898.02	1,810.00	88.02	104.9%
Total Interest and dividends	1,898.02	1,810.00	88.02	104.9%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	2,585.00			
Pledged	267,306.35	276,540.00	-9,233.65	96.7%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	269,891.35	276,540.00	-6,648.65	97.6%
Other contributions	1,100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	1,080.00	1,500.00	-420.00	72.0%
Total Income	273,969.37	279,850.00	-5,880.63	97.9%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	273,969.37	279,850.00	-5,880.63	97.9%
<b>Expense</b>				
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	213,785.00	198,785.00	15,000.00	107.5%
Total Contributions	213,785.00	198,785.00	15,000.00	107.5%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Chandler Hall	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Friends Home and Village	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Total Gifts/Donations	15,000.00	450.00	14,550.00	3,333.3%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	4,467.04	6,000.00	-1,532.96	74.5%
Other				
Advertising	3,000.00	2,200.00	800.00	136.4%
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	940.00	60.00	106.4%
Outreach Committee Activities	1,316.00	2,000.00	-684.00	65.8%
Programs for Peace	200.00	1,700.00	-1,500.00	11.8%
Quakerism Classes	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total Other	5,516.00	7,690.00	-2,174.00	71.7%
Personnel	75,192.50	66,775.00	8,417.50	112.6%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	85,175.54	80,465.00	4,710.54	105.9%
Total Expense	313,960.54	279,850.00	34,110.54	112.2%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-39,991.17	0.00	-39,991.17	100.0%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-9,667.27			
Total Other Income	-9,667.27			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	6,500.00	7,000.00	-500.00	92.9%
Total Other Expense	6,500.00	7,000.00	-500.00	92.9%
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-16,167.27	-7,000.00	-9,167.27	231.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-56,158.44</b>	<b>-7,000.00</b>	<b>-49,158.44</b>	<b>802.3%</b>

**Report of Bucks Food for Friends  
to Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends  
21 August 2022**

Since Covid-19, Bucks Food For Friends has continued to provide “to go” meals with the cooperation of the Advocates to the Homeless, who arrange delivery of the meals on the third Monday each month to the homeless encampments they serve. Bucks Food for Friends is presently preparing thirty-five meals.

Bucks Food For Friends looks forward to when we can resume serving in-person meals.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Richardson  
Volunteer Coordinator



Annual Report  
Of  
Southampton Friends Meeting  
08/01/2022

The past year was another challenging year for Southampton Friends, and indeed, for society more broadly. Our meeting rose to the challenge in myriad ways however, and this report is a summary of just a few of those accomplishments from the past year.

After years of “collecting” things in our “House on the Hill” we began to reduce, reuse, and recycle the things that we do not need. We also upgraded our electric service, added a loop driveway around the campus and regraded the upper parking lot. And after years of head scratching, we finally pinpointed and repaired a pesky roof leak in the House on the Hill. Those projects also coincided with the departure of our long-term tenant in favor of a short-term rental to “friends of the meeting”. We also continued to make our facilities available to several Narcotic’s Anonymous groups throughout the year.

After an unknown length of time, we relaunched adult first day school on the second First day of each month, while also continuing to host our holiday candlelight service in December.

Also this year, the Meeting applied for, and received, a \$500 outreach grant from the Quarter. In the past, funds have been used to pay for advertisements in the Southampton Days summer program book and The Peace Center’s auction booklet, but this year funds were also sent to five area service organizations/food banks (Warminster Food Pantry, Bucks Food for Friends, Mercer Street Friends Center, Philly Thrive, and HomeFront). All of the organizations expressed their appreciation with notes of thanks.

Many of the activities and projects we have been working on this year have grown from a series of visioning sessions we began last year. As a byproduct of our visioning sessions, we reorganized our working structure to reduce our Trustees’ meetings to once a year and named a property Manager (John Magee) to manage the day-to-day property related issues. The work in those sessions has also helped the Meeting more clearly define our goals and objectives in the near term while also providing a framework for the future. The sessions have highlighted the need to balance our stewardship responsibilities for the Meeting with our desire to more fully live our Faith both individually and corporately.

To that end we have continued our weekly vigils for racial justice and found ourselves refreshed and renewed in our propose following substantial newspaper coverage of our social action – and the vandalism and vitriol that it garnered from those who do not share our views.

We have also begun what we hope will be a series of presentations and workshops focused on the issues and opportunities of interest to our local community.

We are a “small but mighty” meeting whose longstanding members continue live their faith while cheerfully seeking that of God in themselves and those around them.

**Wrightstown Meeting Annual Report**  
to Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
August 2022

Through 2021 and into 2022, Wrightstown Meeting experienced significant challenges in the areas of COVID safety, community life, religious education, and leadership succession. However, we also became more keenly aware of our many blessings, including rich experiences of worship and vocal ministry, a thriving Nursery School, careful stewardship of our finances and grounds, and the gradual return of community events the more precious for having been missed. Our clerks recently rediscovered the Meeting's founding documents from April 1722 – Wrightstown is officially 300 years old!

At the end of the 2021 calendar year, the Meeting had 200 members, down from 205 at the end of 2020. During 2021 one member, Roz Hernandez, died, two transferred to a different meeting, one resigned, and one associate member turned 21 and was released. We acquired no new members. In early 2022, members Bill Hunter and Sam Nicholson died.

As noted in last year's report, in the spring of 2021 we transitioned from all-Zoom worship back to outdoor worship with a parallel small group on Zoom. During that time our Pendle Hill pamphlet discussion group met monthly online, and our "Quaker Makers" group stayed active.

In June 2021 we reopened the Meetinghouse for in-person worship, with strict protocols in place for masking, distancing, and sanitation. Thanks to the donation of a large TV monitor, the purchase of microphones using a technology grant from PYM, and the dedication of one member to running the technology each week, those on Zoom and those in the Meetinghouse were soon able to interact fully with one another. Weekly in-person attendance has averaged about 15-25 with several others on Zoom.

COVID safety rules for use of the Meetinghouse and Social Hall were scrupulously designed with attention to CDC guidelines and concern for elderly and vulnerable members. We never achieved full unity on these. A few people believed they were unnecessarily restrictive and unwelcoming and chose to stay away. We had some difficult discussions. In March 2022 we agreed to lift all COVID restrictions except for reserving one section of the Meetinghouse for those wishing to maintain social distance.

Our Care and Counsel Committee showed strong leadership throughout the pandemic, connecting with individuals in need as well as reaching out to young adult members and people who had dropped out of sight during COVID. During mild weather we enjoyed two "bring your own lunch" picnics at the rise of Meeting, and in December 2021 we held our traditional Carol Sing in person once again. The usual packed, candlelit event in the Meetinghouse followed by cookies in the Social Hall was replaced by a small but joyful outdoor gathering with a cappella singing and hot chocolate.

In April 2022 we reopened the Social Hall with a well-attended Easter Breakfast; in June the Outreach Committee, which had sponsored several indoor "Coffeehouse" events before COVID, staged an outdoor folk concert that drew members of the public to our grounds. The committee plans to use the \$500 BQM Outreach Grant to support more such events.

Having reopened in February 2021 with reduced enrollment, Wrightstown Friends Nursery School operated throughout 2021-22 with higher but still limited enrollment. Strict COVID protocols helped parents feel comfortable sending their children. Enthusiastic support for the staff and program culminated in a near-record-breaking spring 2022 auction, held online with an outdoor in-person

component. The school has operated with a deficit since reopening, but thanks to generous contributions and careful management, it is on track to maintain financial sustainability. Prospects are bright for full enrollment.

The Meeting continues to appreciate our Finance Committee and Treasurer's excellent stewardship and the Treasurer's meticulous management and reporting. Annual giving in Fiscal Year 2020-21 was over budget and the strongest ever; giving in 2021-22 came in just short of that record. Many people contributed who do not regularly appear at Meeting. The Endowment did well and benefited from two recent bequests. We are faced with funding several expensive repair projects, including repointing the caretaker's house – the first of many renovations necessary if we wish to preserve the building.

With the reopening of campus, the House and Grounds Committee undertook a comprehensive assessment of current and future needs. Over the past year repairs and safety enhancements were made to the Social Hall and Nursery School building, and major painting was done on the Meetinghouse exterior. Supplementing the work of our caretakers, three individual members devoted many hours to maintaining the graveyard and to installing a walkway and new plantings around part of the Meetinghouse. We were given a seedling from the venerable Salem Oak and planted it among our magnificent mature trees, some of which need costly maintenance. Our campus looks beautiful.

Unfortunately, we have had no Religious Education program for the past year, as no one has been willing to clerk the committee. Two or three people volunteered regularly to go outside with the children who came to Meeting, but we could not muster a more robust rotation of volunteers. With no First-Day School program, no guarantee of weekly childcare, and our upstairs classrooms off-limits until recently for COVID safety reasons, fewer families have been attending with their children.

In November 2021 our dedicated new clerk, Olivia Brangan, became unable to serve due to illness. Fortunately, Drew Augenblick stepped in as clerk for the first half of 2022, with great determination to address the short and long-term challenges facing the Meeting. We are most grateful to Drew and to Peter Pearson, who has agreed to be our clerk until December 2022. As we do not have a co-clerk, several members have made extra efforts to assist these interim clerks. Our long-serving Wrightstown Reporter editor faithfully produces the newsletter each month and quickly sends out announcements.

Despite this abundance of commitment and the intense efforts of the Nominating Committee, we have been unsuccessful in identifying a Meeting co-clerk or future clerk, a clerk of Religious Education, or an assistant treasurer. Our Peace and Social Concerns and Worship and Ministry Committees are barely active. Older Meeting members are reaching the end of their readiness to serve, and we urgently need new leadership and ideas, especially from younger people. Some people have expressed frustration at what they perceive as entrenched leadership by the elders. Others find it difficult to get to Meeting at all, let alone take on clerking responsibilities.

These challenges notwithstanding, Meeting for Worship at Wrightstown continues to be a deep, connective, and spiritually moving experience. We have joyfully welcomed several newcomers and visitors in recent months. Our heartbeat is strong as we work to reengage and build our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Culleton (she/her)  
Recording Clerk

Yardley Friends Meeting  
Annual Report to Bucks Quarter

August 2022  
Submitted by Marna Matthews, Clerk

At Yardley Meeting from July 2021 to July 2022 the major themes of the year involved coping with the challenges of how to balance meeting in person in the building with a virtual presence or hybrid meetings during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, a variety of outreach projects, deep discussions discerning our Quaker priorities, especially regarding recommendations for FCNL (Friends Council on National Legislation) and for our charitable donations, and stewardship of our grounds and building.

During this past year, we have gone from worshipping exclusively outside, to worshipping exclusively online, to worshipping together in the meeting house with a hybrid Zoom connection online to those at home. We started our hybrid worship on December of 2021 and were delighted to be able to decorate the meeting house for Christmas. Since we have had several members and attenders with serious health issues this year it has been a blessing that they could attend virtually on a regular basis. We still do not have as many regular attenders as we had two or more years ago, however attendance is slowly increasing as more and more of us are comfortable worshipping together inside with masks, with the windows open, with the ceiling fans circulating air.

Many of us have missed the regular opportunity to catch up and chat and make plans, or to meet in person for committee work on a Sunday. One way this loss was mitigated was during a regular Wednesday afternoon discussion group held on Zoom, mostly for women. This allowed participants to discuss and share personal ideas on a variety of topics. This group is now less needed but was very important for over two years.

Worship and Ministry monthly discussion sessions have ranged from watching and reacting to a QuakerSpeak video on serving outside of Quakerism, discussing articles on confident Quakerism and how to be flexible when young families attend, to presentations from local organizations that work with immigrants, the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition, and Immigrant Rights Action (IRAGdA) from Doylestown, and discussion of the peace testimony during times of war-such as currently in Ukraine. We continue to support Tedford Taylor in his work as a chaplain and religious mentor and sent him again to attend the annual QPCC conference for renewal and new inspiration for his work.

Several members of meeting participated in setting up an apartment for a new refugee family from Afghanistan in Morrisville and continue to support their settlement, as members of BCICRR. Others work with IRAGdA in Doylestown to provide legal and social support for immigrants.

The questions of “What is our Quaker point of view?”, and “How can we discern priorities among all the causes and projects in need?” were tackled during several discussions led by the

Clerks and the Peace and Social Action committee during the spring of 2022. We all have personal leadings to support important societal issues. As much as we would like to, we cannot collectively support each and every one of our favorite projects and causes. As we emerged from the extreme isolation of the pandemic, our committees of Outreach, Peace and Social Justice, and Worship and Ministry are all making decisions about how to focus energy within the meeting on issues important to our place in society. Focusing on creation of a list of guiding priorities for FCNL helped us discern five areas that are our guiding leadings this year. Monthly queries have also been an influence on the discussion. The following areas are the top concerns for Yardley Meeting this year.

- Environmental concerns; sustainable energy and environmental protections
- Educational improvement and opportunity for children and adults
- People at risk, poverty, hunger, housing and homelessness, refugee settlement
- Social equity, including protection of civil rights and the protection of voting rights for all.
- Local community services

These areas of concern were used to determine this year's list of charitable donations.

Thanks to two grants of \$500 (Fiscal years 2021-22 & 2022-23) from the Bucks Quarter the Outreach Committee bought a large screen to use outside to project films and to invite the public to movie nights. A large portion of the money was used to rent the three popular films, *Shrek*, *Air Bud*, and *Encanto*. On the second Saturday of June, July and August 2022 members of the public were invited to attend the showings out in our wonderful backyard at dusk. The Yardley Borough Recreation Board helped support and advertise the events. They are also contributing funds to help rent the movies this year, and next-2023. Attendance was not high, but it is agreed that the effort and expenditure is well worth continuing as part of our community outreach efforts.

Last September, the Flea Market started up again. The community rallied again to host the vendors and the public on our usual second Saturday of September. No part of the event was indoors. We had eliminated the silent auction, and the white elephant booths, so we did not make as much money. However, we were thrilled to see one another and work together on behalf of the Meeting. The Outreach Committee opened the building twice to hold Red Cross Blood drives.

A new subcommittee, called the Plant Medicine Committee, formed to work with Singularity Botanicals and the African Diaspora Coalition. Three new garden beds were built and are now growing herbs to be used in herbal preparations as part of a health support program in Chester, PA. A number of Quaker meetings are participating in the program, so we are pleased to be coordinating with them too. It is hoped that some sort of wellness and health education may be started up in the Morrisville, Bristol or Trenton communities as part of this program.

Two families had delayed memorial services for loved ones during the pandemic but were finally able to gather in Yardley this spring. Large extended families came from far and wide to honor the memory of Rose Franke Koch, and Laura Cadwallader Clappison.

The Children's Religious Education Committee has developed a list of adults who currently have clearances from child abuse convictions from the Child Protective Services of PA. We occasionally have families arrive with children and always provide two cleared adults to be with them in the playroom. We do not have regular First Day classes because families with children have not returned to Meeting since the pandemic. It is a challenge to gain the interest of new families when we do not have an ongoing First Day program. This is a matter of concern.

Stewardship of the property is ongoing. Walls were newly painted, the ADA bathroom was completed, new soffits and gutters were installed outside, and parts of the driveway were repaved and painted. New flooring was installed last October. By December we noticed that some of the tiles were pulling up and were no longer sticking. Inspections and many emails and phone calls have ensued with the installers of Holland Flooring from Newtown. They have yet to solve the problem to our satisfaction, so we are continuing to negotiate a completely new installation with the proper glue. We also built a labyrinth out of bluestone. It will have the finishing touches completed soon and we will have an opening ceremony, to which members of the Bucks Quarter will be invited.

Quakertown Monthly Meeting  
Minute of Support for Reproductive Rights  
Presented at  
Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
10 August 2022

Quakertown Monthly Meeting is asking you to support our belief that women and those who can become pregnant have the absolute right to control their own bodies and to make reproductive decisions within the privacy of their own counsel, the counsel of their health care providers and the guidance of the Spirit. Although Quakertown Monthly Meeting is in the State of New Jersey, where, presently, our Governor and our legislators are working to protect a person's right to control their own body and their right to privacy, we are still concerned about our fellow Americans whose rights have been grossly compromised through the Supreme Court's recent reversal of its 1974 decision in Roe v. Wade. Access to safe, legal, reproductive care is a fundamental human right and a necessity to protect people from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.