

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business  
Nineteenth Day, Eleventh Month 2023**

Held under the care of Quakertown Monthly Meeting via hybrid format.

**Clerk:** Bill Daly (Middletown)

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

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

**Friends gathered** at 1:05 PM and settled into a period of worship.

**Welcome – Bill Daly**

**Review and Approval of Agenda – Bill Daly – approved.**

**Roll Call of Meetings:** Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 6; Doylestown – 0; Fallsington – 1;  
Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 2; Newtown – 8; Plumstead – 4;  
Quakertown – 5; Solebury – 0; Southampton – 3; Wrightstown – 3; Yardley – 4

**Review and Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2023 meeting – Terry Christensen**

Yardley Friend offers correction to minutes; specifically the date range in which Friends Sid Cadwallader and Sam Snipes attended Princeton Meeting to offer support should read “1900’s” rather than “early 2000’s”; also their attendance was not “regular” but periodic (typically once per year when Princeton congregation was very small); Yardley Friend notes that Princeton meeting is now thriving.<sup>1</sup>

Minutes of August 20, 2023, **approved as amended.**

**Stories of Vitality & Strength –**

Lehigh Valley Friend reports they have repaired heat pump and made improvements to HVAC for their meetinghouse; Friends can now gather and worship in comfort.

Southampton Friend reports that they are remodeling their “house on the hill”; they are replacing the house on the hill kitchen with a new entrance that provides improved access to an envisioned full basement along with an upstairs apartment; they are planning on using one entrance which will connecting the house on the hill to their meetinghouse.

**Announcement –** Recording Clerk requests that those reporting to Bucks Quarterly Meeting submit those reports in advance of the meeting. He notes that having these reports in advance gives the Recording Clerk an opportunity to review the report and listen for the

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<sup>1</sup> Given that T. Sidney Cadwallader was born on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1914, it seems likely that his and Friend Sam Snipes’ involvement in support of Princeton Meeting would have been in the mid to late 1900’s.

highlights that should be included in the minutes as opposed to scrambling to capture each detail.

**Annual Report – Friends Village – Chiyo Moriuchi** – Friend Chiyo reviews history and character of Friends Village; Chiyo articulates how Friends Village mission answers a critical societal need (54% of aging citizens will neither be able to afford CCRC nor qualify for Medicaid supported facilities; significant challenge is to maintain affordability and still provide adequate compensation for staff.

Chiyo details highlights of past year; progress continues on Friends Village Strategic Plan; Friends Village has hired a Wellness Coordinator; Friends Village hosts classes focused on technology; they continue to host “Growth and Change” lecture/discussion sessions; in July, Friends Village hosted a “Bereavement Camp” for children who had experienced trauma; Friends Village has engaged in outreach to the broader Friends Community (e.g. visits to Solebury and Trenton Meetings); Friends Village has restarted Meeting for Worship at the Styer Campus (discontinued during COVID).

Friends Village strives to be a “Great Place to Work”; in the past year Friends Village has instituted a retirement program and a hardship loan program for employees; staff has had SAGE training to enhance sensitivity to LGBTQ issues; Friends Village has worked to enable professional development for staff; average tenure is seven years.

Friends Village has been active in Stewardship; Friends Village has taken several measures to preserve and enhance the environment; Friends Village is ensuring that their meadow is populated with plants native to this area; Friends Village has planted a scion of the “Salem Oak” on the Styer Campus; Friends Village has eliminated single use plastics in food service; Friends Village will host a Spring Event featuring Doug Tallamy, author of *Natures Best Hope*, and founder of Homegrown National Park.

Chiyo makes case for support of Friends Village; Friends Village is an outward facing community of people living purposeful lives rather than serving as “God’s waiting room”; Chiyo notes that absent a facility such as Friends Village, our seasoned citizens are often lonely (a severe health risk in its own right); moreover caring for an aging adult without support presents an economic burden for families (typically the oldest daughter) during their prime earning years; thus depriving the children of this population an opportunity to fund their own retirement.

Chiyo encourages Friends to join Friends Village residents during upcoming special events and [bi-weekly] mid-week meeting for worship every other Wednesday.

**Budget and Nominating** – Leo Fitzpatrick – absent Friend Leo, Terry Christensen assumes temporary clerkship for this agenda item (Bucks Quarter Clerk Bill Daly exits meeting temporarily); Wendy Kane explains that previous Budget and Nominating policy limited the BQ Clerk to ONE TERM (two years) of service; that Budget and Nominating committee has recently changed this policy (with approval of BQ) such that the Quarter Clerk may serve up to **THREE CONSECUTIVE [two year] TERMS**; Prompt action on this

item is necessary because Clerk Daly's term as Bucks Quarter Clerk expires at the end of this calendar year.

(i.e., before our next quarterly meeting); reports that **BQ Clerk Daly** has been approached on this issue and that he is willing to serve another term as Clerk.

Friends **APPROVE Bill** Daly as clerk of BQM for 2024-2025

**Clerk Daly is summoned and resumes clerking Bucks Quarterly meeting.**

**Bucks Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane:** Wendy notes that, while other meetings within PYM seem to be struggling, Bucks Quarter is thriving.

Wendy details visitation to Monthly Meetings this quarter (Yardley, Newtown, Solebury, Buckingham, Makefield, Fallsington, Middletown, Quakertown, Bristol).

Wendy's goals for 2023 include meeting with MM Clerks; this past quarter she has met with Yardley Clerk Marna Mathews who discussed joys and challenges of clerking.

Wendy celebrated World Quaker Day at Middletown Meeting who shared worship with their sister meeting, Settle Friends (in UK).

Newtown MM honored Conscientious Objectors buried in their graveyard – First Day School students placed Peace Flags on the graves of nine COs.

Wendy presented a program "Digging into the Graveyard" at Newtown Meeting with her partner Burial Ground liaison.

BQ Peace Fair Committee and BQ Audit Committee have met as needed.

Bristol Meeting Support Committee has been formed; members include Wendy, Clerk Daly, various members of the BQ, members of Bristol Meeting, members of Fallsington Meeting, and members of Redemption Church; goal is to help Bristol Meeting through time of transition; committee thanked outgoing Clerk Paul Schaffer and greeted rising Clerk Alisa Myles; committee is dedicated to seeing Bristol Meeting grow and thrive in coming years; they hope to increase worship offerings and host more events at Bristol Meetinghouse; committee will meet 2x each year.

BQ Outreach Committee met in September and approved Outreach grants for Plumstead and Wrightstown; volunteers to staff the Quaker tent at annual fall events (e.g., Peace Fair) were identified.

BQ Clerks continue to meet quarterly; eleven meetings were represented; items of discussion included status of "Hybrid Meeting in a Box" and how larger meetings in BQ can support smaller meetings.

Friends Village has begun offering mid-week worship (bi-weekly) on Wednesday afternoons.

BQ has established a goal of having a virtual component to Quarterly Meeting; Richmond Shreve and other members of Ad-Hoc Technology Group have assembled components for a "traveling" hybrid meeting; these components have been tested at

current site (Quakertown MM) and appear to be working satisfactorily; evaluation will continue after today's meeting.

Wendy continues to serve as Clerk of PYM Program Committee.

Wendy served as panelist at Arch Street Meetinghouse workshop "Learning from Friends: Sharing Tips, Strategies and Resources for Quaker Websites"; Wendy shared her experience upgrading and maintaining BQM website.

Wendy attended Yardley Friends Flea Market, Quaker Call to Action Call, Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, PYM Advocacy Policy Threshing Session, Historic Bristol Day, and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day; given weather conditions Wendy did not attend Historic Fallsington Day due to inclement weather.

Wendy continues to maintain the BQ website as well as BQ presence on social media and in local print media; this last was part of her goals for 2023.

Yardley friend expresses support and gratitude for Wendy.

Yardley Friend raises question about Friends involvement holding peace as goal in Middle East.

Wendy suggests Friends visit AFSC website to see 1) how Friends are dealing with humanitarian crisis and 2) how Friends can help relieve the suffering there.

Southampton requests that those in attendance (whether in-person or via Zoom) identify themselves before they begin speaking.

**Audit Committee – Alan Gray** (Plumstead Mtg) – BQM Audit Committee includes Alan Gray, Rich Richardson (Newtown Mtg), and Jim Michener (Southampton Mtg). Other participants in the Audit include BQM Treasurer Lisa Parry Becker, past BQM Treasurer and current assistant treasurer, Ed Snyder, and Wendy. BQM Audit Committee met 3x; October 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. Minutes of those meetings are available via Bucks Quarter. Their report is for the fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The audit was conducted in accordance with "Audit Procedures for Bucks Quarterly Meeting" by **CLERK DALY** and dated Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, with minor, non-consequential variances.

Audit Committee Review consists of interviews with BQM Treasurers Lisa Parry Becker and Ed Snyder; examination of relevant I & E statements, cash flow documents, and confirmation of beginning and closing balances of BQM accounts at First National Bank of Newtown.

BQM Audit Committee found BQM financial records to be well organized and supported by documentation; Audit Committee recommends that "work papers" (i.e. "Audit Procedures") be prepared in advance of first meeting of committee (e.g. if an auditor were provided online access, BQM checking account data could be downloaded in advance of meetings). Bucks Quarter Handbook suggests one meeting per year. The Audit Committee suggests changing this expectation to 2x or 3x per year.

**Report Accepted by BQM with appreciation.**

**Treasurers Report – Lisa Parry Becker (presented by Ed Snyder)** – BQM is in good financial shape; deposits and expenditures in line with expectations; in terms of financial activity, this is the slowest of four quarters; slightly late contributions by monthly meetings to BQM are not a problem as we control expenditures contribution to PYM.

BQM has made contributions to Camp Onas, Chandler Hall, and Friends Village; we have had a small operating expenditure and met our payroll (Wendy); BQM has \$20K in the bank and \$50K in Friends Fiduciary (we only spend income from this account – not principle)

Lehigh Valley Friend asks if Kirkbride Estate Funds are segregated from general funds. Ans: they are accounted for but not separately invested. Kirkbride funds are gradually being spent down via grants.

**Report Accepted with appreciation.**

**BREAK**

**Annual Report – Bucks Food for Friends – Carol Richardson** – Friend offers historical background; Bucks Food for Friends is composed entirely of volunteers (most of whom are/were Friends); during the time of COVID they were no longer able to offer hot meals; they have transitioned and now offer pre-packaged “food to go”; delivery of these packages is coordinated by Advocates for the Homeless; BFF enjoys a wonderful pool of volunteers; BFFF is entirely dependent on external donations and they are grateful from the support of individuals and meetings within Bucks Quarter; they hope to resume serving in-person, hot meals in the future.

**Report accepted with appreciation.**

**Report – Bristol Meeting Support Committee – Fallsington Meeting** – Wendy gives report. Bristol Meeting Support Committee is composed of Friends from Bristol Meeting, Fallsington Meeting, Bucks Quarter, and Redemption Church (current tenant of Bristol meetinghouse); Alysa Myles who recently (along with husband Stuart Myles) transferred membership from Newtown MM to Bristol is now Clerk of Bristol Meeting. They are working to build membership; so far, they have one new member and another who has met with the clearness committee. Currently, they hold one meeting for worship per month (on the fourth Sunday); they plan to increase that frequency to two meetings per month and hopefully weekly Meeting for Worship sometime next year. Bristol meeting was involved in Historic Bristol Day (presenting an archeological dig); Bristol MM has a new labyrinth which is open to the public; they have plans for a website and are working to integrate more into the community; outreach efforts include a cooking class for young male refugees.

Bristol Treasurer has moved to the west coast; they are looking to recruit someone to fill that slot.

Wendy encourages Friends to visit Bristol MM and offer support.

**Annual Report – Solebury Meeting – Marian Hepburn – *report attached.***

**Annual Report – Plumstead Meeting – Leslie May** – In 2023 Plumstead Meeting has focused on two areas: 1) outreach with the goal of returning to pre-COVID attendance levels and 2) repairing the exterior of their meetinghouse.

Plumstead has tried to increase its visibility in the community; these efforts include a daffodil planting that is intended to become an annual event. In December 2022, Plumstead sent Christmas cards to members and attenders whom they have not seen for a while; they will (again) host Christmas Eve candlelight caroling at their meeting house this year; they have sent postcards to the larger community inviting them to join in caroling.

Plumstead has acknowledged to the Lenape people that their meetinghouse stands on Lanape land; this past July, Plumstead invited Adam DePaul of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania to present a program which they widely advertised; this program attracted a capacity crowd.

In August Plumstead hosted Bucks Quarterly Meeting; the program featured two speakers: Lois Kuter, Clerk of PYM Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities and Arla Patch, Doylestown Meeting, from the Coalition of Natives and Allies.

Plumstead had a table at the Peace Fair, selling plants, gardening books, and milkweed seeds to help with Monarch Butterfly migration.

With supervision of Friend Carol Ann Gray, Plumstead undertook a number of repairs and maintenance projects; the exterior was recoated with historically appropriate material; windows have been repaired/reconditioned; stone steps at entryway were raised and repositioned; they plan to install a new handrail at the entrance; in 2024, they intend to replace the porch roof and install new drainage around the meetinghouse; they are considering establishing a natural (i.e. unmowed) area on their property;

Plumstead continues weekly collection of food for Doylestown Food Pantry; they will have a “Mitten Tree” to collect warm clothing for Mercer Street Friends; they also participate in BQM collection of clothing for young people in need.

Long-time Plumstead Friend Kenneth Ahl passed away in April.

(TMC asks Membership??; Attenders? changes?) Ans: There have been no new members; data about attenders is not available; Friend May will communicate membership data to Recording Clerk (via email).

**Report Accepted**

As of 17 December 2023, no membership data was received.

**Annual Report – Newtown Meeting – Katherine Borish** – Friend Borish shares Newtown MM highlights of last year; NMM has completed work on their parking lot – they now have twenty new parking spaces at their meetinghouse; this was financed by an interest-free loan from their general endowment; NMM is now working to repay that loan and generate additional funds for landscaping improvement; NMM has hired a landscape architect to help with planning.

NMM has a new audio-visual system for hybrid meetings; Clerk thanks to BQM for \$500 grant which helped defray cost of equipment.

NMM has two children’s fundraising events per year (Lasagna Dinner and Simple Supper); NMM children organize, staff, and decide who benefits from the proceeds; this year NMM children raised \$2K from Simple Supper to Penndel Food Pantry and proceeds of Lasagna Dinner garnered more than \$4.1K to Quaker micro-lending organization, “Right Sharing of World Resources” (which supports women owned/operated business). NMM Financial Oversight added another \$2.4 K (minimum donation to Right Sharing organization is \$6.5K); this is going to women/children’s rights organization in India.

NMM has had one marriage (Spencer Richardson and Margo Hunt); one birth (Lyra Manchanda); additionally, NMM has added 4 new members (for a total of 6) and 12 new attenders.

NMM Outreach has sent more than 400 hand addressed picture postcards to new residents of Newtown; Outreach is distributing reusable shopping bags with the Newtown Quakers logo.

Newtown Friends School (operating under the care of Newtown MM) has its largest enrollment in several years (324); because of increased demand they have opened a second Pre-K classroom.

Katherine Borish is stepping down as Clerk of NMM at the end of this calendar year. Janet Braker will become Clerk of NMM and Barbara Simmons will be the Assistant Clerk of NMM

### **Report Accepted**

**Annual Report – Peace Fair Committee – Tim Cunningham** – The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Bucks Quarter Peace Fair was held on September 30<sup>th</sup> (later than usual due to Jewish holidays).

Eight monthly meetings were active participants; planning for the event began in March and all meetings were conducted via Zoom with Peter Ray as their paid coordinator.

The Peace Fair was, again, the beneficiary of outstanding volunteer support from BQM. Yardley MM passed on books to be sold; Quakertown Friends helped in the setup; Southampton Friends helped with clean-up; Newtown Friends ran the café; Solebury, under guidance of John Mathieu, did the cooking with the exception of the chili, which was provided by Middletown; Buckingham Friends School students participated as ambassadors; PYM provided a staff member and support for a Young Friends gathering;

The Peace Fair is hoping for a meeting or group of volunteers to step forward and take on the recycling duties so that we can better model sustainable consumption in our community.

It is estimated that 1200 people attended the fair with a suggested donation of \$2 at the entry; heavy rains in advance of the fair made parking a problem in some areas.

Although the fair operated at a deficit (~ \$800) this year, they were able to make a donation to Bucks County Interfaith Coalition Refugee Resettlement program. Overall, the Peace Fair remains on solid financial footing.

The Peace Fair does not yet have a firm date for the 2024 fair; they coordinate their timing with Peddler's Village Scarecrow Festival so as to have adequate parking. Yardley friend thanks Tim; fair does not require support from BQM.

Yardley Friend seeks clarification; Peace Fair Committee is **not** asking for support from Bucks Quarterly Meeting, and further should BQM stop contributing to the Peace Fair Committee.

Ans: Peace Fair Committee was unaware of BQM continuing contributions; they have a surplus of funds on hand and do not require support from BQM at this time.

**Report is accepted.**

**Announcements** – Carol Michener (Southampton) reports on continuing work of combating racism through PYM Collaborative; Michener notes that racism issues do not apply to African-Americans exclusively; for example, the presentation at the last BQ meeting discussed racism issues involving indigenous peoples; the work should be tailored to local circumstances; for example Southampton MM is reaching out to Black churches in their areas; given her position on PYM Collaborative, Friend Michener would like to be informed of anti-racism work in monthly meetings of BQ.

Susan Thompson announces Spiritual Formation Program for Bucks Quarter (Hosted by Newtown MM); opening retreat is September 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> (2024?); Friend Thompson shares flyer and brochure; there is also a short video presentation.

Plumstead Meeting – Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship will be held on Thursday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30AM; there will be no potluck meal.

Yardley MM will host "Friends Giving" at 2pm, Thanksgiving Day (Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>); food is being prepared for people (including those in other meetings) who do not have a family to enjoy fellowship with.

Yardley will host annual candlelight worship on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> (one day after Winter Solstice) at 8PM.

Chandler Hall Auxiliary Gift and Bake Sale will be Friday and Saturday (Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) from 10AM to 4PM in Wright Hall; Bill Daly asked about location of Wright Hall – Yardley Friend gives inaudible answer.



Clerk Daly announces program “What You Weren’t Taught in School: Native Women and Allies Speak;” this program to be held Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2PM, at Doylestown Meeting

Clerk Daly announces the 64<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage from Nazareth PA to Bethlehem PA will be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30AM

Middletown Friend announces their annual Christmas Harp service (Harp music accompanies meeting for worship) on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11AM; this meeting will also be available via Zoom.

Southampton Friend announces that they will be holding their Christmas Candlelight Celebration of Peace and Light on the Tuesday before Christmas (December 19<sup>th</sup>) at 7:15 at their meetinghouse (intersection of Street Road and Gravel Hill Road); they welcome donations of refreshments and they will be collecting donations for Bucks Food for Friends as well as Family Service Association (which runs homeless shelter in Bucks County).

Quakertown Friend Lisa Uchrin reports that there is a surplus of food: many refreshments are available for Friends to take home with them.

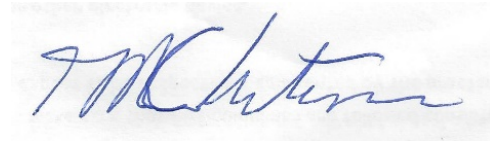
Clerk Daly announces workshop “Quakerism in a Nutshell – Part 3” to be held at Fallsington Meeting on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM to 12PM. This will be followed by lunch. The speaker will be Doug Miller, Director Pennsbury Manor and he will speak on the spiritual life of William Penn and how his vision affected the founding of Pennsylvania.

Wendy acknowledges the work of Ramona Kirwan (Quakertown Meeting) who worked tirelessly in the meetinghouse kitchen to keep Friends nourished and refreshed.

**Closing Worship – 2:59**

**Adjourn 3:03**

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

## Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting November 19, 2023

### **Who we are:**

Since 1897, the “Friends Boarding Home of Bucks Quarterly Meeting” has been putting Quaker belief into practice. Friends Village’s small size gives it a distinctive, family-like character. We enjoy a dedicated staff with very low turnover - so every member of the community is well known. While our board is self-perpetuating (i.e. NOT appointed by the Meetings in the Quarter), it is still primarily comprised of Quakers (6 Quakers, 5 from Bucks Quarter).

### **Strategic Mission:**

FV’s mission is more important today than ever. Throughout our history we have provided community living for those of modest means. Policy makers and senior housing developers have largely ignored this segment of the population.

### **Why choose Friends Village?**

FV works to keep its residents independent. Social ties are important for overall wellness. Moving to a residential community is a proactive step to maintain mental and physical health and your independence. Our goal at FV is to empower residents to manage the inconveniences of aging, so they can maintain their autonomy and dignity.

FV is a rental model. We provide simple, comfortable, functional, and attractive accommodations and amenities. FV 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 FV’s personal care apartments also receive help with Activities of Daily Living (“ADLs”) and medication management.

### **The challenge**

Our challenge is how to provide the support and care that may be needed, at an affordable cost, AND provide fair wages to the caregivers. Monthly charges only cover 65% of operating expenses and none of the necessary capital expense to maintain our physical assets.

This is a matter of equity. First, our staff deserve fair compensation. Second, the availability of affordable alternatives is critically important to families who would otherwise bear financial penalties of withdrawing from the workforce or reducing their own earnings to care for aged relatives.

The availability of an affordable alternative in many cases also helps preserve family relationships.

### **Strategic Initiatives and 2023 Highlights**

FV has been making steady progress on our strategic plan. Some highlights for the year were:

- Wellness and Engagement
  - o Enhanced programming led by our new Community Wellness and Engagement Coordinator

- Community
  - We continue to host Free technology classes for residents and the wider community as the Bucks County Senior Planet licensee with 38 non-resident attendees so far in 2023. These classes are taught by our volunteers: Claire Staffieri of Newtown and Marna Matthews and Tyler Hoff of Yardley Meetings.
  - We participated in Porchfest and Newtown’s Market Day.
  - This fall, we hosted the third season of our Growth and Change discussion series. We had a terrific four-part series called Unexpected Heirlooms. The first session was a panel moderated by Ted Taylor of Yardley Meeting, followed by individual sessions with our three presenters: Rabbi Gaber of Brothers of Israel on Ethical Wills, Robin Moore on Storytelling and Mimi Blackwell of Friends Fiduciary on Planned Giving.
  - Other Growth & Change programs were on Preventing Senior Scams, Native Women and Allies Speak, and just recently, Forgotten Heroes - Women and the Fight for the Right to Vote. We had 29 non-resident attendees of our Growth and Change programs.
  - Year to date, other programs open to the public included: Body Art, See a Flower/Draw a Flower taught by Carol Ashton-Hergenham (Newtown Meeting), Write it Out with Terry Culleton (Wrightstown Meeting) and Yoga for Seniors. These have been shared with 19 non-residents as well as 13 residents.
  - In June, we had a workshop to brainstorm ideas about the future of Paxson Hall with volunteers from a range of constituencies. Our facilitators were from VOICE, an international network started by the UK’s National Innovation Centre Ageing and Newcastle University which aims to bring new thinking and innovation to the development of products and services in a world where we all live longer and better. VOICE stands for Valuing Our Intellectual Capital & Experience. FV is now a founding member of VOICE in the US.
  - In July, FV hosted a Bereavement Camp for children who had experienced trauma.
  - Outreach to the Quaker community – we visited with Solebury and Trenton Meetings.
  - Re-started Meeting for Worship at the Styer Campus which had stopped during Covid.
- Being a Great Place to Work
  - Enhanced employee compensation package by adding a 401(k) and an Emergency Loan program.
  - Leadership and staff participated in SAGE training to ensure Friends Village is a welcoming and inclusive environment for the LGBTQ community.
  - Average tenure for FV staff is over 7 years. Our Leadership team is particularly stable. One member celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with FV this year, while two others marked 15 years with the organization.
  - Professional development for staff: Health Coach certification for Laura Hornyak and Personal Care Home Administrator for LaChanta Gatling.
- Stewardship
  - Year to Date we have completed over \$350,000 of capital projects - mostly grant funded. Projects included the renovation of the Carriage House and installation of campus WiFi at the Styer Campus. The Carriage House is our oldest building since it was originally constructed to care for the horses working on the construction of Paxson Hall. The renovation included complete refurbishment of the two first floor studio apartments



## Friends Village

which are some of our most economic units, as well as a new roof, repainting the exterior and rebuilding the cupola.

- We planted a scion of the Salem Oak tree on the Styer Campus.
- We are eliminating single use food delivery containers.
- We continued work on architectural and engineering studies to support our planning – this time looking at Paxson Hall.
- We have developed a Planned Giving program and materials. (Please participate!)

### Telling our Story

- We installed new signage with our updated name and logo.
- We held a rainy Picnic in the Garden in April. In spite of moving indoors, we had over 106 non-resident attendees who enjoyed lunch, vendors and speakers/workshops.

### Coming up

- Every other Wednesday (next on 11/22) Meeting for Worship at 1:30 on the Styer Campus. Please Join Us.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> Paxson Hall will be on Newtown's Holiday House Tour
- In the spring, we will have new terms of Senior Planet and Growth & Change
- Save the Date: Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Details to come, but we will have an event with a keynote delivered by renown speaker/author and professor, Doug Tallamy, founder of Homegrown National Park and author of Nature's Best Hope among other books on native plants and what we can each do now to fight climate change and promote bio-diversity.

### Your Support is Needed:

- 1) Consider FV for yourself, your family, and/or your friends. Come visit!
- 2) Provide Meeting Financial Support and Individual Donations. No money, no mission!
- 3) Support our residents' spiritual and emotional lives.
- 4) Volunteer. Share your time and talent. Our residents would be happy to meet you. Especially to teach Senior Planet.
- 5) Work for us. From time to time, FV has open positions, particularly for part-time.
- 6) Recommend candidates to join our Board. We are particularly interested in those with legal, health (mental, social/emotional, and medical) and financial expertise.

Respectfully submitted,  
N. Chiyo Moriuchi  
CEO/Executive Director  
November 19, 2023

**FACT SHEET**  
Data as of 9/30/23

**UNITS**

Business Line	# of units	# vacant	% occupied	Current # of residents
Personal Care	18	4	81%	13
Paxson Cottages	14	2	86%	13
<b>Paxson campus total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>26</b>
Styer – West Wing	11	1	91%	10
Styer – Cottages	27	2	96%	28
<b>Styer campus total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Friends Village total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>64</b>

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

**RATES:** 2023 monthly rates range from \$2,450 to \$4,385 with community fees at entry from \$7,200 to \$44,000

**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; Security; Extra services available for additional fee.

**RESIDENT PROFILE:**

	Personal Care	Paxson-IL	Styer-WW	Styer-IL	FV Total
Male : Female	4:9	5:8	3:7	10:18	21:40
Average Age at Entry	85	83	84	80	83
Range of Ages	69-96	77-95	76-99	71-97	69-97
Avg Age of Residents	87	87	87	85	87
Avg Length of Stay	2.7	3.1	2.8	4.2	3.2
Longest Stay	5	9	8	27	0.0-27
# Quaker	0	1	0	4	5

**ORGANIZATION:**

Annual Total Operating Expense (2023 Budget): \$3.4 million

Sources of Income (2023 Budget):  
 8.6% - Application & Entrance Fees  
 64.7% - Room & Board (100% private pay)  
 5.3% - Grants/Donations/Misc  
 21.5% - Endowment/Investment

Employees- Full Time / Part Time / LPT/ FTEs: 16/8/11/25 (+Food Service: 7)

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

Year Founded: 1897 Paxson Hall: 1899 Styer Campus: 1981

Board: 11 members; 55% Quaker; Terry Christensen (Chair)

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
November 19, 2023  
Under the Care of Quakertown Monthly Meeting  
Held on Zoom and at Quakertown Meeting

As your Coordinator, I have connections and relationships throughout the yearly meeting. When I attend yearly meeting events, I often hear Friends bemoaning the fact that their memberships are dwindling, and meetings are considering closing their doors. I then speak of the vibrancy of Bucks Quarter - one of the few growing Quarters in PYM, where when one of our meetings is struggling, we come together as a spiritual community to help and support them however we can. This is why we will continue to thrive well into the 21st century and beyond.

## Monthly Meeting Connections

**Meeting Visitation:** This quarter's visitation rotation included Yardley, Newtown (3), Solebury, Buckingham, Makefield, Fallsington (2), Middletown, Quakertown, and Bristol. When asked, I attended their meeting for business, and when invited, I shared a potluck meal. While on vacation in Maine, I shared worship with Vassalboro Friends Meeting.

**Coordinator-Clerk Meetings:** *Meeting with each monthly meeting clerk is one of the identified Coordinator's goals for 2023.* This quarter I met with Yardley Meeting clerk Marna Matthews. She shared some of the joys and challenges of being clerk of a meeting, noting that there is not currently a rising clerk identified. She appreciates all the support she receives from the Quarter.

**Middletown: World Quaker Day:** Friends shared worship with their sister meeting - Settle Friends - in the UK. Worship was followed by sharing queries.

**Newtown Meeting: Honoring COs buried in Newtown Meeting's burial ground:** The children's First Day School lesson focused on honoring those who chose not to serve in the armed forces, by placing a Peace Flag (designed by the children) on the graves of nine conscientious objectors.

**Newtown Meeting Adult First Day:** Along with the other Newtown Meeting Burial Ground liaison, I presented a program entitled "Digging into the Graveyard."

## Bucks Quarter Connections

**BQ Peace Fair Committee:** met monthly until the fair which was held on September 30th. We encouraged attendance from more Bucks Quarter Friends and those that attended received a "Genuine Quaker" pin. To date over 200 have been distributed throughout the Quarter and Yearly Meeting.

**BQ Audit Committee:** the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and members of the Audit Committee met over Zoom to conduct the FY 2022-23 audit.

**Bristol Meeting Support Committee:** a committee has been formed which includes the Coordinator, the Quarter Clerk, members from the Quarter, Bristol Meeting, Fallsington Meeting and Redemption Church to help Bristol Meeting during this time of transition. We had our first meeting and said goodbye and thank you to outgoing clerk, Paul Shaffer, and hello to rising clerk, Alisa Myles. The group is committed to seeing Bristol Meeting grow and thrive in the coming years, with the possibility of expanding worship

to more than once a month and having events hosted at the meetinghouse. The committee agreed to meet twice a year.

**BQ Outreach Committee:** the committee met in September, when they approved two outreach grants (Plumstead and Wrightstown). Volunteers were identified to help staff the Quaker tent at the scheduled fall events (Peace Fair, Historic Bristol Day, Historic Fallsington Day and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day). After being without a clerk for over a year, Ed Snyder has agreed to become clerk of the committee.

**BQ Clerk's Meeting:** our quarterly meeting had representatives from 11 meetings. Clerks were given time to share happenings at their meetings. They were given an update on the status of our hybrid meeting in a box trials, and the main agenda item was how can the Quarter and our larger meetings support the smaller meetings in the Quarter.

**Friends Village Mid-Week Meeting for Worship:** Friends Village is experimenting with mid-week meeting for worship. They began in October and are being held bi-weekly on Wednesday afternoons in the sunroom for 30 minutes. The two I attended in October had about 5 participants.

**Hybrid Meeting in a Box:** at our last Quarterly Meeting it was determined that having a virtual component to our Quarterly Meetings would be a goal. As some of our meetings do not currently offer virtual worship, the Coordinator consulted with Richmond Shreve, Newtown Meeting, who was part of our Ad Hoc Technology Group, who assembled the components for a traveling hybrid meeting. These components were tested at Quakertown Meeting, who is hosting today's Quarterly Meeting. The testing was successful, and we will reassess our equipment needs and procedures after today's meeting.

## PYM Connections

**Program Committee:** I continue to serve as clerk of this committee which is under the care of PYM's Quaker Life Council. We meet monthly on Zoom.

**Quarter Staff Gathering:** in anticipation of our Quarter Leadership meeting, a small group of paid Quarter staff gathered to discuss agenda items. As there are very few paid Quarter staff, the meeting was small, but productive.

## Event Attendance

**Arch Street Meetinghouse:** I was a panelist at a workshop entitled "Learning From Friends: Sharing Tips, Strategies and Resources For Quaker Websites. I spoke about the process of upgrading and maintaining our Quarter website.

**Yardley Friends Flea Market:** Many people stopped by the Quaker tent to get information about local Friends. Our "Pick the Quaker" game was a big hit for the second year.

**Quaker Call to Action Call:** There were over 250 participants on the call, with Friends from both PYM and BQ. Parker Palmer spoke on the better angels of our nature: love, truth, justice, and the work of we the people.

**Bucks Quarter Peace Fair:** There were record crowds and a record amount of money was raised. There were many visitors to the Quaker tent, but fewer children participated in tile making. I acted as one of the Fair's photographers/videographers.

**Threshing Session on PYM's Advocacy Policy:** About 75 Friends from around the yearly meeting joined the call to discuss PYM's advocacy policy that was put into effect about a year ago. No decisions

were made, and all questions and concerns were noted by the presiding clerk, Melissa Rycroft, who will refer them to Admin Council for further seasoning.

**Historic Fallsington Day:** the Quarter was scheduled to attend this event, however, given the weather forecast for heavy rain, I decided to pass. Fallsington Friends had a presence in their meetinghouse.

**Historic Bristol Day:** the day began misty and cloudy, but the weather slowly improved until the sun was shining by the end of the event. The crowds increased as the weather improved, and many people engaged in our “Pick the Quaker” activity. The Bristol Meetinghouse was busy with an archeological dig, their new labyrinth, and activities and refreshments provided by their tenant, Redemption Church.

**Olde Langhorne Harvest Day:** Temperatures reached 80 degrees and there were many visitors to our Quaker table. Many thanks to Middletown Meeting for providing volunteers to accompany me throughout the day. The Children’s Tile Painting activity was especially active!

## Social Media & Outreach

**Website:** the calendar is up to date, and I continue to post a new quote on the homepage around the first of the month. There was one Story of Vitality posted each month.

**Facebook:** I continue to post almost daily.

**Times Publishing:** *Publishing a monthly article is one of the identified Coordinator’s goals for 2023.* We continue to publish a Quaker story and ad monthly.

**YouTube:** two new videos were posted this quarter, with the video of Jim and Deb Fine’s presentation “Israel-Palestine After the Atrocities” having 324 views to date - our most popular video.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane  
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting



**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**OF**  
**THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

Box 4477, Newtown, PA 18940

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

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**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Subject:** Audit of BQM financial statements and records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

**Audit Meetings Attendees:**

Alan Gray, Auditor and Clerk  
Rich Richardson, Auditor  
Jim Michener, Auditor, Recording clerk  
Lisa Parry Becker, BQM Treasurer  
Ed Snyder, outgoing BQM Treasurer<sup>1</sup>  
Wendy Kane, BQM Coordinator

1. The audit committee met to review the financial statements and records of BQM via Zoom meetings on October 8, October 15, and October 17, 2023. The minutes of those meetings are available. The audit was conducted in accordance with the “Audit Procedures for Bucks Quarterly Meeting” by Bill Daly dated 2013-01-09 with the following variances:
  - Instead of all, only four BQM Monthly Meetings’ transaction details were compared to BQM records.
  - Instead of looking at source documents for all expenditures, the auditors chose to examine large expenditures and a sampling of the others.
  - The procedure for Seeking variance between Budget and Actual numbers was skipped because the auditors believe other BQM activities do this work adequately.
  
2. The audit committee’s review consisted principally of inquiries to the BQM Treasurers, examination of BQM’s income and expense statements<sup>2</sup>, cash flow documentation, balance sheets and confirmation of the beginning and closing balances of the BQM’s

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<sup>1</sup> Ed Snyder was the BQM treasurer for July and August of the year covered by this audit.

<sup>2</sup> Including comparison of income and expense transactions between BQM and four selected Monthly Meetings during the audit period.

accounts maintained at the First National Bank and Trust Company of Newtown and at Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

3. The audit committee found the BQM's financial books and records to be well organized and supported by back-up documentation (except as noted in Section 5 below). The financial statements were also found to be free of material misstatements.
4. The audit committee prepared the "work papers" for the audit, as required under Section 1 of the Audit Procedures. They are attached to the minutes of the October 25 audit meeting.
5. As a result of the conduct of this audit, the audit committee makes the following recommendations for future audits:
  - The "work papers" for the audit, described in the Audit Procedures, could be prepared before the first committee meeting.

The audit committee would like to thank Lisa Parry Becker and Ed Snyder for their dedication and diligence both in the office of Treasurer of Bucks Quarterly Meeting and in their responsive assistance during the conduct of this audit. We also want to express our appreciation to Wendy Kane, BQM Coordinator, for her support in organizing Google Drive records and gathering us in Zoom meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Gray  
Rich Richardson  
Jim Michener  
  
Audit Committee

## BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

### 2023 Profit and Lost: 1st Quarter

	JUL 2023 - SEP	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Interest and dividends FFC	\$ -	<u>\$ 2,020.00</u>	\$ (2,020.00)	0%
<b>Total Interest and dividends</b>	\$ -	\$ 2,020.00	\$ (2,020.00)	0%
<b>Monthly Meeting contributions</b>				
Additional	\$ -	\$ 17,904.00	\$ (17,904.00)	0%
Pledged	<u>\$ 21,029.00</u>	<u>\$ 278,195.00</u>	<u>\$ (257,166.00)</u>	8%
<b>Total Monthly Meeting contributions</b>	\$ 21,029.00	\$ 296,099.00	\$ (275,070.00)	7%
<b>Other contributions</b>				
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$ -	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>	<u>\$ (1,200.00)</u>	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$ 21,029.00</u>	<u>\$ 299,319.00</u>	<u>\$ (278,290.00)</u>	7%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$ 21,029.00	\$ 299,319.00	\$ (278,290.00)	7%
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Contributions</b>				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting		\$ 208,724.00	\$ (208,724.00)	0%
<b>Total Contributions</b>		\$ 208,724.00	\$ (208,724.00)	0%
<b>Gifts/Donations</b>				
			\$ -	
Camp Onas	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	100%
Chandler Hall	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	100%
Friends Home and Village	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	\$ -	100%
<b>Total Gifts/Donations</b>	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	100%
			\$ -	
<b>Programs, Activities, Outreach</b>				
Operating	\$ 180.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ (6,320.00)	3%
<b>Other</b>				
Advertising		\$ 2,200.00	\$ (2,200.00)	0%
Liability Insurance		\$ 1,150.00	\$ (1,150.00)	0%
Outreach Committee Activities		\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	0%
Programs for Peace		\$ 1,700.00	\$ (1,700.00)	0%
Quakerism Classes		\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	0%
Young Friends and Other (net)		<u>\$ 350.00</u>	<u>\$ (350.00)</u>	0%
<b>Total Other</b>		<u>\$ 7,900.00</u>	<u>\$ (7,900.00)</u>	0%
<b>Personnel</b>	<u>\$ 16,063.70</u>	<u>\$ 75,295.00</u>	<u>\$ (59,231.30)</u>	21%
<b>Total Programs, Activities, Outreach</b>	<u>\$ 16,243.70</u>	<u>\$ 89,695.00</u>	<u>\$ (73,451.30)</u>	18%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 17,143.70</u>	<u>\$ 299,319.00</u>	<u>\$ (282,175.30)</u>	6%
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<u>\$ 3,885.30</u>	\$ -	\$ 3,885.30	
<b>Other Income</b>				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)			\$ -	
<b>Total Other Income</b>			\$ -	
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
Kirkbride expenses		\$ 7,000.00	\$ (7,000.00)	0%
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>		\$ 7,000.00	\$ (7,000.00)	0%
<b>Net Other Income</b>		\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 7,000.00	0%
<b>Net Income</b>		\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 7,000.00	0%

# BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

## Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2023

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
First National Checking	27,690.71
Petty cash	0.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$27,690.71</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$27,690.71</b>
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	50,301.85
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$50,301.85</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$77,992.56</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	9,196.43
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	64,910.83
Net Income	3,885.30
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$77,992.56</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$77,992.56</b>

Bucks Food for Friends  
Annual Report November 19, 2023  
Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bucks Food For Friends is operated completely by volunteers comprised mostly of Bucks Quarter Quakers. March of 2020 was the last hot meal prepared, packed, and served to our guests “to go”. However, the mission of serving those experiencing food insecurities has adapted to simpler “to go” meals and then delivery is coordinated through the Advocates for the Homeless to the areas they service. We recently increased the number of complete meals provided to 45.

The organization has been so lucky to have a wonderful pool of volunteer resources who historically help with meal preparation, serving, and cleanup. We hope to resume the personal one on one hot meal service for guests, but we haven’t found way forward at this point.

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

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

## **Solebury Friends Meeting's Annual report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting 11th month 2023**

This year we mourned the death of important Friends, and had good memorial services for them which helped us to come together as a community.

Our Inreach-Outreach committee has done amazing work this year, including help from attenders as well as members. We finally got internet service installed in the Meetinghouse. We haven't used it much yet, but have already felt the benefit of being able to hold committee meetings at the Meetinghouse with Zoom available to Friends who can't come in person. We anticipate it being a good benefit to offer renters who want to hold weddings or memorial services at Solebury. We will be "renovating" our website soon, and are being more active posting events on different social media sites. We hosted an open house tour of our graveyard and had good attendance from visitors, with music, food, and crafts for fun.

This summer we hosted a group of summer students from the Summer of Freedom camp, run by the Ujima Friends Peace Center, which is located in North Philly. Solebury Friend Amy Manoff explained to the kids how she came to be a fruit farmer and, before taking the kids to pick blueberries, answered all their questions. This is the second year we have hosted them, and we hope to nurture a long time connection with each other.

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. In addition to Friends Schools, we hope to do better to nurture young families with the right kind of child care support at our Meeting on First Days.

Our House and Grounds, and Graveyard committees have continued to keep our Meeting in good repair, including a new standing seam metal roof on our carriage sheds, removing old wood siding on our meetinghouse's north gable end to enable repointing of the stone wall behind it, which we will leave exposed once renovated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marian Hepburn, Clerk Solebury Friends Meeting



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF PLUMSTEAD MEETING

Plumstead Meeting has had two major focuses in 2023, first: continuing outreach and recovery from attendance losses we sustained in 2020 and 2021, largely covid- related, and second: repairing the exterior of our Meeting House.

### **Outreach**

To enlarge our attendance, we have concentrated on increasing our visibility in the community, and on welcoming old and new attenders. We undertook what we hope will be an annual daffodil planting, aiming to attract visual attention in the spring to our Meeting House. In December 2022 we sent Christmas cards to people we hadn't seen in a while. As we did in 2022, we will again host Christmas Eve Caroling at our Meeting House this year, and we have sent a postcard invitation to our surrounding community. Last spring, 2023, a generous Friend hosted a potluck brunch for all of us at her home. We also began planning for the August Quarterly Meeting at Plumstead.

Having earlier approved an acknowledgment of the native Lenape people on whose land our Meeting House stands, we invited Adam DePaul of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania to present a program for the wider Doylestown Community in July, which we advertised through social media, a postcard mailing, and local newspapers. His program attracted a capacity audience- there were people sitting on the windowsills! For the Quarterly Meeting, we also arranged for two speakers, Lois Kuter, clerk of the PYM Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities, and Arla Patch, from the Coalition of Natives and Allies.

In September, Plumstead Meeting again had a table at the Peace Fair and sold small succulents, gardening books and packets of milkweed seeds for feeding and encouraging monarch butterflies in the garden.

### **Meeting House Repairs**

As she has for several years now, Plumstead Friend Carol Ann Gray oversaw a prodigious number of projects at our Meeting House in 2023. At her invitation in April, Jeff Marshall of Heritage Conservancy, Rick Speranza of Newtown Historical Society and Clint Flack of the Mercer Museum evaluated the structure with the help of a man- lift to the attic. This summer the entire exterior was recoated with historically appropriate lime pebble dash render. All lower window sashes are being repaired, including replacing of broken windowpanes, and restoring sash cords so that the windows can be easily raised. The latrine vents, which had rotted badly at the bottom, were rebuilt. Our stone steps were raised and repositioned for safer and easier access by a helpful Meeting Attender who has the skills and the equipment to do it. A new iron handrail will be installed by the front door by the end of November.

Plans are already made for 2024 to replace our porch roof and to install a French drain around the Meeting House to help prevent any future water damage. Our Meeting is also discussing the possibility of establishing a natural, unmowed area on part of our property. We hope to investigate this more with the help of Journeywork, a volunteer organization that encourages use of natives to establish biodiversity.

### **Support of Charitable Organizations**

As we have done for many years, Plumstead Friends continued weekly collection of food for Doylestown Food Pantry in 2023, and we will have a Mitten Tree collection of warm winter clothing to go to Mercer Street Friends. We also participated in the Quarter's collection of young people's clothing for them this spring.

### **Membership**

Sadly, long-time member Kenneth E. Ahl passed away on April 29 this year.



**11/19/23**

Another great year at Newtown Friends Meeting! As reported last year, we approved construction of additional parking on the north side of the Meeting House. Additional parking proposed on the west side of the Meeting House was not approved, but will be re-evaluated in the future after the Meeting has had experience with the north lot expansion.

That construction has basically been completed and has provided 20 parking spaces for our property. The construction went well and all are pleased with the outcome.

To fund this project, we took an interest-free loan of \$250,000 from our General Fund endowment to pay for planning, approvals and construction. An Ad Hoc Committee was organized and they conducted a fund-raising campaign for "Land Use Planning and Improvement" which began in early May. Our goal is repayment of the \$250K loan and provision for additional landscape design and improvements, with an emphasis on support by current members and attenders who will benefit most from this project. The Land Use fundraising effort thus far has received \$233,000 in gifts and pledges, for which we are grateful. The fundraising goal is \$400,000.

**Building and Grounds**

The committee also continued the process of developing the land use plan for the Meeting property, which had started with the placemaking exercise in 2020. The objective is to create a plan that encompasses the longer-term use of the property, and allows phased implementation. Building and Grounds sent an RFP to six landscape architecture firms, two of which responded. The Building & Grounds committee then reviewed these proposals and chose Studio Bryan Hanes.

Byian Hanes presented 2 plans to the Meeting during an Adult First Day program. More discernment will follow.

**Ad Hoc AV committee**

The ad hoc Audio Visual (A/V) Committee was charged with developing a recommendation for improving the audio and video capabilities within the main meeting room and community room within the Meeting House. The committee's primary objectives were:

To identify a solution that would support hybrid meetings in both rooms

- To minimize distractions caused by the equipment
- To minimize the burden of operating the equipment

Generous members of the Meeting have offered to provide special funding to cover the cost of this project. Therefore we did not need to draw from the Meeting's endowment or operating budget.

It is noted that the BQM \$500 grant was applied to this project.

At this time, we are finalizing the installation of the following in our main Meeting Room:

1. Two 24" x 24" ceiling mounted panels containing microphone arrays which will provide coverage for the entire room
2. Four 24" x 24" ceiling mounted speakers.
3. A single pan-tilt-zoom high definition camera that has the ability to capture an image of the entire room as well as focus on specific locations within the room.
4. A single 85" flat panel 4K display that will offer a high-contrast video display which will be easier to see than a projected image.

A similar set-up will be installed in our Community Room.

### **Our Adult Religious Education**

During the 2022-23 school year, the Adult Religious Education (ARE) presented 24 programs. These featured spiritual journeys given by several in the Newtown Meeting community, NFM committee programs, Quaker organizations, climate crisis and social justice, Quaker history and 2 programs given by young adults.

### **Children's Religious Education**

#### **Simple Supper**

Our Simple Supper dinner held 11/10/23 raised (so far) \$1858 for Penndel Food Pantry.

#### **Lasagna Dinner - 4/21/23**

After a discernment exercise in CRE classes, the decision was made to give the proceeds of the Lasagna Dinner to Right Sharing of World Resources. Right Sharing of World Resources is a Quaker non-profit that is active in Kenya, Sierra Leone, India and Guatemala, supporting women-run businesses.

First we'd like to thank Financial Oversight for agreeing to our request for \$6500 to fund a grant from Right Sharing of World Resources to a women's microlending group. \$4108 was raised at the Lasagna dinner, and the balance of \$2392 came from the Agency contributions line in the Operating Budget.

RSWR sent the Meeting a list of 6 possible microlending groups to choose from. A survey was sent to the Meeting community asking for their feedback on which group they wanted to support. A called meeting for discernment was held on Sunday 10/26. The results of the survey and discussion led us to choose Jeyam Rural Women, Children and the Handicapped Development Society in Tamil Nadu, India as two of our members travel in that area.

### **Care & Counsel**

We are happy to acknowledge 2 wonderful events in our Meeting. First the marriage of Spencer Richardson and Margeaux Hunt under the care of the meeting.

Lyra Manchanda was welcomed to the community, born April 12 to Sameer and Tucker Manchanda.

Membership figures for 2023:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Members	340	344
Full Members	332	338
Adult	304	316
Minor	28	22
Associate	8	6

### **Inreach/Outreach**

450 hand-addressed picture postcards to new residents of Newtown encouraging them to come visit one Sunday morning. We are near completion of updating a new picture postcard to send to new residents.

This same committee produced a reusable shopping bag with a Newtown Quaker Meeting logo for use in an effort to reduce single-use plastic bags.

Financial Oversight presented a balanced budget targeting \$117,565 in annual fund contributions, an increase of 4.9% over the past two years, which was adjusted to match expected operating expenses. The operating budget does not include any contribution from endowment income. As was the case last year, operating expenditures include contributions totaling \$45,000 to Bucks Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, a contribution of \$4,000 to Newtown Friends School, contributions of \$500 each to local police, fire and ambulance services, and \$3,000 in grants to not-for-profit agencies.

Newtown Friends School, which is under the care of the Meeting, is off to a great start this year. The school began the year at the highest enrollment they have experienced in many years, including two separate pre-kindergarten classrooms.

For the 2022-2023 school year, Newtown Friends School continued its trend of increasing enrollment, with a total of 324 students from pre-k through eighth grade. In fact, due to demand for early childhood programming, for the first time in the school's history, NFS opened a second Pre-K classroom. Across the school, 75 new students enrolled.

The school has embarked on a strategic plan process that has taken all of the current school year. We are working with the planning firm of Leadership and Design.

Due to demands from her full time job the current Clerk, Katherine Borish, made the difficult decision to step down from the Clerkship after one year. Nominating had the task of filling the Assistant Clerkship earlier than anticipated. We are pleased to report that the task was amply completed and the Meeting

approved Barbara Simmons as the new Assistant Clerk, beginning January 2024. Katherine will continue as Assistant Clerk until the end of 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Borish/Janet Braker, Clerk of Newtown Monthly Meeting

Peace Fair Committee  
Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends  
19<sup>th</sup> Day 11<sup>th</sup> Month 2023

The 23rd Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, held at Buckingham on Saturday, September 30, was again a great day for all who attended, exhibited, and volunteered. It was an exceptionally rainy September, and if we had held the fair earlier in the month as is our usual practice it most certainly would have been rained out! (Moving the Fair indoors by using Buckingham Friends School buildings would not have been possible due to their construction project.) Our mission statement continues to be to “promote harmony in the home, community, environment, and the world.”

The Peace Fair Committee had active participants from eight Monthly Meetings (and would like to have more). We were able to begin our planning in March, with all of our committee meetings held via Zoom. Peter Ray continued as our paid coordinator. Over 65 non-profit and craft exhibitors reserved tables. The Bucks Quarter table had a craft project for children and gave “Genuine Quaker” buttons to all Friends who stopped by to chat—over 70 did!

Like last year, the Fair was again the beneficiary of outstanding volunteer support by the Friends of Bucks Quarter. Yardley Meeting passed on their flea market books to us, Quakertown Friends 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. Buckingham Friends School students again participated fully as “ambassadors” at Fair. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting provided a staff member and support for a gathering of Young Friends. They came for the day of the fair only (not overnight) and were few in number, but very helpful. Nevertheless, we still could have used even more volunteers. We continued to rely on SignUp Genius, which can be confusing. It would be ideal if a monthly meeting or an individual or group could step up to make proper recycling and greater sustainability a reality at next year’s Fair. Another specific area where we need help is in using social media more effectively.

The Fair was busy with visitors all day long, with about 1200 attendees recorded at the entrance. A donation of \$2 per person was suggested at the door. Setup and cleanup went very smoothly, but all of the recent rain made parking in the Buckingham graveyard a problem. Our musical attractions were varied and entertaining, including Ecoman (Richard McLoughlin) bluegrass band Tookany Creek, and an outstanding performance by local Andean and Latin American folk music group Eco del Sur.

In past years many people, including Quakers, asked, “Where is all the money going?” This year we had an answer, as we partnered with the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (<https://www.bcicrr.org>) to help promote the Fair. We gave them a \$500 donation. However, higher costs due to inflation left the Fair with a deficit (including the donation) of about \$800. Nevertheless, the Fair is historically on a sound financial footing without continued support from the Quarter and Buckingham Meeting.

Looking forward, we already have plans for new features at next year’s Fair. We cannot yet confirm the date for the 2024 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](http://www.peacefair.org), “Like” us at [www.facebook.com/peacefair](https://www.facebook.com/peacefair) and follow “peacefair” on Instagram.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Cunningham, committee clerk  
(Buckingham Meeting)