

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
 21st Day, Eleventh Month, 2021
 Hosted by Yardley Friends Meeting

#	Agenda Item	Person	Suggested	
			Start	Time
1	Opening Worship		12:45 PM	5
2	Welcome	Leo Fitzpatrick	12:50 PM	5
3	Review and Approval of Agenda	Leo Fitzpatrick	12:55 PM	5
4	Role Call of Meetings	Terry Christensen	1:00 PM	5
5	Review and Approval - Minutes of Previous Meeting	Terry Christensen	1:05 PM	5
6	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:10 PM	10
7	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:20 PM	10
8	Annual Report - Newtown Meeting	Mark Ratliff	1:30 PM	5
9	Annual Report - Plumstead Meeting	Dafydd Jones	1:35 PM	5
10	Treasurer's Report	Ed Snyder	1:40 PM	5
11	Budget & Nominating: proposed changes to budget	Ed Snyder	1:45 PM	5
12	Budget & Nominating: BQ clerk succession plan	Betsy Bayardi	1:50 PM	10
13	Break		2:00 PM	5
14	Annual Report - Friends Home & Village	Chiyo Moriuchi	2:05 PM	5
15	Annual Report - Peace Fair Committee	Tim Cunningham	2:10 PM	5
16	Outreach Committee - Update	Doug Meaker	2:15 PM	5
17	Announcement: 2021 Peace Pilgrimage (flyer attached)	Rick Dow	2:20 PM	5
18	Update of Anti-Racism Collaborative	Carolyn Peters Michener	2:25 PM	10
19	Other Announcements		2:35 PM	5
20	Closing Worship		2:40 PM	5

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 20th Day, 2nd Month, 2022 at Buckingham Meeting

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

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

Clerk: Leo Fitzpatrick (Wrightstown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

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

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

Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved with one correction

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

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

Stories of Vitality & Strength –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BREAK (2:10 – 2:15)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friend Rick announces Peace Pilgrimage (Dec 11th)

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

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

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

Inreach

Care of Meetings

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

Miscellaneous Inreach

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

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

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

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

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

Greater Quaker Community:

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

Outreach

Outreach Committee

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

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

Website & Facebook

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

Miscellaneous Outreach

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Newtown Monthly Meeting Annual Report - November 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ratliff, Clerk of Newtown Monthly Meeting

2022 Plumstead Friends Meeting's annual report to Quarterly Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dafydd Jones
Clerk

2:16 PM
10/18/21
Cash Basis

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

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

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

	Jul '21 - Jun...	Budget	\$ Over Bud...	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	0.00	1,810.00	-1,810.00	0.0%
Total Interest and dividends	0.00	1,810.00	-1,810.00	0.0%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	200.00			
Pledged	56,849.10	276,540.00	-219,690.90	20.6%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	57,049.10	276,540.00	-219,490.90	20.6%
Other contributions	100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
Total Income	57,149.10	279,850.00	-222,700.90	20.4%
Gross Profit	57,149.10	279,850.00	-222,700.90	20.4%
Expense				
Administrative				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total Administrative	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	46,697.00	198,785.00	-152,088.00	23.5%
Total Contributions	46,697.00	198,785.00	-152,088.00	23.5%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Chandler Hall	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Friends Home and Village	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Total Gifts/Donations	0.00	450.00	-450.00	0.0%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	1,847.17	6,000.00	-4,152.83	30.8%
Other				
Advertising	1,500.00	2,200.00	-700.00	68.2%
Liability Insurance	0.00	940.00	-940.00	0.0%
Outreach Committee Activities	60.00	2,000.00	-1,940.00	3.0%
Programs for Peace	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00	0.0%
Quakerism Classes	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total Other	1,560.00	7,690.00	-6,130.00	20.3%
Personnel	19,835.93	66,775.00	-46,939.07	29.7%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	23,243.10	80,465.00	-57,221.90	28.9%
Total Expense	69,940.10	279,850.00	-209,909.90	25.0%
Net Ordinary Income	-12,791.00	0.00	-12,791.00	100.0%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-590.50			
Total Other Income	-590.50			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	1,000.00	7,000.00	-6,000.00	14.3%
Total Other Expense	1,000.00	7,000.00	-6,000.00	14.3%
Net Other Income	-1,590.50	-7,000.00	5,409.50	22.7%
Net Income	-14,381.50	-7,000.00	-7,381.50	205.5%



Friends Village

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

Who we are:

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

Why choose FHV?

FHV works to keep its residents independent.

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

Important Strategic Mission:

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

FHV during the pandemic:

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

New Mission and Vision Statements:

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

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

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

New Name and Logo:

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

Progress in 2021:

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

Your Support is Needed:

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

FACT SHEET
Data as of 9/30/21

UNITS

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

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

SERVICES:

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

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

RESIDENT PROFILE:

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

ORGANIZATION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Cunningham, Buckingham
Meeting