

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business  
 21st Day, Eighth Month, 2022  
 Hosted by Fallsington Friends Meeting

#	Agenda Item	Person	Suggested	
			Start	Time
1	Opening Worship		12:45 PM	5
2	Welcome	Bill Daly	12:50 PM	5
3	Review and Approval of Agenda	Bill Daly	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	Bucks County Advocacy Teams	Betsy Crofts	1:30 PM	5
9	Report: 342nd PYM Annual Sessions Summary	Bethann Morgan	1:35 PM	10
10	Annual Report - Middletown	Lance Mervine	1:45 PM	10
11	Annual Report - Solebury	Marian Hepburn	1:55 PM	10
12	Break		2:05 PM	5
13	Treasurer's reports	Ed Snyder	2:10 PM	5
14	Annual Report - Bucks Food for Friends	Carol Richardson	2:15 PM	5
15	Annual Report - Southampton	Stephen Moyer	2:20 PM	10
16	Annual Report - Wrightstown	Peter Pearson	2:30 PM	10
17	Budget & Nominating Committee Report	Leo Fitzpatrick	2:40 PM	5
18	Annual Report - Yardley	Marna Matthews	2:45 PM	10
19	Minute from Quakertown MM, re Roe v Wade	Lisa Urchrin	2:55 PM	10
20	Audit report - FYs ending 2020 and 2021	Bill Daly	3:05 PM	5
21	Audit guidelines	Bill Daly	3:10 PM	5
22	Announcements		3:15 PM	5
23	Closing Worship		3:20 PM	5

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 20th Day, Eleventh Month, 2022 at Lehigh Valley 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  
15<sup>th</sup> Day, Fifth Month 2022**

Held under the care of Doylestown Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Adult Education Program: Quakers and the Peace Testimony

Presented by

Gretchen Castle, Dean of Earlham School of Religion,

former General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation

**Clerk:** Bill Daly (Middletown)

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

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

**Friends gathered** at 12:48 pm and settled into a period of worship.

**Welcome** – Bill Daly

**Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved as modified** (removed item for Outreach Grants as this was already in the budget report).

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

**Review and Approval of Minutes from 20 February 2022 – Approved.**

**Stories of Vitality & Strength** – Yardley Friend reports lots of physical activity – they have built three raised gardens for medicinal herbs; they have made a good bit of progress on their labyrinth; they have begun an outdoor, family friendly movie night on the second Saturday of the month weather permitting.

Southampton Friend reports that they are continuing social justice vigils on Sunday afternoons; Southampton Friend will lead a group to explore Middletown burial ground to survey Middletown graveyard and investigate identity of persons interred within.

Wrightstown Friend reports painting parking lot and driveway – a great improvement for visibility for those arriving after sundown; they will reopen the social hall soon.

Lehigh Valley reports a new member – they also have a family of foxes who have homesteaded on playground equipment.

Buckingham Friend reports that Buckingham will be celebrating its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday in June.

Fallsington Friend reports that they have discerned that 2022 will be a year of Outreach for their meeting.

Plumstead Friend reports outreach event “Songs of Ukraine” in support of the victims of the Russian war against Ukraine.

**Proposal to adopt an in-person/hybrid meeting policy**

Assessment of Health Risks – Bethann Morgan – CDC data indicates that today (15 May 2022) Bucks County is a low-risk area; Hunterdon County, NJ is a medium risk area. CDC is recommending that if it has been six months since your last vaccination you should get a booster and it should be cross-vaccination (Moderna – Pfizer – J&J); if we meet in person, we would want people to be vaccinated (though we will not inquire or require

proof of vaccination); we would want social distancing; people who are at risk are encouraged to wear masks, and of course, anyone can wear mask if so led. The level of risk is a concern if we choose to share a meal. Singing also increases a risk of transmission; Buckingham has chosen to wear masks as they sing.

In summary, meetings should be clear about the risks that they are willing to assume and those risks they are choosing to avoid.

Bill Daly, Clerk summarizes: The question we must answer is whether we are ready to meet in person or go to a hybrid meeting. And, if the answer to either of those questions is yes, what measures do we need to take to minimize risk.

Quakertown Friend wonders what we gain by meeting in person vs what we risk.

Makefield Friend reports that they meet in person for worship but go to hybrid for community forum.

Wendy Kane, Coordinator, notes that there would be relatively little risk to friends if we follow CDC protocol.

Quakertown Friend, notes that although he is at risk, he does not “feel” at risk; he encourages in-person meeting if Friends feel safe. We should offer Friends the opportunity to meet in person.

Newtown Friend notes that we should offer at-risk friends the opportunity to attend virtually.

Quakertown Friend notes that we should consider where the Bucks Quarterly meeting is being held; there is a concern that some meetings are too small for social distancing of large groups.

Clerk notes that Middletown is large enough to social distance approximately 100 people.

Clerk reflects that Friends are leaning toward a hybrid format.

Yardley Friend wonders about various meetings ability to present hybrid program.

Middletown Friend notes that a host meeting will have to have Zoom equipment.

Southampton Friend reports that earlier, he was able to attend a Friends meeting in Mexico and is in favor of continuing hybrid meetings and proposes that the Quarter should furnish necessary equipment.

Wrightstown Friend wonders where the four meetings are that can hold meeting with proper social distance (Clerk lists Middletown, Buckingham, Wrightstown, Fallsington).

Wrightstown Friend notes that infection rates have been volatile, and we need to be flexible in our planning.

Quakertown Friend suggests that a small meeting (e.g., Quakertown) could be responsible for the program even though people are not physically present at that meetinghouse.

Coordinator lists the four meetings that were designate to host Quarterly Meeting (in sequence; Wrightstown (Feb), Buckingham (May), Fallsington (Aug), Middletown (Nov)). Fallsington scheduled for August.

Clerk asks Fallsington Friend if they are prepared to host hybrid meeting in August; Friend replies that the meeting is prepared.

Clerk suggests that we proceed on a case-by-case basis and move ahead with plans for Fallsington to host hybrid quarterly meeting. Some questions arise.

Coordinator wonders what will be needed in the way of equipment to have successful hybrid.

We transition to discussion of necessary equipment:

Technical Requirements of Hybrid Meetings – Bill Daly

1. Computer
2. Projector
3. Movie Screen
4. Camera (with USB port)
5. Microphone (with USB port)
6. Cables
7. Electrical outlet (where the technician sits.)

Middletown Friend suggests that cost of setting up hybrid capability at Middletown ran to \$1500 - \$2000.

Discussion ensues.

Fallsington Friend says he believes that they have equipment to host hybrid meeting. Friends voice approval of moving forward with Fallsington hosting hybrid Quarterly meeting.

Buckingham Friend suggests that there are two halves of meeting; program and meeting for worship in hybrid, meeting for business via Zoom; it is very difficult to clerk a hybrid business meeting.

Yardley Friend wonders who is responsible for the “technician” role.

Fallsington Friend states that they have technically minded members who can facilitate hybrid meeting for business.

Middletown Friend expresses reluctance to have someone come in who is not knowledgeable about their particular equipment and how it is arranged.

Southampton Friend notes that it takes several technicians to run hybrid meeting for business.

Lehigh Valley Friend wonders if we can know who is attending in-person (Response: we should be flexible enough).

Fallsington Friend wonders if Fallsington Meeting has projection capability.

Friend wonders if one Clerk can conduct hybrid meeting (Response: it takes a technician to keep track of virtual attendees).

Yardley Friend reports that host meetinghouse should provide technician to assist clerk in conduct of meeting.

Southampton Friend notes that you need at least two technicians to run meeting.

Coordinator notes that using lunch time to return home from in person program is problematic for more distant meetings. Middletown Friend confirms that this is an issue for him.

Fallsington Friend reports that converting to Zoom only for meeting for business is problematic

Clerk tests if sense of meeting is we will have hybrid format for meeting for worship and meeting for business.

Buckingham Friend notes that we should have an assistant clerk to help with technical

issues.

Coordinator suggests that the Quarter could do some practice meetings to discover technical difficulties and suggests that Middletown Friend could help (Middletown Friend agrees but notes that they might be hampered by unfamiliarity with local equipment).

Fallsington Friend again asks if the meeting has projection capability (Response: yes, the capability is there).

Bristol Friend offers his support and technical expertise.

Quakertown Friend wonders if it would be helpful to know in advance who is planning to attend Quarterly meeting.

Clerk tests sense of corporate body – *are we comfortable deciding on whether to meet in person on a case-by-case basis, subject to prevailing infection rates (in all three counties that make up BUCKS QUARTER) remaining low.*

**Agreed.**

**Treasurers Report – Ed Snyder** (full report attached). Budget vs Actual for three quarters; we should expect 75% of expenses and revenues. We agreed to give PYM extra money so that amount will be higher; we gave more to Friends Village, Chandler Hall, and Camp Onas, so those amounts are higher than budgeted. We have had recent contributions and so our numbers are much better than one might think.

Wrightstown Friend wonders if our monthly meeting contributions are problematic (Response: 53% is probably less than typical, but recent contributions improve that outlook).

**Budget for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – Leo Fitzpatrick** (full report attached) Originally, Bucks Quarter had planned to request an increase in monthly meeting contributions; Budget & Nominating decided to ease pressure on monthly meetings and not request that increase, resulting in a deficit budget this year. Also, we have a 5% (COLA) increase in Coordinator salary; we have also committed to make a 5% increase in donations to PYM  
**Budget Approved.**

**Break**

**Annual Report – Bristol Preparative Meeting – Paul Shaffer** (full report attached). They are happy to report that Bristol Meeting survived 2021. During the warm months they met outdoors under the Buttonwood tree. Outdoor worship has been very popular. In 2021 Bristol Meeting began helping the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICRR) sponsor an Afghan refugee family of six in Bucks County. This assistance has been threefold. 1) BCICRR used the meetinghouse to store donated furniture and household goods; 2) Bristol Meeting concluded that they have sufficient funds to provide no-interest loans to refugees; 3) the meeting helped BCICRR as a fiscal agent using their non-profit church status. The meeting is in discussion about sharing their worship space with two other faith groups. They meet once per month with numbers well below ten – though they have had occasional visitors. On Historic Bristol Day, the Coordinator assisted with outreach by setting up a tent on Radcliffe St. and handing out Peaceable Kingdom cards and directing people to the meetinghouse. The meeting has been involved in the work of monthly meeting burial ground clerks. They

are in the process of creating a map of gravesites and a census of who is buried in their graveyard. There have been inquiries from some who would like to inter their loved ones in our burial ground.

Fallsington Friend expressed appreciation and admiration for Bristol's commitment to helping refugees.

**Annual Report – Fallsington Monthly Meeting – Amy Duckett Wagner** (full report attached).

Fallsington's year can be summarized by the word "connections"; connections lost, connections found, and "everything in-between." FFM has had lots of positive things going on but also has challenges – especially regarding care and concern of older Friends. Fallsington has been holding hybrid meeting for some time now. Meeting activities continue to have broad support and involvement. Beginning in 2020 and continuing through 2021, Fallsington sponsored a series of classes to increase awareness of racism and social justice issues. In this collaborated with "Men for Hope," a Trenton based group. At the end of the calendar year, the meeting reached out to members to improve in-reach and member involvement. On December 2, 2021, the African American Museum of Bucks County honored deceased member Sam Snipes for his social justice work in the 1950s. On December 9, 2021, FFM members Tom Wells and Jonathan Snipes coordinated an education event to increase Climate Change Awareness. This hybrid event drew 53 people. COVID continues to offer challenges and opportunities. The Property Committee has worked to fine-tune the technology supporting First Day classes for adults and Children's Religious Education. They have established a dedicated Wi-Fi connection. Hybrid meeting for worship and meeting for business has allowed many Friends to attend from a distance. Friend Neil Vance's regular hosting of these meetings is well appreciated. The meeting has some new attenders and has enhanced its presence on social media (Facebook and Instagram). They intend to resume Friendly Eights. This past year, the Nominating and Clerk's Committees have re-envisioned their approach to clerking. Moving forward, the meeting will have a Clerk and a Rising Clerk who will share responsibilities and participate in the Clerk Training Program provided by PYM and FGC. After one year the Rising Clerk will move into the Clerk position and a new Rising Clerk will be nominated. The Outreach Committee has been re-envisioned to become the Membership Development Committee which will focus on enriching the experience of current members and attenders such that they take a more active role in attracting new members. The meeting continues to hold Meeting for Healing via Zoom (facilitated by Friend Lisa Collins). They also continue to hold special Easter and Christmas programs. Fallsington Friend thanks the Coordinator for her help with the retreat that gave rise to the discernment that spawned the Membership Development Committee.

**Annual Report – Buckingham Monthly Meeting – Christine Godshall** (full report attached).

Despite complications of continuing pandemic, 2021 was a year of spiritual fulfillment for Buckingham Meeting; they have found new ways to maintain and grow their community. Safety for members/attenders is foremost concern.

Buckingham has 66 adult members and 24 minor members (total of 90). They recorded the death of 2 members and one past member. The meeting focused on safety; they

continued virtual meeting for worship until the spring of 2022; when weather permitted, they held an in-person meeting for worship outside in the graveyard. Even then, they continued to offer a hybrid format which allowed members to attend from afar; including members who might not be able to attend even in normal times. They found it especially precious to meet regularly with Friends who live at a distance. Unfortunately, they have lost contact with some members who stopped attending during the worst of the pandemic. Buckingham Meeting was happy to host Quarterly Meeting this past February (2022). Over the past year the meeting has had a significant number of visitors, though it has sometimes proven difficult to maintain those connections. They have also struggled to maintain connections with families who stopped attending when meetings became virtual. The meeting is holding First Day School, though it has been difficult to maintain continuity as it has been challenging to find enough members to support the classes. Bucks Quarter did hold the Peace Fair on their campus in 2021. Although it was a smaller event this past year, it was still a huge success. They have held several monthly workdays and made repairs and improvements to their meetinghouse and grounds. The meeting will be holding a delayed celebration of their 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June of this year (2022). Other holiday events, though slightly tweaked (COVID concerns) have gone well. Overall, their sense is that meeting for worship- has been fulfilling, especially under the circumstances (i.e., COVID). They are committed to making their meeting as inclusive as possible so that members and attenders feel “comfortable enough to share their divine spark freely as they are led.” Yardley Friend asks about the age range of children attending First Day School (Response: 4 to 11, perhaps one 13-year-old).

Fallsington Friend asks about the meeting’s relationship to Buckingham Friends School (Response: Once per year (each October), the meeting hosts an “All-Community meeting for worship and they invite BFS students, families, BFS teachers, staff, board members, and alumni. The number and character of attendance has varied over the years. The continue to work at that relationship.

**Annual Report of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting – Louise Young** (full report attached). Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting notes that their annual report is influenced by "the context of our times. The pandemic has altered who we are and how we function." This is true both for the meeting and across Bucks Quarter and the world community. In many ways the meeting feels as if they have become more connected with the broader community. Their report was guided by the query, “Where did you notice the Light within your committee’s work”? The meeting established a “Reopening Committee” which developed a plan utilizing the available technology to enable hybrid meeting for worship. All committees were quite active, and the meeting remains financially healthy. In February (2022) the meeting offered a Quakerism 101 class with George Schaefer of PYM which was attended by 30 people (members and attenders). They are not certain that they would have that level of attendance for an in-person class. When weather permitted, the meeting held an outdoor pizza party and a Friend commented that they saw the Light emanating from the gladness of those who attended. Their Outreach and Communication Committee is expanding and employing technology in service of the

meeting. There is more work to be done. For example, they have redesigned the meeting website, and it has become a valuable tool for outreach. Although members of their “tech team” cannot participate in meeting for worship in the traditional fashion, they report that they nonetheless feel fulfilled spiritually. They are continuing in-reach communication with their newsletter and a weekly “Light Board.” It is edited by a Friend who lives at distance. Social Action continues its work. While report was being prepared, Light was radiating as the meetinghouse re-opened for in-person meeting for worship at the end of March. They are taking time to pause and acknowledge the many expressions of Light at the meeting.

**Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane** (full report attached). It has been two years since Bucks Quarter has begun holding virtual meetings. Most of us were new to Zoom and at the first meeting it took a long time to sort out the mechanics of holding a meeting online. Today, as you saw, we required minimal technical review. Virtual meetings are now the norm. While we are tired of the pandemic, COVID-19 is not tired of us; new variants continue to emerge, and Friends are cautious about meeting in large groups. All BQ meetings are currently open for in-person meeting for worship; some require masks, some do not. Now that vaccines are available for some younger children, some families are beginning to return to meeting for worship. We are entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the pandemic, and it appears that virtual meetings are here to stay at some level for most meetings. Discernment of how to incorporate this into our worship spaces continues. We seek a solution that is inclusive without being intrusive. The Coordinator attends meetings throughout the Quarter and has done so both in-person and virtually. The availability of a hybrid option has enabled the Coordinator to attend various meetings, even if she is away. Coordinator has also had the opportunity to assess the quality of hybrid technology at various meetings. For example, she has noted that many meetings have trouble with microphones – some are too sensitive, others are not sensitive enough. In any case, she offers feedback after the experience with the goal of continuing to improve the virtual experience of meeting for worship. Wendy has met with various committee clerks throughout the Quarter. For example, she met with Children’s Religious Education clerks from two meetings and had a very productive meeting with Property Clerks. This group will be establishing a Google Group that will be meeting quarterly with a narrowly targeted group of questions. The Coordinator has met with Burial Ground Clerks, and they will also establish a Google Group with a folder of shared documents from the meetings to examine issues of common concern. They will meet quarterly. The Budget and Nominating Committee met; they have a new Clerk (Leo Fitzpatrick of Wrightstown) and have established a succession plan. They have yet to identify a Quarter Alternate Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and a representative to PYM Nominating Council. If interested, please contact Leo or Wendy. The BQ Audit Committee is researching how to update our audit. Quarter Clerk has become involved in this project. Wendy has attended several events. These include: A Called Meeting for Worship to hold Ukraine in the Light; a memorial service for a Newtown Friend; Organizing “The Quaker Experience During the American Revolution” presentation by Carol Ann Gray and available on Bucks Quakers YouTube channel; a PYM Governance and Stewardship Thread Gathering on Clerking; PYM Conversations on



staffing changes; PYM Continuing Sessions where she prepared a presentation on Bucks Quarter (which was bumped by Green Street Meeting and their presentation on reparations) – she will present her program on the history and work of Bucks Quarter at PYM Annual Sessions; she was part of the PYM Review of Advocacy, Review and Discussions (i.e. Lobbying – **NOTE:** as a religious organization we can lobby as individuals but not as a corporate entity); Wendy was at Middleton Meeting for Edward Hicks Day where she served as docent; she attended the Friends Village Rock & Roll-out celebration of their new name and marketing initiative. Bucks Quarter Outreach still has grants available to the end of June (one meeting has yet to contact BQ Outreach Committee – Wendy has been in contact). Wendy and Outreach have been working with Friend Jonathan Snipes on a Bucks County Quaker Meetinghouse driving tour. The Coordinator began exploring resuming worship service at Chandler Hall though there are questions about whether the facility has the requisite support staff; the thinking is that we would offer worship one Sunday per month – discussions continue. Wendy has met with new staff at PYM including new Aging Coordinator, Sheila Sorkin, and Paul Jepsen (interim Director of Communications); Paul has been very helpful and has ideas about how to improve our YouTube channel to seekers.

**Clerk's Annual Report – Bill Daly** (full report attached). Clerk reports on meeting for worship and programs offered at the Quarter; Clerk stresses outreach programs including Outreach fund to make grants to Monthly Meetings; we have held the Peace Fair this past year with an attendance of 1,100 to 1,500 visitors; meetings are following their leadings (e.g., Newtown and Southampton hold social justice vigils), the Quarter is still working on minute to support tax on carbon dioxide (approved in 2020); Newtown and Southampton Friends traveled to Harrisburg to support equitable funding for schools. The Clerk notes that we have combined our Handbook and Calendar and Appointments, into a single document. We have updated the various committee and job descriptions. The Clerk reports that financial outlook is good (\$65K in cash and \$53K at Friends Fiduciary at end of fiscal year); attendance at Quarterly meeting has remained strong. Southampton Friend thanks the clerk for assuming role of Clerk and the Coordinator for her good work.

**Oversight Committee – Gerry Kirwan** (full report attached) Reviews role and composition of Oversight. Reports that Oversight is very pleased with Coordinator's work. Great work in the face of all the difficulties and complications caused by COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of Coordinator's work in establishing virtual workspaces, many Quarter committees have found that they can be very productive working in virtual meetings. Special notice to work on and improvement of *Quakerphenalia*; the Coordinator has combined the Bucks Quarter calendar and Handbook into one document. Oversight specifically sought the input of Lehigh Valley, Makefield, and Middletown monthly meetings for this report. Friends at these meetings were unanimous in their support and approval for Coordinator. Changes in personnel of Oversight; position of Scribe to be filled on rotating basis; Thanks to Lisa Collins for her work as Clerk of Oversight. Thanks also to current members of Oversight (named in full report).

**Annual Report – Chandler Hall – Betsy Bayardi** (full report attached). This has been a very

difficult time for Chandler Hall. They have three new members of the leadership team. They believe that they are doing well on the quality front. Chandler Hall has been doing marketing in the virtual space. They are aware that the census and financial status needs to improve. They are aware that they need to improve the physical space. Chandler Hall is hopeful for the future. Betsy hopes that Friends will add Chandler Hall, Friends Village, and Camp Onas to their philanthropic causes.

Middletown Friend appreciates the mention of Friends Village.  
Buckingham Friend appreciates the work of Chandler Hall.

**Announcements** – Fallsington Friend notes that the applications for Snipes Farm Camp scholarships are at an all-time high.

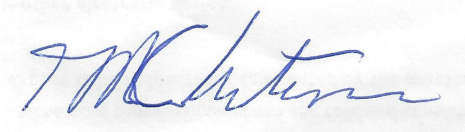
**Buckingham** Friend (Camp Onas Board member) thanks Betsy for mentioning Camp Onas.

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

**Adjournment** – Clerk Bill Daly adjourned the meeting for Business at 3:45 pm.

**Reminder:** next Quarterly Meeting is 21st Day, 8th Month, 2022 at Fallsington Friends Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

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

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

## Inreach

### Care of Meetings

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

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

### Miscellaneous Inreach: Committee meetings

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

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

### Miscellaneous Inreach: Yearly Meeting

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

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

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

## Event Attendance

### Within the Quarter:

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

### Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

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

### Greater Quaker Community:

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

## Outreach

### Bucks Quarter Outreach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Miscellaneous Outreach

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane  
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

All are invited to join  
FCNL's  
Bucks County Advocacy Team  
Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm on Zoom.  
Meets monthly.  
[emcrofts@gmail.com]

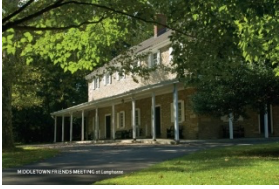
What is an FCNL Advocacy Team? We are one of 125 teams in 44 States! Our success comes from a commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. It takes time and commitment to build a lasting, influential relationship with our members of Congress.

As a member of an FCNL Advocacy Team, we commit to having a relationship with our team, our members of Congress, and with FCNL over a period of at least a year. Come to a meeting and see what you think!

We have crafted three types of memberships where Friends can either jump in with both feet or lean into how they wish to become involved in advocacy efforts. 1) Join us – regularly attend and participate in meetings. New members may observe until they feel ready to contribute. 2) Attendance is optional, but you agree to receive FCNL Action Alerts and commit to writing letters to the editor or opinion columns. 3) Friendly Faces – agree to attend (not participate) legislative meetings on Zoom. It can be helpful to visually reflect a larger constituency on a Zoom call. Let us know if you want to be on our Friendly Faces support list for this purpose. Whether you are a face in the crowd, an opinion column writer, or choose to attend all meetings, your involvement will make a difference in advocating on behalf of issues that advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.

The next meeting of the Bucks County Advocacy Team meets Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm on Zoom. RSVP to Betsy Crofts (emcrofts@gmail.com) to receive Zoom link. Advocacy Teams are not just for members of the Religious Society of Friends. All like-minded folks are welcome to join in our advocacy efforts.

FCNL hosts a 1-hour Zoom training each month. The training covers the basic skills and information you need to start taking action with your local team. Contact [Timheishmann@fcnl.org](mailto:Timheishmann@fcnl.org) for more information. The next training dates are August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm (register [here](#)) and September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (register [here](#)).



# Middletown Friends Meeting

453 W. Maple Avenue  
Langhorne, PA 19047

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

Middletown Friends have experienced the same challenges as other meetings over the past 2½ years during the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to search for ways to gather in meaningful, Spirit-led worship; communicate with our members and attenders and provide opportunities for fellowship; keep up with the business of the meeting and maintain our historic meetinghouse and schoolhouse; and engage with the broader community to respond to the many concerns in today's world.

### **Hybrid Meeting for Worship**

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

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

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

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

### **Ministry & Nurture**

The Ministry & Nurture Committee engages in support of those who are ill or in the hospital, providing clearness committees as needed, sending cards and flowers on joyous and sad occasions, and tries to be aware of other needs within the meeting. This year the committee helped several families with arrangements and hospitality for memorial services. The committee has also applied to PYM for emergency grants to help a member in need. We have not yet been able to resume volunteering with services at Chandler Hall.

Our annual auction has been one of the highlights on Middletown's social calendar for decades and serves as the sole fundraiser for the Ministry & Nurture Committee, which uses the proceeds to meet unbudgeted requests throughout the year. The auction was conducted online again this year due to Covid-19. This year we raised over \$3,000. We hope to return to an in-person auction and potluck supper this year but may do some type of hybrid version to allow more people to participate.

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

The meetinghouse property and graveyard were maintained through our annual cleanup in the fall and the ongoing efforts of numerous Friends who simply perform the tasks they see needing to be done. Over the past year the Meeting has completed some major projects to maintain our schoolhouse building, currently used by the Bucks County Learning Cooperative (BLC). Extensive repairs, including stucco repair, a new chimney pot, painting, electrical work, drywall, tree work, and replacement of an underground oil tank, were completed over the past year. Our graveyard convener continues to answer and assist many families researching relative's graves, often upon a referral from our local historical association. A section of our graveyard has been designated for green burials, with one to date.

## **Community and Global Outreach**

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

## **Membership**

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

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

Submitted by  
Lance Mervine, Clerk  
Robin Hipple, Recording Clerk  
August 14, 2022



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

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

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

We have an education grant fund named in honor of a past member Mary Blackmar, to give some financial support to Friends attending Friends Schools. Our connections to Buckingham Friends School, George School, and others are strengthened by our young Friends attendance, and we are grateful for the longstanding ties they help create. We are thrilled with the new Head of Buckingham Friends School, and all of their committed teachers and families.

Our House and Grounds, and Graveyard committees have continued to keep our Meeting in good repair, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic, fallen trees, stone wall repair, and historic building maintenance. We nudge ourselves closer to energy sustainability by purchasing electricity from renewable resources.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marian Hepburn, Clerk  
Solebury Friends Meeting

3:14 PM  
07/09/22  
Cash Basis

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

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

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

	Jul '21 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budg...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	1,898.02	1,810.00	88.02	104.9%
Total Interest and dividends	1,898.02	1,810.00	88.02	104.9%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	2,585.00			
Pledged	267,306.35	276,540.00	-9,233.65	96.7%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	269,891.35	276,540.00	-6,648.65	97.6%
Other contributions	1,100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	1,080.00	1,500.00	-420.00	72.0%
Total Income	273,969.37	279,850.00	-5,880.63	97.9%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	273,969.37	279,850.00	-5,880.63	97.9%
<b>Expense</b>				
Administrative				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total Administrative	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	213,785.00	198,785.00	15,000.00	107.5%
Total Contributions	213,785.00	198,785.00	15,000.00	107.5%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Chandler Hall	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Friends Home and Village	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Total Gifts/Donations	15,000.00	450.00	14,550.00	3,333.3%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	4,467.04	6,000.00	-1,532.96	74.5%
Other				
Advertising	3,000.00	2,200.00	800.00	136.4%
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	940.00	60.00	106.4%
Outreach Committee Activities	1,316.00	2,000.00	-684.00	65.8%
Programs for Peace	200.00	1,700.00	-1,500.00	11.8%
Quakerism Classes	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total Other	5,516.00	7,690.00	-2,174.00	71.7%
Personnel	75,192.50	66,775.00	8,417.50	112.6%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	85,175.54	80,465.00	4,710.54	105.9%
Total Expense	313,960.54	279,850.00	34,110.54	112.2%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-39,991.17	0.00	-39,991.17	100.0%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-9,667.27			
Total Other Income	-9,667.27			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	6,500.00	7,000.00	-500.00	92.9%
Total Other Expense	6,500.00	7,000.00	-500.00	92.9%
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-16,167.27	-7,000.00	-9,167.27	231.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-56,158.44</b>	<b>-7,000.00</b>	<b>-49,158.44</b>	<b>802.3%</b>

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Richardson  
Volunteer Coordinator

Annual Report  
Of  
Southampton Friends Meeting  
08/01/2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Culleton (she/her)  
Recording Clerk

Yardley Friends Meeting  
Annual Report to Bucks Quarter

August 2022  
Submitted by Marna Matthews, Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Quakertown Friends Monthly Meeting Minute**

August 10, 2021

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