

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

June 2016 Newsletter

*1101 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 19454*

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**🟈 Quote of the Month**

“I traveled a long way seeking God,  
but when I finally gave up and turned back,  
there He was, within me!”

*--* ***[Lalla](https://send.canvas.email/link.php?M=1665453&N=22691&L=21070&F=H" \o "https://send.canvas.email/link.php?M=1665453&N=22691&L=21070&F=H)*** *(14th Century)*

*English version by Swami Muktananda*

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**🟈 Save the Date**

End-of-Life Workshop, Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. Sponsored by the Worship & Ministry Committee.

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**🟈 Message from Care & Counsel**

Pastoral Care assistance is available to any member or attender who has an issue or concern.  This could include clearness in making a decision or support of any kind including financial assistance.  All communications are confidential. Please feel free to contact any of the following Pastoral Care members: Ranvir Bakshi; Linda Gist, Anne Hill; Ron Inskeep; Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Levy, Carolyn Moon, Carol Ritting; or Martin Trueblood.

*Carol Ritting and Ranvir Bakshi*

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**🟈 Upcoming Adult First Day School Programs**

All are welcome to join us for our First Day School programs, Sunday morning at rise of Meeting for Worship.

June 5:   FDS Closing Program and Almost- a-Lunch, Religious Education (J.B. Baker-McAllister & Beth Roberts)

June 12\*: Drew Smith, President, Friends Council on Education, on” Different Models of Meeting-School Relationships”

In May, I will start to schedule the Adult FDS programs. Those members or attenders who wish to present a program, please contact Carl Baron. (Email and phone numbers are in the directory; please put "Adult FDS request" in the subject line of an email.) Near the end of May, I will then contact the clerks of all the committees to provide them opportunities to select dates that they might want to use for Adult FDS presentations.

\* Please note an additional First Day School has been added after the FDS Closing Program. Please save the date, Sunday June 12 for a presentation by Drew Smith, President, Friends Council on Education, on Different Models of Meeting-School Relationships.

*Carl Baron, Religious Education Committee*

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**🟈 Youth Corner**

May was busy in Youth FDS as we wrapped up our year together. We celebrated our mothers, discussed some Bible stories, listened to some stories about God and looked back on the year and talked about our favorite FDS activities. We also enjoyed singing with Carl and prepared some songs for the closing program.

On May 22,, fifteen children and seven adults completed three projects for our May Service Project Youth FDS. We made 15 “Chocolate Chip Cookies in a Jar” which will be sold at the June Flea Market to raise funds for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. We also made colorful greeting cards for nursing home residents and completed some outdoor maintenance on the playground.

There was no FDS on May 29th for the Memorial Day weekend.

On Sunday, June 5th, everyone is invited to the Gwynedd First Day School Closing Program in the adult FDS room at 10:45 AM.  Come learn what has been happening in youth FDS all year! We will recognize our youth who participated in this year's Youth FDS program and the teachers who made it all happen. We will also present books to youth in preschool, Kindergarten, second, and fifth grades (no eighth graders this year!) and make a special presentation for our graduating high school seniors.

After the Closing Program, please join us in the Community Room for a potluck “Almost-a-Lunch” in the Community Room. Please bring finger food to share.  Beverages will be provided by the Religious Education Committee.

This Closing Program concludes the Youth and Adult FDS programming for 2015-2016. As I step down as Youth Program Coordinator, I want to thank Gwynedd Meeting for the opportunity to serve our youth during these past six years. It has truly been an honor.

*JB Baker-McAllister*

*Youth Program Coordinator*

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** New Youth Program Coordinator appointed**

With great pleasure, the Religious Education Committee has appointed Wendy Riley as the new Youth Program Coordinator for Gwynedd Meeting. A member of Gwynedd Meeting and long-time Friend, Wendy brings superb qualifications and experience to the job.

With an advanced degree and experience in psychology, Wendy is well equipped to work with our children and their families. She also has hands-on experience with our First Day School, where she has taught different classes during recent years. In addition, her daughters Becca and Katie are members of our First Day School and her husband, Lew, has taken his turn teaching classes. Wendy also serves as a member of the Religious Education Committee.

Wendy states that she is “passionate about children,” which many of us have witnessed. Her experience includes leading workshops, coordinating services for children and families, and counseling children and adolescents from a wide range of backgrounds. She has also served as a parent volunteer in her daughters’ schools and Girl Scout groups.

Our departing Youth Program Coordinator, J.B. Baker-McAlister, will continue her commitment to religious education as co-clerk of that committee. Please join the committee in thanking J.B. for her six years of service as coordinator as well as welcoming Wendy to the position.

*Gretchen Hall*

*Religious Education Committee*

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**🟈 From the Preschool**

We are getting ready to end a wonderful year at the preschool! The children have enjoyed making memories with their friends and teachers. Our closing programs will take place during the last week of May. All of the classes have been busy practicing their songs and skits for weeks! Our Pre-Kindergarten friends are retelling the story of Caps For Sale and our Kindergarten friends will act out the story of *The Little Grape Stem*. Following our closing programs, the Kindergarten children will also take part in a graduation ceremony. What a bittersweet time of year.

Under the leadership of Marcia Wise, and thanks to the donations from our families, we were able to help many local community members in need this year. For our final service project of the year, we passed the baton onto the Kindergarten children. Their task was to plan and run a lemonade stand to help raise money for “Alex’s Lemonade Stand.” The children made the signs, collected donations, and served lemonade, pretzels and cookies to preschool families at pick-up.

All of us here at Gwynedd Friends School would like to thank the Meeting members for their constant support this year. We feel privileged to be able to nurture the Light in all of our students and hope they will cherish Gwynedd Friends for many years to come.

Happy summer!

*Daena Berdougo, Director of Gwynedd Friends School*

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**Gwynedd Monthly Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) May 15, 2016**

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was held at 10:58 AM on the 15th of May 2016 at the Meetinghouse in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. Out of the silence, Anne Hill read a reflection from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s *Faith and Practice*.

Clerk

Neil Trueblood, Clerk, asked for approval of the Minutes from April Business Meeting, and thanked Assistant Clerk Laura Taylor for clerking in his absence. The Meeting approved the minutes as they appeared in the e-mailing sent out on Friday.

The Clerk announced that Drew Smith of Friends Council on Education will give a presentation on June 12th during First Day School time in the adult FDS room. His topic will be governance in Quaker schools, offering models from other Quaker schools and meetings. We hope this will help us find ways to ensure we will include Quaker life and values in the governance of our school.

Neil reminded us that the next Clerks’ Meeting will be June 5th at 7:30 p.m.

He asked if anyone is willing to report back to Gwynedd on PYM sessions at the end of July. Deborah Faulkner volunteered. Neil requested that, if we know anyone else who is going, we should please ask that person/s to consider reporting back as well.

Abington Quarterly Meeting

AQM took place on May 1st. Ron Inskeep shared some highlights from that session’s minutes. The Quarter is seeking a new Treasurer. Frank Jarrett (Horsham MM) was appointed a new AQ trustee, and Dan Hazelton (Unami MM) was appointed assistant treasurer of the trustees. Home & Care committee gave their semi-annual report. Karen Shanoski announced that AQM’s child safety policy and procedures document is completed and has been posted on the web site. There was a great presentation on current programs at the Historic Fair Hill Association. Ron particularly highlighted the Reading Buddies program that works through the Julia de Burgos School. More highlights of these minutes will be posted on the AQM web site, <http://www.abingtonquarter.org/>

Anne Hill encouraged participation in AQM. She reminded us it is helpful for our meetings to share ideas with each other. AQM’s Worship and Ministry Committee also meets regularly at a home in Ft. Washington, and all are welcome to attend.

Recorder’s Report

Ginny Bergey reported the resignation of Phil Irwin, and four deaths:

* Stanley B. Kitzelman, Jr., March 19, 2013
* Gertrude Bell, February 19, 2016
* Cynthia Penland, July 27, 2015
* Mary Margaret Bailey, May 7, 2016.

Nominating Committee

Art D’Adamo read the list of nominations to fill committee positions, beginning in June 2016. A few positions remain to be filled; the committee expects to present those nominations at June Meeting for Business. Friends approved the nominations, with appreciation for the committee’s work.

[*The new appointees are the following:*

Care & Counsel: Elaine Jenkins, Linda Gist

Fellowship & Outreach: Kate Steinmetz Patrick & Patti McGrail-Peaseley

Peace & Social Action: Judy Inskeep

Property: Michael Buckley, Mike Bilinski, Steve Barwick, David Stimmel

Religious Education: David Kent, Marie Crawford

Stewardship: Al Paschkis

Sustainability: Paige Menton, Christopher Mrozinsky

Worship & Ministry: Carol Traveny

*Ed. ]*

Support for Refugees

Carol Shearon reported on the efforts of an ad hoc committee to raise money for supporting one or more refugee families in Jordan or Lebanon through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Their Lifeline program provides direct aid to refugee families in those countries who are not living in refugee camps, helping them pay for housing, food, rent, and other basic needs. This program has the advantage of keeping displaced people closer to their place of origin, and allowing them to participate in the local economy instead of being considered a drain on it. In addition to directly pledging support through Gwynedd, Friends can participate in the following upcoming events to raise funds:

* June 12th there will be a program after the Friends Council on Education presentation, during Fellowship. The ad hoc committee members will sell soup to raise money.
* The committee will have a sale table at the American Friends Service Committee flea market on June 18th. Friends are asked to donate items, leaving them on the balcony over the quilt lobby, and also to attend the flea market and buy something.
* There will be an intergenerational FDS on October 23rd to share a meal typical of what a refugee family might eat.
* There will be a silent auction in the fall.

It was pointed out that requesting Quarterly Meeting funding to support this effort should not conflict with Jim Fitzgerald’s request to the Quarter for funds to help support a refugee family here in the US. That effort is a project of Abington Monthly Meeting, in collaboration with some other local churches, and not a formal project of Abington Quarter.

Ad Hoc Energy Committee Final Report

Tara Mohan, Jane Berger, Deborah Faulkner, and Carol Shearon each gave a portion of the committee’s final report.

Jane Berger read the committee’s history. Tara Mohan described the committee’s activities, including visits to other sites which have moved away from fossil fuel power. They then worked on developing a master plan for energy use. Deb Faulkner read a report about the energy study and master plan carried out by Sera Engineering. Carol Shearon presented a list of goals and individual measures we can take to reduce our meeting’s carbon footprint. This list was created and prioritized by the AHEC. The listed measures will be handed to Property to prioritize & choose steps. The Committee asked Gwynedd Meeting for two actions:

* That Gwynedd Friends Meeting recommit to substantially lowering our carbon footprint in keeping with our testimonies for peace, stewardship of the Earth, and right sharing of resources.
* That Gwynedd Friends Meeting prayerfully consider approving the implementation of the presented list of Energy Conservation Measures. Suggestions for doing this include, but are not limited to:

1) Nominating Committee enlarging the membership of Property Committee;

**2)** Creating a list of volunteers willing to take on short term projects for Property Committee;

**3)** Finding funding from Meeting funding, including the Foulkeways money, and grants from PYM, Abington Quarterly Meeting, and others.

The report was received and accepted with gratitude. The Meeting also approved laying down the Ad Hoc Energy Committee. It was noted that Nominating Committee has already suggested some new members for Property. After much discussion of possibilities, we decided to come to next Meeting for Business prepared to further discuss how to move forward.

It was decided to table further business until next month. The meeting ended at 12:12 p.m. with 37 Friends having been present.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Trueblood, Clerk; Laura Taylor, Assistant Clerk; Vicki Hain Poorman, Recording Clerk

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** AQM News**

A Workshop on Mass Incarceration

A workshop will be presented by the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, Princeton-Trenton Chapter on Thursday June 16 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Yardley Friends Meeting, Yardley PA and on Saturday July 9 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Trenton Free Library, Trenton NJ. Registration is free; deadline June 13. Light refreshments will be served. Hear presentations and discussion on the impact of mass incarceration, and learn how to help raise awareness and foster change. To register, or for additional information, contact [cenjctrenton@gmail.com](mailto:cenjctrenton@gmail.com) or call 267-753-0550.

** PYM News**

**The following are highlights of PYM news and events.** To access the PYM website, <http://www.pym.org/>

Annual Sessions

Annual Sessions will be held this summer, July 27th to the 31st, at Muhlenberg College. Annual Sessions also always holds great promise for me. If you have questions or want more details there is information [on the PYM website](http://www.cvent.com/events/mproc.aspx?m=a1ea7d41-2926-4c20-b4e7-ed0a2ea96175&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww.pym.org%2fannual-sessions%2f&l=on+the+PYM+website). Also, you can contact Tricia Coscia, the Sessions Coordinator, [sessions@pym.org](mailto:sessions@pym.org?subject=PYM%20Annual%20Sessions%20Inquiry) or (215) 241-7238.

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**June 2016 Calendar of Events**

| **Date** | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** |
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|  |  |  |  |
| **Wed. June 1st** |  | *Nothing scheduled* |  |
| Thu. 2nd | 4:00 PM | Meeting for Worship | Foulkeways (Wm. Penn Rm.) |
|  | 7:00 PM | Worship & Ministry cmte. | Foulkeways (Sm. Dining Room) |
| Sat. 4th | 1:00-3:00 PM | Music recital (private) | Community Room |
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| Sun. June 5th | 9:30-10:30 AM | Meeting for Worship | Worship Room |
|  | 10:45 AM | FDS closing program/brunch | Community Room |
|  | 3:45-6:15 PM | Lansdale Sai | Community Room |
| Mon. 6th  *Weekdays thru 6/24* | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM | Preschool Summer Camp | 1857 Schoolhouse |
|  | 7:00 PM | Care & Counsel cmte. | Foulkeways (Sm. Dining Room) |
| Tue. 7th | 7:00 PM | Preschool Committee | Library |
|  | 7:30-9:00 PM | Meditation | HS FDS Room |
| Thu. 9th | 4:00 PM | Meeting for Worship | Foulkeways (Wm. Penn Rm.) |
| Sat. 11th | 1:00 PM | Library Committee | Library |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun. June 12th | 8:15-9:30 AM | Stewardship committee | MS FDS Room |
|  | 9:30-10:30 AM | Meeting for Worship | Worship Room |
|  | 10:45 AM | Adult First Day School (*Oversight of Preschool*) | Adult FDS Room |
|  | 12:00 PM | Food & Fellowship | Community Room |
|  | 12:30 PM | Fellowship & Outreach | Library foyer |
|  | 3:45-6:15 PM | Lansdale Sai | Community Room |
| Mon. 13th  *Weekdays thru 6/24* | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM | Preschool Summer Camp | 1857 Schoolhouse |
|  | 9:30 AM | Worship Sharing | Home of Carolyn Moon |
| Tue. 14th | 7:30 PM | Property Committee | Library |
|  | 7:30-9:00 PM | Meditation | HS FDS Room |
| Thu. 16th | 4:00 PM | Meeting for Worship | Foulkeways (Wm. Penn Rm.) |
| Sat. 18th | 9 AM–1:00 PM | AFSC Flea Market | Community Room, Foyer |
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| Sun. June 19th | 8:30 AM | Peace Camp Committee | Community Room Alcove |
|  | 9:30-10:30 AM | Meeting for Worship | Worship Room |
|  | 10:45 AM | Meeting for Business | Worship Room |
|  | 3:45–6:15 PM | Lansdale Sai | Community Room |
| Mon. 20th  *Weekdays thru 6/24* | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM | Preschool Summer Camp | 1857 Schoolhouse |
| Tue. 21st | 7:30-9:00 PM | Meditation | HS FDS Room |
| Thu. 23rd | 4:00 PM | Meeting for Worship | Foulkeways (Wm. Penn Rm.) |
|  | 7:00 PM | Knit/Crochet Circle | Foulkeways/Craft Room |
| *Thu. 23rd cont.* | 7:30 PM | Sustainability Committee | Office |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun. June 26th | 9:30-10:30 AM | Meeting for Worship | Worship Room |
|  | 10:45 AM | Food & Fellowship | Community Room |
|  | 12:30 PM | Dream Group | MS FDS Room |
|  | 3:45-6:15 PM | Lansdale Sai | Community Room |
| Mon. 27th | 9:30 AM | Worship Sharing | Home of Carolyn Moon |
| Tue. 28th | 7:30 PM | Meditation | HS FDS Room |
| Thu. 30th | 4:00 PM | Meeting for Worship | Foulkeways (Wm. Penn Rm.) |
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| **Sun. Jul. 3rd** | 9:30-10:30 AM | Meeting for Worship | Worship Room |
|  | 10:45 AM | Food & Fellowship | Community Room |
|  | 3:45-6:15 PM | Lansdale Sai | Community Room |
| Tue. 5th | 7:00 PM | Preschool Committee | Library |
|  | 7:30-9:00 PM | Meditation | HS FDS Room |
| Wed. 6th | 7:00 PM | Parents Serving the Community | Classroom A |
| Thu. 7th | 4:00-4:45 PM | Meeting for Worship | Foulkeways (Wm. Penn Rm.) |
|  | 7:00 PM | Worship & Ministry cmte. | Foulkeways/Sm. Dining Room |
|  |  |  |  |