

FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

State College Friends Meeting

APRIL 2015
Newsletter



*State College Friends Meeting
611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801
Phone (814) 237-7051*

Announcements

SPRING INTERFAITH PICNIC: Sunday, April 26, 2015, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Sunset Park, pavilion 2 (on left) – end of McKee Street, State College.

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Interfaith Initiative Centre County is providing a pavilion at Sunset Park, publicity, picnic tableware and supplies, setup and cleanup, and other organization and recruitment.

SPECIAL REQUEST to Individuals and Congregations: We are looking for individuals and congregations to help with preparation, or contribute to the cost of purchase, of some delicious halal food items for the Spring Interfaith Picnic.

Can you or your congregation contribute toward the preparation or cost of purchase of halal food items for the Spring picnic? Please respond to IICC Convener Sarah at 814-883-5884 / InterfaithInitiatveCC@hotmail.com, or contact for more information.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Personal Spiritual Life

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn?

QUERIES

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

*Care for the Meeting Community
Care for one another*

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?
Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

Care in my home

(This set of personal queries may be helpful for the family to consider within the family setting. Families may also wish to explore other General Queries as part of regular family worship.)

Is my home a place where all members of the family receive affection and understanding, and where visitors are welcome? Do I choose recreation and a manner of living that enriches the body, mind, and spirit; and shows a high regard for family, community, and creation?

Is our family prepared to discuss such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, even sex and drugs, in a manner that allows openness and honesty, and also direction?

How do I help to arrange life at home so that there is an opportunity for all to learn and absorb by example what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment?

February 28, 2015

Dear friends,

Each year we ask attenders and members to support our Meeting financially. Last year we had a budget of 66,070 and spent 72,235. We were able to pay all of our expenses, thanks to funds that had been donated in previous years, but we only had income of \$55,495. Currently our checking account is cushioned by funds designated for other projects, but these are funds we hope to spend to better our Meeting and not for ongoing operational expenses.

Our 2015 operating budget is \$67,370. Last year we had 67 contributing families. This means we need an average contribution of \$1000 per family. Of course some cannot make that much of a contribution and some may be able to give more, but we hope that you will give what you can to support our Meeting.

Please consider making a monthly or quarterly payment in order to help us pay our expenses throughout the year. If you want to make automatic monthly payments, call the office, 237-5071 and Betsy will get you the information you need to do this. This is an easy way to give to the Meeting and you only have to deal with it once all year. If you are writing checks, they may be mailed to the Meeting or deposited in the contribution mail slot in the entryway. In addition, if you desire to make credit card contributions this is possible by going to <http://www.pym.org/supporting-pym/> .

Thank you in advance for considering what Meeting means to you and how much you will be able to contribute this year. We hope you have a healthy and joyful year, and that we may all grow in the Spirit together.

Sincerely,

Kerry Wiessmann
Clerk of Finance

Connie Wheeler
Treasurer

Four Memorial Minutes

Memorial Minute for Effie Jenks

Effie Dunwiddie Jenks, daughter of Jane Reppert Jenks Small and the late Barton L. Jenks, Jr., who was born on February 26, 1951, was a birthright member of State College Friends Meeting. She grew up in the Meeting and was active on social issues with the youth group of her time. She was a leader in integrating students brought to this area by the local "Southern Student Project." These students lived with local families and attended State College Area High School instead of the racially segregated schools near their homes. While still in high school she was inspired by another Friend, Elton Atwater, to make a career of helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She pursued this goal by majoring in Sociology at Wilmington College, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in 1973. In 1978 she returned to State College to work for The Arc of Centre County. Helping others was a passion for Effie. She took a personal interest in the families and individuals she met in her 36 year career with The Arc. She was kind by nature, compassionate, and faithful, a true Friend. Effie became the Director of The Arc and served in that capacity for many years before she retired in 2014. Effie Jenks died at her residence in State College on June 15, 2014 at the age of 63. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on August 10 in the Foxdale Village auditorium. Private burial will be at Friends Cemetery in Stormstown. She is survived by her mother, Jane Jenks Small, a brother, Barton H. Jenks, and his wife, Janet Lewis, of Glenview, Ill, and one nephew.

Memorial Minute for Mary Carolyn Clausen Rudd

Mary Carolyn Clausen Rudd, better known as Carolyn, was born July 21, 1919 in Hamilton, New York, to Bernard Chancellor

Clausen and Mary Elizabeth Darnell Clausen. She grew up in Syracuse, New York and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Westtown Friends' Boarding School, received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Smith College in 1941, and a Master of Nursing Degree from Yale School of Nursing in 1944. Carolyn earned her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate in the 1970s and worked as a registered nurse in Philadelphia and Cleveland. She finished her career as a research nurse at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

Carolyn traveled with Experiment in International Living to Germany in 1938, living with a German family with whom she remained in contact most of her life. Carolyn Clausen and Ralph Rudd married in 1941. They made their adult lives and raised their family in Cleveland and Willoughby, Ohio, where they were members of the Cleveland Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The Rudd family made many vacation trips by car, often camping, in the US and in Canada. In 1963 Carolyn and Ralph and their daughter Darnell participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. They were world travelers and enthusiasts for internationalism all their lives, visiting France and most of Europe, Russia, and China, and later Carolyn visited Guatemala. In 1992, they "retired" to an apartment in the Foxdale Village Retirement Community in State College, Pennsylvania, where they were members of the State College Friends Meeting.

Always an activist, a feminist, and a pragmatist, Carolyn was a participant and leader in many organizations, including the Cleveland Church of All Peoples, Cleveland Friends Meeting, and Friends Committee on National Legislation, as well as in the American Civil Liberties Union, PTA, American Field Service (student exchange), Lake County Mental Health Association, and League of Women Voters. In State College she served on State College Friends Meeting's Literature, Visitation, Telephone, AFSC

Clothing, and Program Committees, the State College Borough Tree Commission, and she volunteered with the Center County Women's Resource Center and the newspaper, *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. At Foxdale Village she was Resident Board Chair, and served on committees including Health Care, Programs, Food Service, Marketing, Diversity, and the Green Committee.

Carolyn Rudd earned notoriety in the local newspaper in 2011-12 for her efforts to save an oak tree scheduled to be removed for a Foxdale expansion. The tree could not be saved but Foxdale residents and staff gave it a good farewell vigil, and a bowl made from its trunk is beautifully displayed in the Foxdale Bridge Gallery. In her widowed years Carolyn acted on her yearning to soar in several delightful ways. She took a glider ride, flew with a son-in-law to the top of Mount McKinley on her 90th birthday during a trip to Alaska, and arranged a hot air balloon ride for herself to celebrate a later birthday. Carolyn was practical, frugal, generous, nurturing, self-reliant, and caring for others in need, to the very end of her life. Carolyn Rudd was the epitome of a gracious Quaker woman.

Carolyn was a knitter for most of her life, making and giving away socks, scarves, hats, and mittens. In her last years, as long as she could see, she knitted and constructed remarkable patchwork blankets using leftover yarn from the Foxdale crafts room. She named a lacy green-and-white scarf for a crafts exhibit: "Spring Around My Shoulders." Carolyn died at Foxdale Village in State College on June 16, 2014. She is survived by her four children: Darnell Rudd Mandelblatt (David), Herbert Finley Rudd II, Corlies Anna Rudd Delf (Greg), and Rachel Clausen Rudd Christensen (Eric); by thirteen living grandchildren; and by eleven great-grand-children.

Memorial Minute for Margaret “Peg” Doms

Peg Doms joined Friends late in life, but you might think she had been a Quaker long before joining Meeting, as her interests and activities paralleled those of Friends throughout her life. Born Margaret Taylor on August 5, 1920 in Bluffton, Indiana to Albert Hoyt Taylor and Emma Hickman Taylor, she was called “Peg” by family and friends. She grew up in Washington, D. C., attended college at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and graduated with a BA in American Institutions and a BLS (Bachelor of Library Science). While there, she met Keith Doms, a fellow student, whom she married a few years later on April 1, 1944.

While living in Concord, New Hampshire, where Keith began his career, Peg organized a Welcome Wagon program with heavy emphasis on community life. A few years later, in Midland, Michigan, Keith and Peg started a family. While raising their two sons in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia—and afterwards as well—Peg contributed many hours of volunteer time. She organized a pioneering series of inter-racial dialog groups in Pittsburgh in the 1960s which entailed monthly gatherings in homes; she instructed school children about the natural world at Schuylkill Valley Nature Center in Philadelphia, PA; and she taught English as a Second Language for visiting Chinese scholars in Philadelphia in the 1980s. In addition to teaching, Peg and Keith provided a home for several scholars over a period of about five years, and involved them and many others in various activities and travels to introduce them to life in the U.S. She later applied her familiarity with Chinese language and culture to lead a delegation of American librarians for a six-week tour of China and other Asian countries.

Once her sons were in college, Peg worked as a law librarian for several years. During that time, the Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association appointed her to lead a committee that

established a consultancy to help private and public law libraries provide better services to their users. Throughout all of these years, Peg shared her love of gardening and birding, and was a student of natural history. One of her favorite nature areas was Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton, Pennsylvania. After moving to State College to live at Foxdale Village, Peg became an active member of the State College Friends Meeting and enthusiastically engaged with the Foxdale community and her many friends there. She served on the State College Friends Meeting's Care and Concern Committee, was cochair of the Telephone Tree, and interviewed many Quakers and Foxdale residents as a member of the Oral History Project.

In her last years Peg continued to enjoy meals with her friends, walks with a companion (outdoors in good weather), and participation in weekly Meeting for Worship at Foxdale Village. On November 3, 2014, Peg died peacefully in her sleep at her Foxdale Village home, at age 94. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 65 years, Keith Doms. She is survived by their two sons, Peter and David, and their families. A Quaker Memorial Meeting was held at Foxdale Village on January 10, 2015.

Memorial Minute for Mark Shaw

Mark Shaw was born in Karuizawa, Japan on August 22, 1924, the only child of missionary parents, the late Mark R. and Alma Dodds Shaw. When he was three years old the family returned from Japan and settled in Massachusetts. Mark showed an early pacifist bent when he refused his teacher's request to donate a penny towards a bell for the newly commissioned battleship, the USS Massachusetts. As a high school senior, in a time when war had begun in Europe, he and a partner won a debating contest speaking against compulsory military service, a position not popular among his classmates.

Mark attended Earlham College, where he met the love of his life, Mary (Mardy) Dearden and received a degree in Sociology. Expecting to follow in his father's footsteps as a minister, he was accepted at Yale Divinity School. While at Yale, he applied to work for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and learned that there was a need for relief workers in China. He spent a year studying Chinese and Theology at Yale and then went to China, where, at his request, he was assigned by AFSC to the Friends Ambulance Unit, which was restoring war-damaged missionary hospitals and transporting medical supplies. His plan was to stay for two years and then come home to be married, but he decided to stay longer and asked Mardy to join him there. On August 8, 1948, they were married in a Quaker Ceremony in Zhongmu (Chungmu), Henan Province, China. The marriage was overseen by Shanghai Monthly Meeting at the request of Chestnut Hill (Pennsylvania) Monthly Meeting, Mardy's Home Meeting.

Following his service in Zhongmu, he and Mardy spent a year in Hong Kong with the AFSC office there. His daughter Karen, the first of five children, was born in Hong Kong. When they returned to the United States, he spent a year at the AFSC headquarters in Philadelphia. He and Mardy then moved to State College, PA so Mark could further his education. He received both his BS and MS degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Penn State and then became a member of the Faculty. In the course of his time at Penn State, he and his family spent four years in Pune (Poona), India, where he worked with a Penn State/ USAID Agricultural Team, primarily working with farmers to increase food production. He retired as an Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering in 1991, after 37 years.

Mark had many interests. He particularly enjoyed photography and woodworking. He and Mardy raised five children in a house that he built himself. He was a member of

State College Friends Meeting for 64 years and was the backbone of the Building and Grounds Committee for decades. He was also a member of the Peace and Social Action Committee, and a volunteer driver taking used clothing to AFSC in Philadelphia. He was very involved with the founding of State College Friends School. He served on its first Board of Directors and was continually serving on that board, alternating with Mardy, for over 20 years. After retiring, he was involved in projects that took him, among other places, to China, Armenia and Bolivia. In 2006 Mark and Mardy moved to Foxdale Village, where they became active members of the retirement community. Mark died at Foxdale on January 6, 2015, after a long illness. His positive influence among State College Friends lives after him.

Mark is survived by Mardy Shaw, his wife of 66 years; their five children; Karen Snare, Betsy Wells and husband Tony, Craig Shaw and wife Eileen O'Connor, Jennifer Nickel and husband Andrew, Richard Shaw and wife Patricia Milford; six grandchildren, Kate Snare, Eric Snare and wife Jazmine Carroll, Chris Wells, Doug Wells and wife Wendi, Ben Nickel, and Peter Nickel; and two great-grandchildren; Hagen and Parker Wells. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a grandson, Carl Snare. A Quaker Memorial Service was held for Mark at Foxdale Village.



THINKING ABOUT RACE (April 2015) – *Showing up for Racial Justice*
by Shan Cretin

The Winter 2015 issue of *Quaker Action*, published by the American Friends Service Committee, focuses on “Where Do We Go From Here?” In it, Shan Cretin, AFSC’s General Secretary, tells about her efforts to support the Black Panthers through teach-ins and demonstrations in New Haven, CT in the 1970s. She writes, “...one of the Black Panthers with whom I had been working took me aside. He said, ‘I know you mean well, but if you want to do something about the conditions you see in this community, you need to work in your own community. We can take care of ourselves – we black folks can take care of ourselves. The real problem is with the white folks, and I really wish you would go work there.’”

“That message helped me understand my responsibility to end racism, not by ‘helping’ disadvantages African-Americans, but by working with those with privilege and power. I realized that

white people need to talk about race first – as uncomfortable as that is – so that we can begin as a whole society to actually achieve racial justice.”

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaisons at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting for publication in their newsletter or other means of dissemination. The WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

Minutes
SCFM Meeting for Worship with attention to
Business
March 1, 2015

In attendance: Michael Grutzeck, Lynne Grutzeck, Connie Wheeler, Martin Melville, Dorothy Habecker, Darlene Clark, Selden Smith, Ann Sidone, Gary Fosmire, Kerry Wiessmann, Loretta Jeffries, Larry Greenleaf, Rebecca Misangyi, Polly Dunn, Deryn Verity, Margy Frysinger, Yuri Plowden, and Ellen Arginteanu.

Selden Smith opened by reading the Queries for Third Month 2015 from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Responses to the Queries: Laurie Jeffreys shared that her daughter may have recently acquired a new job after the interviewer asked her about how she would deal with consensus. Margy Frysinger shared that we need to outline our process for financial need so that we can all be clear about how we can best support those in need who request funds. We could do more to educate Members on how to share their leadings.

Building and Grounds: Clerk Larry Greenleaf reported. Committee met January 12, 2015. Attending were Kathy Drapco Klein, Lance Lehman, David Jeffreys, Gary Fosmire, Michael Grutzeck and Larry Greenleaf. Meetings began and ended with a moment of silence.

The committee agreed to approve the Garden Level Classroom proposal by Gil Morrison with some revisions. Larry will contact Gil and relay the revisions to him.

The committee discussed the solar power bids (2 at this point, Envinity and Sun Directed). We agreed to put together a list of questions that were our concerns regarding the components of each system and the final cost of the total package that each company was able to provide. The questionnaire would be given to each company's representative and we would schedule one final meeting with the respective representatives to determine our final choice.

The committee discussed a request for sound proofing between the meeting room and the social room. It was determined that it would not be possible and will look into producing a sign to be posted on the double doors between the two rooms and in the kitchen area asking people not attending Meeting for Worship to be respectful of the need for silence during the designated time for silent worship.

The Schoolhouse has notified the committee that there is an annoying leak in the roof of the breezeway that causes an icy patch by the entry door and can become dangerous. At the time of the meeting we could not find any evidence of a leak. Lance and Larry agreed to look into the situation and report to Lynne Bradley, Director of The Schoolhouse.

Our outside recycling area needs a roof over the bins to shield them from the weather. A request was also made for an inside recycling area as well. Thanks was expressed to B & G for working on two big projects-i.e. solar panels and the Garden Level Classroom.

Finance Committee: Clerk Kerry Wiessmann reported.

Memorial minute: Read by Loretta Jeffries.

Mark Shaw Memorial Minute

Mark Shaw was born in Karuizawa, Japan on August 22, 1924, the only child of missionary parents, the late Mark R. and Alma Dodds Shaw. When he was three years old the family returned from Japan and settled in Massachusetts. Mark showed an early pacifist bent when he refused his teacher's request to donate a penny towards a bell for the newly commissioned battleship, the USS Massachusetts. As a high school senior, in a time when war had begun in Europe, head a partner won a debating contest speaking against compulsory military service, a position not popular among his classmates. Mark attended Earlham College, where he met the love of his life, Mary (Mardy) Dearden and received a degree in Sociology. Expecting to follow in his father's footsteps as a minister, he was accepted at Yale Divinity School. While at Yale, he applied to work for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and learned that there was a need for relief workers in China. He spent a year studying Chinese and Theology at Yale and then went to China, where, at his request, he was assigned by AFSC to the Friends Ambulance Unit, which was restoring war-damaged missionary hospitals and transporting medical supplies. His plan was to stay for two years and then come home to be married, but he decided to stay longer and asked Mardy to join him there. On August 8, 1948, they were married in a Quaker Ceremony in Zhongmu (Chungmu), Henan Province, China. The marriage was overseen by Shanghai Monthly Meeting at the request of Chestnut Hill (Pennsylvania) Monthly Meeting, Mardy's Home Meeting. Following his service in Zhongmu, he and Mardy spent a year in Hong Kong with the AFSC office there. His daughter Karen, the first of five children, was born in Hong Kong. When they returned to the United States, he spent a year at the AFSC headquarters in Philadelphia. Hand Mardy then moved to State

College, PA so Mark could further his education. He received both his BS and MS degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Penn State and then became member of the Faculty. In the course of his time at Penn State, he and his family spent four years in Pune (Poona), India, where he worked with a Penn State/ USAID Agricultural Team, primarily working with farmers to increase food production. He retired as an Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering in 1991, after 37 years.

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Mark died at Foxdale on January 6, 2015, after a long illness. His positive influence among State College Friends lives after him. Mark is survived by Mardy Shaw, his wife of 66 years; their five children; Karen Snare, Betsy Wells and husband Tony, Craig Shaw and wife Eileen O'Connor, Jennifer Nickel and husband Andrew, Richard Shaw and wife Patricia Milford; six grandchildren, Kate Snare, Eric Snare and wife Jazmine Carroll, Chris Wells, Doug Wells and wife Wendi, Ben Nickel, and Peter Nickel; and two great-grandchildren; Hagen and Parker Wells. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a grandson, Carl Snare. A Quaker Memorial Service was held for Mark at Foxdale

Village.

Worship and Ministry: Clerk Margy Frysinger reported. Worship and Ministry offered a workshop on February 15th that was a continuation of the “Bringing our Differences into the Light” workshop from last fall. Turnout was small due to extremely cold weather, but those who attended found it to be very worthwhile. We will offer another workshop in the next few months.

The Committee would also like to try some reorganization of benches in the Meeting room. We plan to do a month’s trial of the change and would like feedback at the end of the month on how Friends feel about it. We will remove a few benches to bring people closer together, and change the angles of some of the benches. The Committee has approved the concept of experimentation of seating and trying a variety of chairs. We look forward to your feedback.

Care and Concern:

Minutes from Care and Concern Committee Feb 22, 2015

Attending: Claudia Wilson, Dorothy Habecker, Darlene Clark, Karen Anderson, Campbell Plowden

We began the meeting with silent worship. We did personal check-ins and then check-ins for members and attenders of meeting.

Karen will reach out to Aileen to follow up on her concerns with her daughter.

Mardy Shaw is doing well and settling in at Foxdale in Anthony Central.

The mold issue in Laurence Jones' apt is scheduled for repair when the weather changes-Campbell will follow up if he sees him today. Please give Cy a call or an email as a follow up to her mothers' death. Peg's husband, Gary died so an email/call follow up would be appreciated.

Kersey's clearness committee met in February(Claudia, Ellen and Campbell) with Kersey. Kersey had questions about yearly meeting affiliation and the committee shared their experiences about yearly mtg. Kersey is focused on the immediate community and doesn't see the relevance of yearly mtg. He was not aware of the interconnectedness between our meeting and yearly meeting. He shared his spiritual ideology with the committee. Yearly financial contribution was discussed as well as commitment by meeting members to participate in the life of the meeting(committee work, etc.). He was invited to explore both PYM and BYM. Ellen requested, with the group and Kersey present, that they discuss his acceptance into meeting, and decided to accept his request. He will be recommended for membership.

Campbell emailed copies of the final letter and the list of those who have turned 21 to C & C committee members. Margy has current contact information for those who have turned 21. Campbell has a typed list of all of the young friends who fall in that category. We agreed to email and mail copies of the letter to those young friends who are associate members of meeting who have turned 21. Dorothy and Claudia will review the list and follow up with the accuracy of the list first.

Next Sunday after meeting, with other SCFM clerks, Dorothy will bring up "how to assist members who have financial difficulties". This is an issue that is larger than C & C can deal with.

The notion of a “released friend” financial request was discussed. A support committee is needed to oversee financial requests. This issue may have arisen because we no longer have a P and SA committee. Dorothy will also include this issue at the clerk’s meeting next Sunday as well as our next MFWFB.

C & C committee is down 2 members – we should be thinking about who would be an effective member for our committee. Representation from diverse age groups, gender, etc. are welcome. We can then put forth our requests to Nominating Committee in the spring. Dorothy will be off the committee but she would be happy to be an ad hoc member for a year. A clerk will also be needed.

The next care and concern meeting is March 29 at 9:00 in the meeting office.

Announcements: Martin Melville read the following Report at Business Meeting.

Friends:

I wish to thank you for appreciating the work I’ve been doing at Earlham School of Religion (ESR). The financial support of Meeting means a lot to me, and ESR looks upon it favorably as well.

I take a mixture of online and on-site classes. The online classes are like a usual semester of distance learning. There is reading, there are lectures either print or video or some combination, and assignments to deepen understanding of the material presented. The on-site classes are called intensives, and with good reason. A 3-credit class is taught in 2 weeks. For this January’s intensive, Christian Ethics, I wrote 9 papers in 10 days of class. The final one was about 10 pages and attempted to look at the intersection of business, environmental, and Christian ethics.

Last spring I took New Testament History & Lit online and Quakers & the Bible for the May intensive. In August, I took an

intensive on the Gospel of John (also known as the Quaker gospel). In the fall, I took Church History I, which covered the period from the 1st through 14th centuries, stopping just short of the Reformation. I'm presently taking Writing as Public Ministry. Its focus is on developing an understanding of, and the ability to succeed at persuasion, otherwise known as rhetoric.

Looking ahead, all of these classes have fed into next fall's (academic) year-long class, Supervised Ministry. My plan is to do a series of podcasts about PA's forests and the people who live & work there.

Those of you who know me well will easily understand that I do well in spiritual/ reflection based classes and tend to struggle in the more academic ones. This phenomenon has been raised to me by several fellow students. Not too surprisingly, those who prosper in the academic courses find writing reflective papers to be equally difficult. So it is that, after discussions with my advisor (Steve Angell) who happens to head the faculty senate, and Tracy Davis (student-faculty liaison), a dialogue session to discuss what can be done to facilitate cross-over will take place during the spring intensive.

My studies at ESR really don't feel like work. That's a measure of the degree to which they feed me. It is my hope that friends benefit from this source of food for the spirit as well.

He also included a summary of a document on Releasing Friends to ministry(see below).

Releasing Friends to Ministry

There has been a recent revival of interest in "archaic" Friends practices such as eldering and releasing. Here I will try to give a bit of history about ways Quakers have historically found to support each other as they seek to do the work which they feel called to. The ones being supported are known in Quaker-ese as

“released Friends.” What are the origins of this practice? What are the “conditions?” Can and should this practice be revived? Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Faith and Practice- -the closest thing Quakers have to a book of discipline- -states:

The Society recognized from its early times that some members possessed gifts of ministry, but abhorred any monetary reward for the practice of ministry as a trade rather than a calling.

That abhorrence stemmed from the fact that becoming a clergyman (for they were all men in the 1650s) assured a life of relative ease and conferred social status. All that was needed was enough money to afford college at Oxford or Cambridge. A spiritual connection was not required. While there were likely “men of God” among the graduates, George Fox was unable to find any of them when he searched from church to church across the countryside. Indeed, what he found was the opposite: the church was run for its own benefit. Vicars frequently “preached up sin,” as Fox put it.

From his study of the Bible, Fox found no precedent for paid ministry. The Holy Spirit was available to all. Fox asserted that “Christ was come to teach his people himself.” This meant that by allowing Christ to speak through us, *anyone* could be a minister. Thus began the idea of the ministry of all believers.

Rather than being born in sin, or that salvation was available to a select few, he found that the Bible affirmed the *potential* for us all to be children of God (John 1:12):

But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave the power to become children of God.

While there is the injunction in Matthew not to worry, there was also the pragmatic recognition that ministry is active not passive. Ministry, defined as doing the work of the Spirit, requires us to act, imperfect as our actions may be. The problem (or challenge) then, was to find a way to care for one’s physical needs in this

world, while doing the work one felt called to do. The corollary was for the rest of the faith community to find ways to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of those called to the work of the Spirit. Enter the practice of releasing peers to do their work. The first step happened to be clearness: How could either the called person, or her community be sure that the proposed course of action was divinely ordained? Steve Angell, drawing from several sources, described it thusly:

1.) The Friend perceives a concern to which he or she is led by inspiration from God. As Roger Wilson 'defines "concern," it is' a leading from God that cannot be denied, not just the intelligent thing to do. It is perceived through inward experience. Hope Way defines the process whereby a concern arises as the subjection of conscience 'to "reflection,' scrutiny, discernment and decision that: transforms [conscience] ,into something outgoing, outgiving, and constructive': '-a.concern:"² It does not matter where the concern arises – whether from the group seeking to release a Friend, .or from the individual seeking to be released.

(2) If the concern comes from an individual Friend, he or she raises the concern during a meeting for business conducted in a spirit of worship. Together the meeting seeks God's guidance on the concern that has been raised for their consideration in worship. If the meeting feels led to unite on behalf of the concern, then it is obligated to determine what assistance the Friend needs. .Thus the second element is corporate support. Such support can include prayers on behalf of the Friend and the meeting's Concern, oversight (often by an ad-hoc or special committee), and financial

assistance as the need arises for the released Friend and his or her family.

3.)The Pendle Hill Workshop Report on Friends as Leaders states that the foremost quality called for in a Quaker leader is a continual posture of openness to God. The Quaker leader is one who proceeds in the power of the Lord Genuine authority is derived from the divine leading and empowerment of the leader and from the confirmation and acceptance of that leading by the community of faith.

The community of Friends cannot be more favored" by God than to have a genuine divinely-led concern arise among us and then to have that leading confirmed by the consensus of our meetings for business. Our released Friends, as bearers of those divinely-led concerns, can provide leadership for Friends, if we value highly enough the concern to which we also have been led and if we look to released Friends for that leadership.

Based on this model, the released friend has a general sense of her calling and works with a committee to assure that she stays "on course," rather than "wandering off into imaginations" as Fox would have said. It is a feedback loop: concern=> discernment=> meeting support=> work=>discernment. I would add accountability to the above list. There needs to be a way to keep meeting posted on the work, how it's going, and adjustments to the way forward.

It is also important to realize that while some callings may be life-long, others are transient. The released friend "usually undertakes a form of enabling ministry.

Wilmer Cooper lists five forms of enabling ministry: reconciliation, theological or educational, nurturing, pastoral, and mission or service oriented. Enabling ministry embodies a "basic philosophy of leadership [which] places a very high value on individual persons and their potentiality to become instruments through whom God's love and Christ's Gospel can be shared in the life and work of the church.

This model worked for Friends in their early years. In the increasing business and financial pressures of life in the 21st century, the deep needs of our civilization continue to exist, brought into sharp relief by abject poverty and gluttonous wealth. Seeking a way to live an active faith is at least as important today as it was in 1650. Following one's leadings and acting on concerns is the essence of faithful living: we seek to do God's will. Our faith community supports us in that work.

Minutes: read by Selden Smith to Attendees. The minutes from February business meeting were approved with the following change: Gil Kelmoron should read as Gil Morrison under the Building and Grounds report.

Our next MFWFB will be held on April 12, 2015.

Respectfully submitted (substitute)

Darlene Clark

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Advancement and Outreach: The committee seeks to nurture inquirers and attenders within the Meeting community and to inform those in the larger State College community about our Meeting and its activities. The committee coordinates workshops and seeker groups and provides literature for newcomers and the wider community. Its members take responsibility for greeting visitors/attenders prior to meeting for worship, answer questions of newcomers and introduces them to other members. It coordinates website development and the meeting photo board.

Building and Grounds: Responsibilities include: 1. General maintenance and repairs of the building, sometimes on an emergency basis. 2. Maintenance of lawn mowing and snow removal equipment. 3. Maintenance of the grounds, including mowing the grass, removing snow and ice, weeding, trimming bushes, ground cover, and trees. 4. Participate in special work parties as scheduled. 5. Hand out and collect keys for building use. 6. Maintain Meeting apartment and monitor its use. 7. Provides long-range planning relative to facilities. 8. Attempts to identify ways in which the Meeting can be environmentally conscious in its stewardship of the building and grounds. 9. Acts as liaison to Friends School House for concerns about the physical plant. Committee meets once a month and as needed.

Care and Concern: (must be a member): Pastoral care and counseling of the Meeting community are the responsibility of this committee. Members take a personal interest in the spiritual and physical welfare of each member of the Meeting community. The committee arranges for clearness committees for membership, marriage, and discernment, and assists the Memorial Committee in arranging memorial meetings. The

committee also seeks to provide conflict resolution to reconcile differences that may arise between/among members of the monthly Meeting. The committee meets monthly and members are appointed for three years and may be reappointed for an additional three year term. Members are appointed by Nominating Committee.

Finance: Finance Committee is composed of the clerk of finance, the Meeting treasurer, and members and attenders of Meeting. The Clerks of Meeting, clerks of other committees and the secretary are always welcome to attend our meetings and are sometimes specifically invited. We manage, and report to monthly meeting, all matters pertaining to financial needs including the annual budget, proposals, requests and expenditures, and oversight of the treasurer activities. The committee takes care of financial obligations, banking, financial reviews and audits, quarterly and annual financial statements, investments, insurance, contributions to other Quaker and local organizations, and raising of funds. The treasurer gives monthly updates to the committee and quarterly updates to the monthly meeting. The committee also updates financial policies and procedures and insures that we follow these procedures in day-to-day operations. This committee receives financial requests from other committees and the business meeting, makes recommendations to monthly meeting and carries out the financial obligations incurred by decisions of the monthly meeting. Finance committee meets once a month, and upon occasion, has other called meetings.

Memorial: Members are responsible for coordinating memorial or funeral services for members and attenders and for arranging for the completion of memorial minutes (Forms providing guidelines can be completed by persons interested in recording their wishes

and the committee maintains a file of these forms at the Meeting House). Persons interested in serving on this committee need to be comfortable helping people under emotional and sensitive circumstances. Committee meets as needed.

Newsletter and Bulletin: This committee gathers news, edits and types it to produce a monthly publication that includes the official minutes of Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business and a monthly calendar. Newsletters are distributed by email, regular mail, or to individuals living at Foxdale Village. Weekly bulletins are prepared by the Meeting secretary and distributed by email and at the Meetinghouse.

Nominating: (must be a member): This group seeks to fill positions on other Meeting committees through a spiritually-based process of careful discernment. Its goal is to match willing representatives to the tasks and duties of our religious community while bearing in mind the good of the Meeting, the committees, and the individual. Committee meets as needed. Members serve for three years and may be reappointed for an additional three year term. Members are appointed by Worship and Ministry Committee.

Peace and Social Action: Currently, Peace and Social Action Committee functions as a committee of the whole (meaning all members of Meeting are members of this committee). The committee works to translate the beliefs and principles of Quakerism into action, within our Meeting and the wider community. Compelled by conscience, we learn about, teach about, and campaign for the issues of the day that relate to Quaker ideals of peace, equality, integrity, and simplicity. We connect with larger Quaker organizations such as Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service

Committee, and Baltimore and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings, as well as other groups with similar goals, such as the Alternatives to Violence Project, Right Sharing of World Resources, and with other peace churches.

Refreshments and Potluck: This committee is responsible for both potluck and refreshments. The majority of committee work is conducted by phone. The committee orders supplies and coordinates refreshments with Religious Education for First Day School and refreshments/potluck following Meeting for Worship for Business. The committee is responsible for cleaning cupboards, stoves, and the refrigerator. This is an excellent committee for those who prefer minimal meetings, but members must do their share because the committee's work is highly visible.

Religious Education: This committee is an energetic group of people actively involved in the First Day School program. The majority of the committee members teach or assist in classes for various time commitments throughout the school year. Other support special activities such as the Christmas program, Secret Friends, Right Sharing, or the Intergenerational Breakfast. There is always a need for more people interested in working with the Meeting's children. No experience is required, just lots of enthusiasm and a good sense of humor.

Worship and Ministry (must be a member): The committee is concerned with the quality of the meetings for worship and for the religious development of members and attenders. Members have a responsibility to show encouragement and loving guidance to those who show promising spiritual gifts. An important duty of Friends appointed to this committee is to help make diversity creative. A commitment to attending meeting for

worship and meeting for worship for business regularly is required. Members are appointed for three years and may be reappointed for an additional three year term.

**State College
Friends Meeting
611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801**



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611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801
Phone (814) 237-7051

RETURN REQUESTED