



The Green Street Messenger

monthly calendar & newsletter of...

Green Street

Monthly Meeting of Friends
located at...

45 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Join us for...

267-285-0553 / secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org Office hours: 9:30–12:30 Mon.–Fri.
/website greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

First Day Meeting for Worship	10:30 AM
First Day School	10:30–11:15 AM
Wednesday morning Meeting for Worship	8:30–9:00 AM with GSFS
First Sunday evening Meeting for Worship	6:30–7:00 PM at Stapeley Hall

December 2015

Sunday, 6th	9:30 AM	Breakfast with a Friend—Anne Bayless/Dan McDevitt
	Rise of Meeting	Coffee Hour—Valerie Anderson and Tracey Smith
	12:30	Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
	5:00 PM	First Sunday potluck at Stapeley
Sunday, 13th	9:00 AM	Second Sunday Forum <i>No information received</i>
	10:30 AM	Gather in the social room and then move to the meeting room when the Christmas play is ready to begin.
	Rise of Meeting	Coffee Hour—David La Fontaine/Patrick Egan
Sunday, 20th	9:30 AM	Carol Singing before meeting for worship with cider and refreshments followed by
	10:30 AM	Meeting for worship with readings
	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting Lunch—Neal Fordham & Volunteer needed
	12:45	Meeting for business
Sunday, 27th	9:15 AM	Friendly Bible Study
	Rise of Meeting	Coffee hour—Hood Family
Sunday, Jan. 3	9:30 AM	Breakfast with a Friend—
	Rise of Meeting	Coffee Hour—
	12:30	Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
	5:00 PM	First Sunday potluck at Stapeley

The Meeting office will be closed Monday, December 21 through Monday, December 28. It will reopen on Tuesday, December 29.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Eleventh Month 15, 2015

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Eleventh Month 15, 2015:

The Meeting convened at 12:45 PM in prayerful silence.

15-11-01 The clerk welcomed Friends and asked each one to introduce themselves and share a story from their grade school experience, if they were willing. Friends were enriched by hearing the stories and knowing each other more deeply.

15-11-02 Friends reviewed and approved the agenda.

15-11-03 Report from the Naming Committee

Anthony DiGiovanni, as Clerk, reported that Gabbreell James, Jonathan Perry, and Anthony DiGiovanni would serve on the Naming Committee. Paul Jablonski volunteered to join. A Friend suggested that the clerk has many responsibilities and might be relieved of this one since Paul has stepped forward. Anthony will help the committee convene for the first time and then step away. Friends approved.

15-11-04 Head of Greene Street Friends School Annual Report

Ed Marshall brought forward his annual report for the 21st time, marking the 160th year of Greene Street Friends School.

Ed read from the mission statement, which offered an inspiring vision of the School's purpose. Ed told us of the strength of weekly Meeting for Worship, the school's program of religious education, and training for the staff in Quaker education and clerking at Pendle Hill. Ed expressed gratitude to all the members and attenders of the Meeting who are actively involved in the work of and support for the School. There are a lot of people on that list.

Ed shared some of the school's efforts to strengthen diversity, a program to publicize the school to diverse constituencies, and their experience of supporting the first student in the school's history who chose openly to transition their gender identity. The school will be sending staff and faculty to the White Privilege Conference and are committed to improving the representation of people of color in the staff and administration. They are also using the book "Raising Race Questions" by Ali Michael in staff education. The school is exploring the possibility of initiating a summer academic camp program for local students who qualify for the federal free lunch program. One goal of the program is to raise institutional competency at the School in working with students across diversity in both race and class.

Starting next year, the new Germantown Scholars Program will provide one full scholarship for a student from the 19144 zip code.

Ed also reported on efforts to become more sustainable, including the new green parking lot on the corner of Greene Street and School House and the installation of hydration stations to support the use of reusable water bottles.

Ed fielded questions and Friends minuted their deep gratitude for Ed's 21 years of service and strong leadership at the School.

15-11-05 Contributions to Others

Traci Sullivan reported for the ad-hoc committee that was asked to bring forward a recommendation for the Meeting's consideration. The committee solicited suggestions from members and attenders. The report listed contributions to all those organizations, except for two large organizations that get

significant support city-wide and a local retirement center that is not currently soliciting contributions as far as we know. Friends were reminded that EMIR, while not on this list, is given a significant contribution elsewhere in the budget.

Two organizations, Quaker Voluntary Service and Germantown Life Enrichment Center, were seen to have particularly close ties to the Meeting and were budgeted at \$550. Other organizations, all having the direct engagement of members or attenders of the Meeting as staff or volunteers, were budgeted at \$200. In addition, Awbury Arboretum, which does not have this same direct association, was budgeted at \$100. Contributions totaled \$4,000.

A longer conversation ensued about whether the contribution to Quaker Voluntary Service should be given directly to the national organization or earmarked in support of the local program in Philadelphia. Some Friends felt that our contributions to others should be given without restriction to the national organization. Others felt that the larger gift was warranted because of our close association to the Philadelphia program. With some difference of opinion remaining in the group, Friends agreed for this year to earmark our gift to the local program.

The list is attached.

15-11-06 Potential formation of Working Group to look at the Social Room

Clerk Anthony DiGiovanni gave a short report of the historical use of the Social Room in the life of the Meeting and the School. The room is currently being used significantly more than in the past by both the School and the Meeting. Its furnishings and decorations have been accumulated over time without an overall plan or vision. Housing the benches that we inherited from Chestnut Hill has significantly changed the look, feel, and flexibility of the room.

One Friend wondered where this issue falls among the many other priority projects for rooms and spaces in the meeting house. Upon reflection, Friends agreed to undertake this process. Current members include Michael Van Hoy, Paul Jablonski, Frank Perch, Geniver Montalvo, with Lori Sinitzky and Kiri Harris, representing the School. The clerk will ask Margaret Walters if she would like to join. Friends agreed.

15-11-07 First Day School Report

Chris Mohr reported that the First Day School Program is up and running for the fall semester. New teachers will be required in the spring. Friends are encouraged to contact Chris or other members of the committee to volunteer. Chris Mohr - mohrandmohr@gmail.com

15-11-08 West Philadelphia Friends Meeting

Walter Hjelt Sullivan reported on the work of the Joint Care Committee for Green Street Monthly Meeting and West Philadelphia Friends Meeting. The members of WPFM are grateful for our support. One piece of our joint agreement is for Friends in each Meeting to occasionally participate in inter-visitation. In support of this effort and in cooperation with Worship and Ministry the committee recommends that a simple structure be established.

Worship and Ministry will recruit members and attenders of the Meeting to take a lead on visiting WPFM on specific dates every other month. The dates will be advertised in advance and others in the Meeting will be encouraged to join. Friends can leave from Meeting to be in West Philadelphia for their 1:30 Meeting for Worship.

The proposal was received with gratitude.

15-11-09 Care and Counsel - Transfer Letter for Susan Chast

Anthony brought forward a recommendation from Care and Counsel recommending approval for the transfer of the membership of Sudan Chast from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting to West Philadelphia Friends Meeting under the care of Green Street Monthly Meeting.

Friends agreed.

15-11-10 These minutes were approved.

Friends adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Twelfth Month 20, 2015.

Anthony DiGiovanni, Clerk
Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Members: Mina Baisch, Anne Bayless, Doris Clinkscale, Eric Corson, Anthony DiGiovanni, Robert Dockhorn, Paul Jablonski, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Lori Sinitzky, Traci Sullivan, Walter Sullivan, William Van Stone, Margaret Walters

Attender: Geniver Montalvo

Guest: Ed Marshall, Head of School

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

Contributions to Others:

Prisoner Visitation & Support	200
Historic Fair Hill	200
Center for Returning Citizens	200
Friends World Committee for Consultations (FWCC)	200
Friends Journal	200
Friends General Conference (FGC)	200
Friends Committee for National (FCNL)	200
Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)	200
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	200
Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS Philly)	550
Germantown Life Enrichment Center (GLEC)	550
Awbury Arboretum	100
Whosoever Gospel Mission	200
Reach out and Read (St. Cstiofer's Hospital)	200
My Place Germantown	200
Kelly Green Project	200
Grumblethorpe Education and Garden Fund	200

About our F/friends

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

January newsletter: Due to timing complications, the January newsletter will not go out until the first week of January. Despite that, for everything except the minutes of the meeting for business, the deadline is a day earlier than usual, Thursday, December 17 at 9:30 AM.

Come help with First Day School for the wonderful children of the Meeting

The children and youth of Green Street Meeting benefit a lot from the caring presence of adults in our First Day School program. We are looking for lead and assistant teachers for the younger and older groups starting in January. The committee can assist with lesson ideas and structure.

The many people who volunteer are truly helping build the Beloved Community among all our generations. Thank you! Please contact Chris Mohr at mohrandmohr@gmail.com

Please see minute #15-11-07 above.

Saturday December 5, 9:15 AM - 3:30 PM, Extended Meeting for Worship, Middletown Friends Meeting at Langhorne.

Would you like to deepen your experience of worship? Have you wished that worship didn't end when the clock struck the hour? You are invited to experience extended worship. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. And remember to bring your lunch. Info: Lola Georg, lolageorg@gmail.com or www.pym.org/calendar/events/2015-extended-worship-at-langhorne-meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2-4 PM Peace Vigil at the Burlington Quaker Meeting House

Join us to pray for world peace at the Burlington Quaker Meeting House 340 High Street, Burlington, NJ 08016. There will be silent worship, readings, and music. All are welcome!

Sunday, December 6, First Sunday Potluck at Stapeley (Wesley Enhanced Living) All are invited and heartily encouraged to come to Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley in Germantown, at Greene Street and Washington Lane. The monthly Friendly First potluck evening meal, starting at 5 PM in the Recreation Room, will be followed by a half hour Meeting for Worship in the Parlor at 6:30. As always, anyone and everyone in the Philadelphia Quarter is welcome and wanted. Tricia Walmsley of Chestnut Hill MM is Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting's coordinator-in-general for the Friendly Firsts (walmsley127@verizon.net or 215-248-1514).

Saturday, December 12, 10:45 AM to 7:30 PM. Annual Nazareth to Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage

The Annual Pilgrimage walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem (approx 10 miles) to witness for and share Christ's message of peace. Busses load in Bethlehem to bring walkers to Nazareth to start. Details at peacewalk.org. Light supper and evening program with Shane Claibourne at 6:00 PM. This event is co-sponsored by Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting.

Sunday December 13, Second Sunday Forum

No information received as of printing deadline. Please listen for announcements after meeting.



The Twelfth Query on Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives—in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that over commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive

behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?



News and Announcements

Workshops and/or Short Courses at Pendle Hill

For more information about any of these weekends, call Pendle Hill at (610) 566-4507 or (800) 742-3150, ext. 3, or visit www.pendlehill.org. Matching scholarships are available; please call. (Please go to their website, pendlehill.org, or call them for more information.)

Mar. 2016 - Aug. 2016 Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness

An Intensive Online/On-Campus Certificate Program in Prophetic Activism and Civic Engagement (includes four on-campus residencies.)

Dec. 7 Still Here – The Lenape Today, 7:30-9:00 PM in the Barn Free and open to the public

If you can't attend, it will be live-streamed over the Internet. Go to pendlehill.org to register.

Dec. 28, - Jan. 1, 2016 New Years: Creative Reflection – New Year's Arts and Spirituality

Dec 28, - Jan 1, 2016 New Years: For the Love of Music, A musical journey with Maestro Karl Middleman

Jan 22-24 Paths in Prayer

Monday, December 21, 6:30 - 8:30 PM Young Adult Friends (YAF) Holiday Potluck & Fellowship

The Young Adult Friends community will be having our annual Holiday Potluck & Fellowship.

Bring a dish, snack, dessert or beverage to share. All YAFs (age 18-35) are welcome to join us. Feel free to also bring a musical instrument and songbook in the event that joyful noise spontaneously erupts. Location: TBD

Details: www.pym.org/calendar/events/holiday-yaf-potluck-2015

Contact: Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, epiersolschmidt@pym.org or 215-241-7075

Sunday, December 27 5:00 pm - Wednesday, December 30, at noon. Young Friends Christmas Gathering, at Newtown Friends Meeting

Come join Young Friends for fun spiritual community at this year's Christmas gathering.

Details: www.pym.org/young-friends/events or Hannah Mayer, hmayer@pym.org

Friday, January 8, 5:30 PM - Sunday, January 10 at noon. Young Adult Friends Winter Retreat, Unpacking Race, Equipping Ourselves For Justice, at Swarthmore Friends Meeting

Join Young Adult Friends, age 18-35ish from across the Phila. Yearly Meeting region and beyond for our Winter Retreat. Information: www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-adult-friends-winter-retreat-2016 Questions? Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, epiersolschmidt@pym.org or 215-241-7075.

Humor Corner: *So you don't have to worry about what you eat over the holidays.*

I heard eating whole foods can add years on to your life. So yesterday I ate a whole cheesecake.

Change is inevitable. Except from a vending machine.

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

Honk if you love peace and quiet.

Quote Corner: Love does not mean agreeing on all questions of belief, values, or rules of conduct; it means accepting with humility and forbearance such differences as cannot be resolved by open and patient give-and-take. Love does not recreate our brother *and sister* in our image; it recreates us both in relation to each other, united like limbs of one body yet each distinctly himself. (*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1969, PYM Faith and Practice*) The words “*and sister*” were added by the editor.

The **submission deadline** for the January newsletter is **9:30 AM on Thursday, December 17**. Due to timing complications, the deadline is a day earlier than usual.