



# The Green Street Messenger

*monthly calendar & newsletter of...*

Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends  
45 West School House Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting  
1018 S 48th St (Squirrel Hill Apartment Bld.  
Basement)  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

## *Join us for...*

First Day Meeting for Worship	10:30 AM
First Day School	10:30–11:15 AM
First Day Meeting for Worship at West Phila. Mtg.	1:30 PM
*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
*The school's meeting for worship will resume in September.	

**267-285-0553 / [secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org) Office hours: 9:45–12:45 Mon.–Fri.**  
**[/website greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](http://website.greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org)**

## **July/August 2016**

***During July, Green Street Monthly Meeting meets with Germantown Monthly Meeting, at Germantown MM at 10:30 AM, at 47 W. Coulter St., just around the block. During August, everyone comes here.***

*There will be childcare, but no First Day School during July and August.*

*From your Meeting Secretary—As a member of Germantown MM, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to join us at Germantown MM during July. (And yes, it will be “warm” in July, but come anyway.)*

## **August**

Sunday, 7th	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting	Breakfast with a Friend—Bob Dockhorn Coffee Hour—Doris Clinkscale and Peggy Walters
Sunday, 14th	Rise of Meeting	Coffee Hour— Gabe Ehri & Blythe and Eric Davenport
Sunday, 21st	Rise of Meeting	Coffee hour— <b>Volunteers needed</b>
Sunday, 28th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour—JoAnn Seaver & Bill Van Stone

*The meeting office will be closed from Friday, July 29 to Monday, August 8. It will reopen on Tuesday, Aug. 9*

***Draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Sixth Month 19, 2016***

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Sixth Month 19, 2016:

Business meeting convened at 12:40 PM in prayerful silence.

After a period of silence, the Clerk asked Friends to share a treasured memory of summer from childhood. Friends shared stories of family weeding while saying the rosary; jumping in rain puddles; riding the trolley to grandmother's home; climbing way to the top of rock piles; walking in bare feet down the gravel path; camp with the very entertaining young Jerry Blavat; building enormous bonfires at camp; enjoying family time by the lake in the Winnebago; and family traveling to camping destinations in the VW bus. Friends were enriched by this sharing.

The Clerk offered gratitude for the delicious meal and hospitality provided by Tracey Smith and Valerie Anderson.

**Greene Street Friends School - Multipurpose Building Update**

Anne Bayless and Anthony DiGiovanni provided an update on Greene Street Friends School. A handout titled "Multipurpose Building - Facts at a Glance" was given to all Friends present. Originally the architect engaged for this project was to join Friends today, but this was delayed as budget and project alternatives are still being reviewed. It is likely the architect will join Friends sometime after August.

This document distributed tells the story of the Master Planning process and the buying of the bank building. Purchasing the bank building and parking lot some years ago gave the school the opportunity to create a green space where before there had been a paved parking lot. The strategic plan for the School was to grow to two classes per grade and no larger than that. To reach the goal, more space was needed. Also, the Master/Strategic planning process showed that there is an interest in arts and music and sports at the school. The current facilities are cramped, and there is no place where the entire school community can gather together. Building a multipurpose facility will meet those needs.

This year for the first time there will be two classes per grade in the entire school. The Meeting community provided a lead gift for the fundraising for the new building. The school remains committed to keeping tuition low relative to other private schools. For that, the school needed to fundraise enough money to pay for the project without relying on current parents. That fundraising is going well.

With regard to the new multipurpose building, there is a process in place to gain input from many people...faculty, administration, parent/professionals, board, Meeting and local community. The architect, Digsau, has much experience in the ways of Friends. Guiding principles include simplicity, transition, materiality and light, and the design concept for campus is to have the Meetinghouse at the center with openness and connectivity to the local community. There is a commitment to build what is sufficient for the School's needs, something that will stand the test of time and still be within budget. The building will have equal focus on performing arts and athletics.

Friends accepted this report and asked questions to further understand the history and the project.

Also exciting, the Horizons Program is starting this summer on the campus of Greene Street Friends School. The purpose of the project is to prevent summer slide for students whose families are economically disadvantaged.

## **Nominating Committee**

Robin Mohr reported. The Meeting approved the following names brought forward in May:  
Worship and Ministry: Lucy Duncan and Joel Wilson  
Assistant Treasurer: Frank Perch  
Children and Youth Religious Education: Rebecca Grant

Robin presented the following nominations. These will be carried over until our next business meeting when approval will be sought. Friends should contact a member or Nominating Committee prior to next business meeting if they have a concern with any of these nominations.

Jim Dragoni	Property	September 2016	June 2019
Paul Jablonski	Property	September 2016	June 2019
William Van Stone	Property	September 2016	June 2019
Graham Garner	Property	September 2016	June 2019
Sheldon Berman	C&Y Rel. Ed	September 2016	June 2019
Peggy Worthington	Hospitality/Clerk	September 2016	June 2019
Peggy Walters	Hospitality	September 2016	June 2019
Gabbreell James	Hospitality	September 2016	June 2019
Cally Iden	Website WG	September 2016	June 2019

## **Care and Counsel**

William van Stone reported for Care and Counsel. The Meeting approved the transfer of Lucy Duncan and her son Simon from Goshen Meeting to Green Street. The Meeting approved the transfer of Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt from Swarthmore Meeting to West Philadelphia.

The Meeting approved taking under its care the upcoming marriage Peggy Worthington and Sheldon Berman's. The wedding will take place in September.

The Meeting approved certificates of gratitude for Jim Glackin (transferred his membership after many years at Green Street), Anthony DiGiovanni (served as Clerk) and Michael Van Hoy (long and devoted care of the Meetinghouse and grounds). Appreciation was expressed for those who spent time writing and preparing these beautiful letters.

## **Report on How Good Can it Be**

Cheryl McFadden and Chris Mohr presented a graphic representation of their work since last business meeting. Responses from the survey from last Meeting were categorized. At the core of everything we do is worship, because that is what keeps us together. The circles around this core focus on inward and outward listening in the categories of community, youth, spiritual and facilities. How do we develop capacity is one of the challenges. We don't want to be the best kept secret in Germantown; we want the community to "get some of this".

The next step is for the team to further develop the framework to share with the Meeting in September so that the Meeting can decide on where we focus our energies.

## **JoAnn Seaver's Ministry**

The Meeting approved a donation to Wister Elementary School of \$100 to help fund the school's 2016 graduation. This is in support of JoAnn Seaver's ministry.

### **Cleaning up front of property**

The Clerk reported that Paul Jablonski is interested in cleaning up and improving the front of our property. He is going to work with Ryan and Jim Hood. Others are encouraged to contact Paul if interested in helping.

### **Quaker Voluntary Service Philadelphia**

The clerk reported that the local support committee for QVS Philadelphia has decided on having Green Street and Germantown Meetings to jointly sponsor the QVS house. At some point soon, Friends will be asked to help with welcoming and aiding the new set of volunteers.

The Meeting ended at 2:45 PM with a period of silent worship.

Meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Ninth Month 18, 2016.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Anthony DiGiovanni, Acting Recording Clerk

Members present: Mina Baisch, Anne Bayless, Doris Clinkscale, Anthony DiGiovanni, Robert Dockhorn, Cheryl McFadden, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, JoAnn Seaver, William Van Stone, Margaret Walters

Attendees present: Francis Elling, Geniver Montalvo, Marille Thomas,

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

### ***About our F/friends***

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

### ***Invitation from Friends at Germantown MM to Friends at Green Street MM***

Dear Green Street Friends:

Once again we invite Green Street Monthly Meeting to worship with us at Germantown Monthly Meeting during the month of July. The Worship and Ministry Committees of both Monthly Meetings have met and decided to hold the care of Worship jointly during July and August. We have also discussed the difference in Meeting cultures and will discuss with Germantown Friends the ideas of being a host meeting in July and visitors at Green Street in August. Germantown Meeting has begun using 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays as an opportunity to explore alternative worship experiences. There is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July and we are planning on having a regular Meeting for Worship outside (if it rains, we'll meet in the Social Room). We want to alert you that our meetinghouse restrooms are being renovated and we will be using the restrooms in the Germantown Friends School Main building (just across the Common/parking lot). There will be signs pointing the way. Please join us for refreshments in the Social Room after Meeting.

Penny Colgan-Davis, Clerk, Germantown Monthly Meeting

Karen Lightner, Clerk, Worship and Ministry

*From the editor: For those of you who may be new to this exchange: Coulter St. is one way in the opposite direction from School House Lane. So you must enter from Germantown Ave. The driveway will be on your right.*

*From the editor: I print the graduation speeches from graduates of GSFS whose parents are members or attenders of the Meeting. I have received permission to print Aaron's. I have not yet received permission to print Grace Jickling's. I hope that I will be able to include hers in the Sept. newsletter.*

Aaron Flannery

When I came to Greene Street as a new kid in second grade, I was nervous. I had just left behind old friends and everything I knew before. Making new friends was not too challenging, though. Nathan gave me a tour of the school, and I knew I was going to have a good time.

From that tour on, every trip was a learning experience. In Outdoor School, I really got to know my classmates better. At PEEC, I got to explore my interests in nature and science. In New York, I really enjoyed the play *Matilda*. In Costa Rica, I got to try many new things that I wouldn't have had another chance to do at this point in my life. And in D.C, I felt really independent and comforted by the company of my friends. Lots of the learning on campus felt like it also took me somewhere new. I remember when Grace C. and I clerked the first ever Town Meeting at Greene Street. People still talk to me about what a good job I did that day.

I've so met many good people. Every year, because of Josh I really enjoyed science class. His teaching helped me develop my interest in science and I hope to keep studying it. Thanks to Marty, I also enjoyed social studies. I got a lot out of taking a two-year long American History course. Learning about history helped me understand the books we read in Language Arts. Because I learned about World War II, I understood the different perspectives of the characters in the book, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

There were some hard things, too. I am a year younger than everyone in my class, and I've had to work hard. Life is a great thing, but when life gets hard, things start to fall away. I had an issue with homework this year. I needed some help so I asked my Mom for support. Many people tried to help me in any way they can. At first I couldn't stand it, but now I feel a lot better. I can manage my homework load, and I just feel happier.

If I had to summarize the big life lesson I've gotten out the last few years, it would be, don't stop believing.

***The First Sunday Meeting for Worship at Stapeley on the first Sunday of the month.***

Stapeley residents will happily welcome anyone who wants to join them in their meeting for worship at 6:30.

***PYM Annual Sessions, July 27- 31, at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.***

*Do not be conformed to this world, but Be Transformed so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

Friends of all ages will gather from throughout our yearly meeting for worship, Spirit-led discernment and sharing of our work and witness, fellowship, creativity, and community. Join us for the whole event, or just a day or two. Friends pay only for the cost of food and dorm housing, and financial aid is available so that anyone can attend.

*Information: [www.pym.org/annual-sessions](http://www.pym.org/annual-sessions) or Tricia Coscia, [sessions@pym.org](mailto:sessions@pym.org), 215 241-7238.*



### ***The Seventh Query on Social Responsibility and Witness***

How does our Meeting work:

- to overcome social, legal, economic, and political injustices, locally and in the wider world?
- for the funding of community services that does not rely on gaming income?

Does our Meeting serve the community through action on concerns for civic improvement? What actions are we taking to assure everyone equal access to education, health care, legal services, housing, and employment as well as equal opportunities in business and in the professions?

When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond?

Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

*Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?*

*Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience and to assisting others in doing so? How do I respond and support one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?*

*What am I doing to work for the betterment of my community to assure the maintenance of effective public services which do not rely on funding from gaming?*

*Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leadings?*

### ***The Eighth Query on Peace***

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

- to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?
- to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?
- to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
- to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

*Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?*

*How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?*

*Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?*

*Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?*



### ***News and Announcements***

#### ***Workshops and/or Short Courses at Pendle Hill***

*The Pendle Hill website now lists one day events, weekends and weeklong events. Please call Pendle Hill at (610) 566-4507 or (800) 742-3150, ext. 3, or visit [wk longww.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org). Matching scholarships are available; please call. For more information, please go to their website, [pendlehill.org](http://pendlehill.org), or call.*

***Young Friends Camp Onas Gathering, August 21 – August 27*** (High School age)

Camp Onas, 609 Geigel Hill Rd., Ottsville, Pa. 18942 \$320 - Full and partial aid available.

Young Friends gatherings create a fun and vibrant community of high-school-aged Quaker and Quaker-friendly folks. Registration will open on or around July 15. Come play. We'll get to enjoy

some of the regular Camp Onas treats, like flying through the air on the rope swing, the hike to the Sheep's hole, and opportunities for boisterousness in the swimming pool. This week is an important time for Young Friends to come together and create a sense of community for the upcoming year – playing hard, learning and discerning together, sharing deeply, and getting a final bit of relaxation in before the school year hits. Hannah Mayer, Young Friends Coordinator 215-241-7222 or hmayer@pym.org

***Young Adult Friends (age 18-35-ish) are invited to get together and talk about our spiritual lives. We'll meet at Strangelove's, an all-ages bar & restaurant in Center City, Philadelphia.***

July 14, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Strangelove's - 2nd floor, 216 S 11th St, Philadelphia. Free  
It's time for our next Pub Theology. Expect awesome conversations and meeting/reconnecting with excellent people. Our theme this time is good & evil – why do bad things happen? Can God and evil both exist? Trevor Johnson & Lane Taylor will be hosting. As at all Young Adult Friends events the YAF Guidelines are in effect, as is the YAF policy on alcohol use. We will be at an all-ages venue, with food and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage options. Friends who are underage are welcome to attend, but are expected not to consume alcohol. (YAFs who choose not to consume alcohol are also welcome) Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, 215-241-7075 or epiersolschmidt@pym.org. You can also go to the PYM calendar at pym.org

### **Looking ahead:**

***Extended Worship, September 10, 9:15 AM – 3:15 PM***

Would you like to deepen your experience of worship? Have you wished that worship didn't end when the clock struck the hour?

The Worship and Care Standing Committee and the Meeting on Worship and Ministry invite you **to** experience Extended Worship at Abington Friends Meeting, 520 Meetinghouse Rd. Jenkintown. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. And remember to bring your lunch. All are welcome. **If you need childcare, email us by Monday, August 29.** For more information, contact Lola Georg at 484-368-4637 or lolageorg@gmail.com

### Schedule:

9:15 to 9:30 Gathering and Welcome  
9:30 to 12:30 Extended Meeting for Worship  
12:30 to 1:30 Brown Bag Lunch  
1:30 to 3:00 Worship Sharing  
3:00 to 3:15 Clean-up and departure.

### Future Opportunities:

October 29, at Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting  
December 3, at Middletown Friends Meeting at Langhorne  
January 28, 2017 at Hockessin Friends Meeting (to be confirmed)  
March 4, at Swarthmore Friends Meeting  
April 29, at Plymouth Friends Meeting, Plymouth Meeting  
June 3, at Chester Friends Meeting (to be confirmed)

***Humor Corner: Noah's sense of humor?***

What animal could Noah not trust? The cheetah.

What kind of lights did Noah use on the ark? Flood lights.

***Quote Corner:*** The Quaker group silence, the cooperative team work of the entire assembly, the expectant hush, the sense of divine presence, the faith that God and man can come unto mutual and reciprocal correspondence, tend to heighten the spiritual quality of the person who rises in that kind of atmosphere to speak. But that group situation, important as it is, will not work the miracle of

producing a message for the hour in a person who is sterile and has nothing to say. Even the miracle of feeding the multitude in Galilee needed at least a nucleus of loaves and fishes to start with.

Vital ministry is not abstract and doctrinal, it is charged with insight for the meaning and significance of *life*. It answers back to specific human need. It 'speaks to the condition' of souls. It correlates with concrete reality. It sets hearts beating. It quickens dropping spirits. It restores waning faith. It fortifies the wills of those who hear it. It makes the world look different. That means that it must *come out of life* and, if it is to have value, it must *refresh life*.

*Rufus Jones, 1934*

The **submission deadline** for the September newsletter is **9:30 am on Friday, August 19.**