



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

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

December 2016

Sunday, 4th	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting 12:30	Breakfast with a Friend—Ann Bayless/Dan McDevitt Coffee Hour—Valerie Anderson and Tracey Smith Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
Sunday, 11th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Forum - <i>A representative from Ceasefire Pa. will come to talk about gun laws and legislation</i> <i>(Please go to the About F/friends section)</i> Coffee Hour—Susan Christian and Sharon Mullally
Sunday, 18th	10:30 AM Rise of Meeting 12:45	Meeting for worship with carols and readings and silence Lunch—Neal Fordham and Cornelia Kietzman Meeting for business
Sunday, 25th	9:15 AM 10:30 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Usual unprogrammed meeting for worship Coffee hour—Everyone contributes to Christmas morning breakfast potluck

*The meeting office will be closed Tuesday, December 20 through Tuesday, December 27.
It will reopen on Wednesday, December 28.*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Eleventh Month 20, 2016

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Eleventh Month 20, 2016.

2016-11-01 Business Meeting convened at approximately 12:40 PM in prayerful silence.

2016-11-02 Greene Street Friends School Report

The clerk introduced Edward Marshall, Head of School, and Melody Regino, Dean of Students and Head of the Horizons Summer Program, Greene Street Friends School.

Ed Marshall read the school's mission statement, which guides the work of the school. He took a moment to relay stories about how well the Meeting's banner against racism and Islamaphobia on the meetinghouse had been received, both in the school community and the neighborhood. He congratulated the Meeting and School on how this played out.

The school has been working to deepen its connections to the Germantown community. Three years ago it established a partnership with Wister School, the K-5 public school in whose catchment the School sits. Greene Street Friends School agreed to serve as the emergency evacuation site for Wister. And the school now provides one full scholarship for a Wister student completing fifth grade and coming to GSFS for sixth.

Next GSFS wanted to start a summer camp for Wister students to stop "summer slide," the deterioration of academic skills over summer break.

Ed introduced Melody Regino, who has served many roles at the school over the last seven years, including counselor and dean of students.

Melody said the summer program is the first Philadelphia area affiliate of Horizons, a national organization with some 50 affiliates. The program provides six weeks of fully-fledged academic enrichment. Children in poverty are most likely to experience summer slide, and the program's goal is to have children enter the next school year at grade level. Horizons aims to serve students who qualify for federal free lunch.

Of the children this year, the average family income was \$13,800 for an average family size of 5. None had parents had been to college, and four of the children came from families with no high school degree.

This year Horizons started with one cohort of 12 kindergarteners. The children are invited to return every year through the summer after 8th grade, whether they remain at Wister or transfer to another public school. The plan is to add a grade level a year until there are 9 levels. The goal is to have 15 students per grade level.

The program provided literacy, math, science, art, physical education, including swimming at Germantown Life Enrichment Center, field trips to the library and parks, and life skills curriculum. The children showed improvement in their skills over the summer, and 90% of families reported their children were more confident academically.

Melody thanked the Meeting for its in-kind contribution of use of the kitchen. Breakfast, lunch, and a snack were made from scratch every day. Remaining snacks or produce were also given to the children to take home on the weekends. She answered several questions.

Ed listed some highlights of his report, a copy of which will be attached to the minutes in the meeting archives.

- This year for the first time, every grade has two sections.
- 318 students are enrolled, the highest of all time.
- There are 171 girls and 147 boys.
- 22 are Quakers.
- There are 141 students of color (44%) and 177 white students (56%).
- 61 are from the 19144 Zip code.
- The diversity of the faculty and staff has increased.
- Planning for the multipurpose building continues, as was reported on in detail to business meeting by Jamie Unkefer of DIGSAU Architects recently. The construction will be disruptive to both the school and meeting.

Ed thanked all the members of the meeting community who participate in the life of the school and named 41 of them.

2016-11-03 The Meeting approved Chris Mohr as Recording Clerk for today.

2016-11-04 Naming Committee, Chris Mohr reporting:

The Naming Committee presented names for membership on the Nominating Committee. The name of a clerk for the Nominating Committee has not been discerned. Continuing members include Kenyatta James, Eric Davenport, and Mina Baisch.

The Meeting approved for service on the Nominating Committee the slate as presented: Doris Clinkscale, one-year term, 2017; and Walter Hjelt Sullivan and Victoria Greene, both three-year terms, 2017-2019. The Meeting encouraged the Nominating Committee to appoint a clerk or co-clerk as soon as possible, and thanked the Naming Committee for its work.

2016-11-05 Care and Counsel, Bill Van Stone reporting:

Care and Counsel recommends Joel Wilson for membership. A four-person clearness committee met with him over the summer, and Bill summarized its positive report about Joel and his connection to Green Street Meeting. This recommendation will be seasoned for one month.

2016-11-06 Budget Committee, Frank Perch reporting:

Frank Perch reminded Friends we are a community of worship, fellowship, and care for children; a place of solace and a place from which we act in the world. We have a building and staff to support our purposes. Our budget is our plan for where the resources come from and where they go.

He also said, for 2016 year to date, contributions are below budget, but the majority of them come in the last two months of the year. The rest of our income is from invested funds. On the expense side, property and yard will be up as Michael Van Hoy is no longer doing the work, and it will be contracted out.

Education grants have been below budget, and so were adjusted downward for 2017. The budget committee is interested in the Education Assistance Committee leading a conversation on these funds.

Recommendations for Contributions to Others are now made by the Budget Committee, per the Nominating Committee's request. The Budget Committee recommends keeping the 2017 contributions at the same level to the same recipients as 2016.

There were questions and answers about many details of the budget. Several Friends focused on both the Budget Committee's recommendation for Contributions to Others, and the fact that Budget Committee did this work. Perhaps the Meeting would like to change where it makes contributions in

2017; if so, we could revisit that early in the year and make a different set of choices. There was agreement that the laying down of the Committee on Contributions to Others needs to be brought to business meeting. It was further suggested that the minutes from 2015—particularly November and December—be consulted for context.

Meeting approved the 2017 budget as presented. Next month we will discuss the process by which Contributions to Others are decided.

2016-11-07 Meeting concluded after a brief period of worship at 2:55 pm.
The meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time Twelfth Month 18, 2016.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk
Chris Mohr, Acting Recording Clerk

Members present: Doris Clinkscale, Robert Dockhorn, Andrew Dragoni, Jim Dragoni, Valerie Greene, Paul Jablonski, David La Fontaine, Chris Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, William Van Stone, Margaret Walters

Attendees present: W. Francis Elling, Geniver Montalvo, David Reclerbagh

Greene St. Friends School - Ed Marshall, Head of School; Melody Regino, Dean of Lower School

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

About our F/friends

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

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.

From the Budget Committee:

Dear Members and Attendees,

We hope you will contribute to our Meeting's costs in operations. Doing so helps to sustain the operations that provides for our community of spiritual giving and caring. Thank you!

The Budget Committee

How to Make a Contribution to Green Street Meeting

1. By check, payable to Green Street Monthly Meeting. Place the check in the contribution box at the back of the meeting room OR mail it to: 45 W School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144.

If you "write" checks online, please consider setting up an automatic monthly contribution.

2. By Cash – put cash in the donation box in the back of the meeting room.

We would like to thank you, so please consider including a note with your name and address.

3. By Credit Card

- Go to www.pym.org/supporting-pym/
- Click the green GIVE ONLINE button.
- Go to the "Monthly Meeting or Quarterly Meeting Contribution Section" and enter the amount of today's gift
- Choose the "Recurring Frequency" (e.g, a one-time gift, monthly, quarterly)
- Select "Green Street" in the drop down list of meetings

Trying to decide whether to make a gift by check or cash? Choose whichever will make it easiest

for you to give regularly! When possible, please avoid rewards credit cards (World Mastercard and Visa Signature) because PYM is charged twice the fees for those transactions.

Friday, December 9, Every Family Can Heal; Benefit Concert for EMIR

The concert will be held at the Venice Performing Arts Center, 7 Lock St., Philadelphia, PA, 19127. It will start at 8:00 PM and the requested donation is \$75. And yes Friends, this is the organization founded by Green Street Monthly Meeting member Victoria Greene to aid families who have lost a loved one, especially a child, to murder.

Second Sunday Forum, December 11, from Victoria Greene

A representative from Ceasefire Pa. will be coming to Green St to talk about gun laws and gun legislation. Come to be educated and to ask questions on Sunday December 11th at 9:15 AM.

Share what's happening at Green Street Meeting.

The Website Working Group is looking for photographs (with captions), descriptions of Meeting events, and short opinion pieces. We are happy to help with editing. Please submit to geniverm@yahoo.com. Items that you would like added to the Google calendar on our website should be submitted to the Meeting secretary at secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org.

Note about the next deadline from the editor: Dear Friends, Many months the newsletter deadline is relatively flexible. The **deadline for the January newsletter of 9:30 AM, Wednesday Dec. 14** is not. I will be gone over Christmas so my time for getting the newsletter out is quite tight. If an item arrives for the newsletter after the stated time, I doubt it will make it in. While the newsletter will not go out until early January, I will have far too much to do to spend a lot of time on it when I get back.

Parents of Kids in a Friends school? LISTEN UP. Deadline January 25, 2017

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) offers applications for Tuition Aid for Friends Children in Friends Schools now. Families usually begin the application process in November. Please complete the form, ensure that our meeting receives it by our January 25, 2017 deadline, and ensure that the forms arrive at your school before the school's deadline. Application forms and instructions are online at www.FriendsEducationFund.org. Families and meetings with questions may contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life at 215-241-7008 or zdutton@pym.org. Please send the forms for signature to Bill Van Stone, the clerk of Green Street Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee at wvdc@aol.com or 625 Burnham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119, before Wednesday, January 25th, 2017.

Green Street Monthly Meeting also offers assistance to all members who need (additional) financial aid from the Meeting to send their child to a Friends school, college, or a school for special education. Families interested should send a letter addressed to the Educational Assistance Committee with their request, name of parent(s) and child, 2017-18 grade of the child and name of the school to Bill Van Stone, Clerk of our Educational Assistance Committee. The deadline is January 25, 2017. College students are expected to submit their applications themselves. If you have questions call Bill Van Stone at 215 438 6106 or email him at wvdc@aol.com



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

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 go to pendlehill.org. Matching scholarships are available; please call. For more information, please go to their website, pendlehill.org, or call.

Extended Meeting for Worship, Dec 3, 9:15 am - 3:15 pm, 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? The Worship and Care Standing Committee and the Meeting on Worship and Ministry invite you 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/event/2016-extended-meeting-for-worship-middletown/?instance_id=311

Climate Disruption is a Moral Issue: Interfaith Climate Advocacy Training, December 4 1-7:30 pm, Pennswood Village, Newtown

A day of preparation for people of all faiths. 1 to 7:30 PM. Join us to develop clear messages to bring directly to policymakers to support ambitious, legally-binding targets for carbon dioxide and methane emissions, energy efficiency and a just transition to renewable power. Workshop leaders from PA Interfaith Power and Light, PennFuture and Justin Wright, Mediation and Negotiation trainer, Active Neutrals. Snacks and dinner are provided. Sponsored by the Eco-Justice Collaborative of PYM. Details: Paula Kline, kline.paula@gmail.com or www.pym.org/event/climate-disruption-moral-issue-interfaith-climate-advocacy-training/?instance_id=640

Social Justice and Spirituality Thread Gathering, Dec 10, 11 AM - 5 PM, Swarthmore Friends Meeting

The Thread Gathering will focus on ways we can ground our work in spiritual discernment, partner with other groups to be effective, and network with other Quakers to broaden our engagement.

Details: www.pym.org/event/social-spirituality-2016/?instance_id=432 or

Zachary Dutton, zdutton@pym.org

YAF Holiday Potluck, December 19, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, Philadelphia location (tbd)

All Young Adult Friends (age 18-35-ish) are welcome to join us - bring a dish, snack, dessert or beverage to share. We'll have some crafty holiday activities. Feel free to also bring a musical instrument and songbook

in the event that joyful noise spontaneously erupts.

Details: www.pym.org/event/yaf-holiday-potluck/?instance_id=364 or Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, epiersolschmidt@pym.org

Middle School Friends Winter Break Gathering, December 27-30, at Abington Monthly Meeting.

A special three-night winter break gathering for MSF. We will bake delicious treats, sing karaoke and have a clerking workshop. We will play outside and inside, craft and relax. We will also explore Quaker relationships with Christmas (past and current) and what we love/don't love about celebrating with presents. A pre- New Years pajama dance party will (probably!) carry us toward MSF 2017 with joy and exuberance.

Details: Tara Rubinstein, trubinstein@pym.org or

www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-winter-break-gathering/?instance_id=421

Young Friends Christmas Gathering December 27- 30

Woodstown Monthly Meeting

Join high-school-aged Quaker-friendly and -affiliated friends for the 3-day-long Christmas gathering. Get Ready for some creative fun, games, and exploration, and get excited to really dig into this wonderful community

Details: Hannah Mayer, HMayer@pym.org or

www.pym.org/event/young-friends-christmas-gathering-2016/?instance_id=384

PYM Scavenger Hunt 2016

PYM is organizing a Scavenger Hunt. There are few things in life that facilitate as much fun and provide the same opportunity to get folks moving, as a scavenger hunt. Through creative tasks, scavenger hunts offer a window into new understandings and new spaces both physically and mentally. The General Secretary is hoping to work with Friends to organize a PYM-wide scavenger hunt to bring folks together and broaden their understanding of fun Quaker facts and history, as well as encourage involvement within the community in creative ways. We want you to be involved both in the planning and participation of this scavenger hunt. Interested? Visit www.pym.org/scavenger-hunt or contact Zachary Dutton, zdutton@pym.org

Looking ahead to January: Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries Deeper Roots Program - March 2017 - October 2018

Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries is the outgrowth of a leading by Deborah Fisch and Lloyd Lee Wilson to undertake a joint teaching ministry designed to help individual Friends become more deeply rooted in the Quaker faith tradition, especially as it has been expressed among Conservative Friends. In our experience it is a path best learned by long apprenticeship to the living tradition rather than through catechism or independent individual searching. Interested Friends are invited to join us, gathering for Deeper Roots: a series of four long weekends over an 18-month period to explore together in four foundational areas of the tradition: personal and corporate spiritual disciplines, historical gratefulness, scriptural literacy, and contemporary communities of faith.

For more information, or to apply, visit bvqministries.org

Applications are due by January 13, 2017.

Humor Corner: Saylesville Preparative Business Meeting, Sixth Month 12, 2016: It's been almost a year since a car plowed through our front fence. The insurance company settled quickly, but then we had options. Our remaining chain link fence is also rusted. The historically accurate split rail fence option would have meant extra maintenance costs, so Friends put that option aside last winter. The \$35,000 stone wall and fence option was rejected quickly. Bruce is looking into still more options. A fence sitting committee was formed.

Paul Klinkman, from the Quaker House Fall newsletter.

Quote Corner: The first lesson that adults need to learn is that Christianity does not make one secure. It does not create peace of mind amid the chaos of life. Christianity rather gives us the courage to embrace the radical insecurity of life. It gives us the courage to live creatively when there is no peace of mind, to continue putting one foot in front of the other when chaos is the reality of our lives. No one escapes the difficult times of life, not the righteous, the sacred or those who are convinced they possess the true faith. I wish you well. Life is tough; there are no easy answers. That is why Paul Tillich referred to the Christian life as having the courage to be.

John Shelby Spong (Please substitute whatever word, or phrase, you like for Christianity. Quakerism, a spiritual life, whatever.)

The **submission deadline** for the January newsletter is **9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 14.**