



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...

267-285-0553 / secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org Office hours: 9:45–12:30 Mon.–Fri.
[/website greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](http://website.greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org)

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

March 2016

Sunday, 6th	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting 12:30	Breakfast with a Friend—Marille Thomas Coffee Hour—Russ/Vicki Endo Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
Sunday, 13th	9:00 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Forum: <i>Topic to be announced</i> Coffee Hour—Gabbreell James & Kenyatta James
Sunday, 20th	9:00 AM Rise of Meeting 12:45	Meeting for business Monthly Meeting Lunch—Charlotte Anderson & Frank Perch Continuation of Meeting for business
Sunday, 27th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour—JoAnn Seaver/Bill Van Stone



Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Second Month 21, 2016

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Second Month 21, 2016:

Business Meeting convened at 12:50 pm in prayerful silence.

16-02-01 The clerk welcomed Friends and asked each to share their experience of deciding to join the Religious Society. Sharing was tender but cut short out of the necessity of time.

16-02-02 Friends assented to the agenda.

16-02-03 Care and Counsel

William Van Stone brought forward the recommendation that Henry Mohr be accepted as a member of Green Street Friends Meeting. A clearness committee including Bill Van Stone, Trevor Johnson, and Sharon Mullally met with Henry.

Friends approved with great joy committing to explore ways that we as a Meeting can support Henry when he moves on to college in the new school year. Friends said Yaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, David La Fontaine, and Susan Christian will be on the welcoming committee.

16-02-04 Incorporation Process

Sharon Mullally and David La Fontaine reported to the Meeting about the process of finalizing the incorporation of the Meeting. As promised, after consultation with a lawyer, the committee came back to the meeting with an update and to seek the Meeting's counsel. The three issues requiring input were: Membership, quorum, and the possibility of dissolving the meeting.

Sharon and David brought these issues and some general thoughts to the Meeting this month for our reflection. No decision was sought. They will be back on the agenda again next month.

The ad hoc working group on the incorporation process suggested that a quorum be defined as a flat number and not as a percentage of the current membership. They suggested 12 be the number.

With reference to dissolving the Meeting, best practice requires us to decide in that case to whom the assets of the Meeting, including all those owned by both the Meeting and the Trustees, should be transferred. The working group brought forward two options. The first option is that all real property and financial resources (the entire accumulated wealth of the Meeting and Trustees) be transferred to the School. The second option is that the real property go to the School and the financial assets go to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Some Friends wondered whether some fixed percentage of the financial assets -- but not all of them -- be transferred to the school to help support the costs of keeping the buildings in good repair. The members of the working group will consult with the lawyers about the feasibility of this third possibility and bring this question back to the Meeting next month.

David La Fontaine reported on the question of membership as it relates to the incorporation process. Our lawyer has suggested that the language about membership referenced in the incorporation papers remain the same as previously drafted. The distinction between various categories of membership in PYM Faith and Practice is a Quaker concern and not directly relevant to the legal requirement of the law. The lawyer strongly recommends that we continue to use the language "Adult Members" for legal purposes. This language will meet our legal needs and still allow us as a Meeting to revise our understanding of various forms of membership as a Religious Society separately. Friends united with this recommendation and the question will not need to come back to us next month.

16-02-05 Property Committee

Dan McDevitt gave an update about two physical plant issues.

The Facilities Communications Committee has been refining the issues around accessibility on campus. Dan wanted the Meeting to know that ideas are continuously being refined and now are incorporating the possibility of a stair lift inside the Meetinghouse. No final proposal has been developed yet.

Dan also reported the latest progress on the development of a multi-purpose building as outlined in the School strategic plan. The current step is to develop schematic designs and they are about 80% complete. In the next three months, the architects hope to have a finalized design development plan. When design plans are complete there will be a series of meetings, independent of our monthly business meeting schedule, where Friends from the Meeting and those affiliated with the School can review the plans and give feedback.

Once design development is complete there will be a construction development stage. Actual start of construction depends upon identifying adequate funds for the project. It is hoped that construction might begin during the spring of 2017, if all goes well.

16-02-06 Naming Committee

Jonathan Perry, reporting for Naming committee, brought forward the names of Eric Davenport and Mina Baisch to serve on Nominating Committee for a three-year term, through December 2018. Friends approved joyously.

Jonathan also reported that Naming Committee had been in conversation with West Philadelphia Friends as to whether they would like to suggest a person to also serve on Nominating Committee. West Philly Friends were grateful for the invitation but noted that they are too busy on other concerns to identify a person for that office at this time.

Clerk JoAnn Seaver reported that Robin Mohr has agreed to serve as the new clerk of Nominating through the end of her current term.

Friends thanked Robert Dockhorn and Jean Prestas who will rotate off of Nominating Committee after many years of faithful service.

Friends laid down the Naming Committee, with great gratitude.

16-02-07 Report from Susan Christian on the status of her ministry.

Susan reported that with her cancer diagnosis and treatment, and because her job at Germantown Life Enrichment Center has to focus this year on raising money, her time and energy for working directly on Sustainable 19144 has been severely limited. But, during this past 6 months, she has been able to complete a Master Gardening course through the Penn State Cooperative Extension program. Now that her cancer treatment is over and she feels well and strong, she is excited to get back to a number of projects in the community including picking back up the neglected garden project on Meeting property.

Susan also advised Friends that a recent article about GLEC and its work in the community written by a group of Temple students contained numerous inaccuracies and some falsehoods. Chris Mohr, as a member of Susan's support committee noted that our Documentaries and Discussions program have been offered to the public and screened at GLEC, a successful partnership that is a direct result of Susan's work and her connections there.

16-02-08 **First Day School**

Chris Mohr reported about the status of the work of First Day School Committee.

The winter and spring schedule is mostly set. Amy Verstappen, David La Fontaine, Chris Mohr, Neal Fordham, Sharon Mullally, JoAnn Seaver and Susan Christian have all committed to regular service with the younger group.

Anthony DiGiovanni has stepped forward into major leadership with the older group with a particular focus on Friends and politics, including developing feedback for Friends Committee on National Legislation as part of their regular priorities review process.

Our older group has been invited to join in joint programs sponsored by Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting Friends in that same age group making a quilt on the theme of "Black Lives Matter." Proceeds from T-shirts related to this work will go to support EMIR.

There is a nice list of substitutes to flesh out open slots when they arise.

The committee has in place a structure in cooperation with the Yearly Meeting for collecting and retaining security clearances for all volunteers.

The Committee also has responsibility for administrating our multi-generational worship each Fifth First-Day.

Friends were invited to reflect on various ways that we can become a truly multi-generational Meeting. A number of suggestions came forward challenging us to step into new practices that cross the boundaries of age. Included were intergenerational worship-sharing, encouraging young people to consider forming their own business meeting, adults participating in the First Day School programs, meeting members getting to know young Friends personally, and inviting young Friends into shared work for the care of the Meeting. Friends were encouraged to be proactive about starting conversations with Friends as young as 10 or 13 about the nature and process of membership in the Religious Society. Care and Counsel has particular responsibility in this area. First Day School can build curricula in this area as well. The Meeting Secretary will put a notice in the newsletter asking parents to give feedback to Chris Mohr about ways the Meeting can make our structures and our worship more inviting to and inclusive of young people.

16-02-09 A Friend suggested that the time, date and location of West Philadelphia Friends Meeting be published in our newsletter regularly. Friends approved. The Meeting Secretary will make the appropriate formatting changes.

16-02-10 These minutes were approved.

16-02-11 Friends ended in worship with particular gratitude for our Care and Counsel committee for organizing a delicious and rich sharing in our Circles of Care over lunch earlier this day. The Clerk was authorized to write a letter expressing our gratitude.

Meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Third Month 20, 2016.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk
Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Members present: Richard Bansen, Susan Christian, Doris Clinkscale, Anthony DiGiovanni, Robert Dockhorn, Paul Jablonski, Gabbreeell James, David La Fontaine, Dan McDevitt, Chris Mohr, Henry Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Frank Perch, Jonathan Perry, JoAnn Seaver, Walter Sullivan, William Van Stone, Amy Verstappen, Margaret Walters

Attenders present: Geniver Montalvo

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

About our F/friends

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

The First Sunday Meeting for Worship at Stapeley

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

Saturday, March 5 Extended Worship at Swarthmore Friends Meeting, 12 Whittier Place, Swarthmore, Pa. 19081

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. All are welcome. If you will need childcare, email us by Monday, February 16 to let us know.

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 Cleanup and departure.

Future Opportunities: June 4, at Medford Meeting

For more information, please contact Lola Georg at lolageorg@gmail.com or call 484/368-4637

Spring Continuing Sessions of PYM

Gather with other Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) to continue the business and fellowship stemming from Annual Sessions last summer. On **Saturday, March 19**, at Arch Street Meetinghouse, Friends are invited to discover the vast array of ministry that connects us. The day will begin and end in worship, focusing on the mission and priorities of Yearly Meeting, and the companionship of spiritual deepening. Programs for adults, and high school, middle-school, and elementary-school youth. Please go to pym.org for further information about scheduling, programs, and cost and registering.

2016 William Penn Lecture, Saturday, March 19, 7:00 - 9:00, Arch Street Meeting House.

The William Penn Lecture is an annual event for all Friends. It is under the care of Young Adult Friends and comes out of a history that began with the first lecture in 1916. This year, the William Penn Lecture will take place after Spring Continuing Sessions. Mary Crauderueff will be speaking on Spirit Works: Exploring Quaker Leadership. The Details: www.pym.org/calendar/events/2016-william-penn-lecture Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, YoungAdultFriends@pym.org or 215-241-7075

First Day School Committee requests feedback

At the meeting for business on Sunday, Feb. 21, the FDS Committee asked for the Friends present to reflect on various ways that we can become a truly multi-generational Meeting. All Friends, particularly parents, are asked to give feedback to Chris Mohr about ways the Meeting can make our structures and our worship more inviting to and inclusive of young people. Please see minute #16-02-08. mohrandmohr@gmail.com



The Third Query on Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?

- the common testimonies Friends declare?

- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?



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. 10-13, Beyond Crime and Punishment: Fostering Transformative Justice in Community
A Conference for Inspiration, Education, Networking, and Action

Mar. 20-27 Present in Every Moment: Waking Up to Love and Compassion in Our Lives

Saturday, March 5th at 7:30 PM, Detaining Dreams.

Germantown Friends Meeting and the American Friends Service Committee invite you to a presentation, Detaining Dreams. This is part of the No Way to Treat a Child campaign focused on raising awareness of the detention of Palestinian youth and working to pressure Congress to work to stop this practice. Our guests include Jennifer Bing and Nawal Musleh of the AFSC and Yazan Meqbil, public relations coordinator for the Shi'b Alseer Committee. The Committee supports families whose homes are under threat of demolition by the Israeli government. For more information on this campaign please visit <http://www.nowaytotreatachild.org/detaining-dreams/>

This event will be held in the social room of Germantown Friends Meeting, 47 West Coulter Street, Philadelphia, 19144. Light refreshments will be served, all are welcome, please join us.

Joanne Sharpless, Clerk, Adult Class Committee

Germantown Monthly Meeting jsharpless@germantownfriends.org

T. Wistar Brown Teachers' Fund

The Fund provides financial grants supporting members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who are over the age of 21 and who request assistance for professional development in preparing themselves to teach at the primary or secondary school level. Deadlines are: **March 10 for summer.** June 10 for fall/winter. November 1 for spring. Visit: www.twbfund.org for information.

Young Friends (high school) Spring Gathering, March 18-20, Germantown Monthly Meeting

Come join Young Friends for our spring gathering weekend of fun and community. We'll have workshops and worship sharing exploring our theme of arts & creative expression and see the whole yearly meeting for Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meeting.

Details: www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-friends-spring-2016

Hannah Mayer, 215-241-7222 or HMayer@pym.org

Humor Corner: A biblical reason for computer problems?

A doctor, an architect, and a computer scientist were arguing about whose profession was the oldest.

In the course of their arguments, they went all the way back to the Garden of Eden. The doctor said, "The medical profession is clearly the oldest because Eve was made from Adam's rib, as the story goes, and that was an incredible surgical feat."

The architect did not agree. He said, "But if you look at the Garden itself, in the beginning there was chaos and void, and out of that, the Garden and the world were created. So God must have been an architect."

The computer scientist, who had listened to all of this said, "Yes, but where do you think the chaos came from?"

Quote Corner: Does anything unite this diverse group beyond our common love and humanity? Does anything make us distinctively Quaker? I say yes. Each of us has different emphases and special insights, but wherever Friends are affirming each other's authentic experience of God, rather than demanding credal statements, we are being God's faithful Quakers. Wherever we are seeking God's will rather than human wisdom, especially when conflict might arise, we are being faithful Quakers. Wherever we are affirming the total equality of men and women, we are being God's faithful Quakers. Wherever there is no division between our words and our actions, we are being faithful. Whenever we affirm that no one—priest, pastor, clerk, elder—stands between us and the glorious and mystical experience of God in our lives, we are faithful Friends. Whether we sing or whether we wait in silence, as long as we are listening with the whole of our being and seeking the baptism and communion of living water, we will be one in the Spirit.

Val Ferguson, 1991 *PYM Faith & Practice*

The **submission deadline** for the April newsletter is **9:30 AM on Friday, March 18.**