

Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 15, Issue 2, April 2018

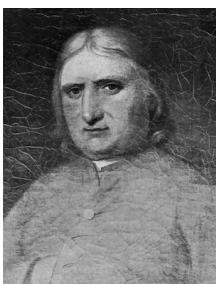
Lost and Found

I was brought up on Quaker values. My parents both dedicated their lives to peace, nonviolence, simplicity, and equality. As I was growing up, I found these values very appealing and tried to live them out to the best of my ability. I was often discouraged by how difficult this was and often found myself wondering, "why can't I be a "good Quaker?"

So, clearly the values were there in my home and in my Meeting but little was ever spoken about the faith behind those values. People did speak about "that of God in everyone," but I often wondered what it was and how to find it. There was some talk about the testimonies, but very little was said about how to get there. I heard the quote from George Fox, "I live in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars." Wow, that's pretty cool," I thought, so I set out on a quest to find it.

I followed Eastern religions for awhile. Someone from my Meeting had suggested meditation but it did not seem to work for me. I was a little calmer but still had trouble sitting in Meeting. I was baptized, full immersion in a Baptist church, but I still came out of the water feeling the same. I sang my heart out in a large charismatic assembly but when I went home, the joy left me. I joined the "born again" Christian movement but I never really felt born again. I read the Bible and listened to numerous sermons but it was always someone else's words. "All your righteousness is like filthy rags," the preacher would repeat, over and over again. I am not sure what he meant by this but I certainly did not need more problems with low self-esteem!

Looking back on it, I had unwittingly become part of a cult and the "minister" was using this quote to make us all feel worthless, so he could control our lives. Scary stuff! (That's another story for another time.) So, it was in the midst of this continued search, and after many disappointments and periods of real despair, that I found George Fox. When I first tried to read the Journal, I found it almost impossible to understand, so many long sentences, and so full of Bible language. Yet one thing stood out to me; Fox too had been searching for a Life and Power beyond himself, and beyond anything he could find from the religions around him, and he had found something! That part was clear, and I wanted to know what his experience was and whether somehow I could have an experience like his.



George Fox had a lot of early experiences that led him to see what was wrong with religion and what was missing in the religion around him. Each of these experiences pointed him



in the same new direction: away from trusting in the many outward practices of religion (which he found hollow, empty, and deceiving) and more toward finding the True Guide within. This is best summarized in his account of hearing a voice (Nickalls, p.11.) "But as I had forsaken all the priests, so I left the separate preachers also, and those called the most experienced people; for I saw there was none among them all that could speak to my condition. And when all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me nor could tell what to do, then, Oh then, I heard a voice which said, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus who can speak to thy condition', and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy.

After this experience, Fox felt a new life and power rise up within in him and he was able to share what he had found with others. The more I read of these experiences, the more I felt something awakening within me, and an inward recognition grew. It became clear to me that changing what was on the outside was not going to help me, I needed to be changed within. I was no longer searching for a new set of beliefs to follow, a new religion, new practices that could help me.

When Fox was questioned by his relatives about no longer attending church services, he quoted from something he had found in the Bible: "As for you, the anointing that you have received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him." (1 Jn.2.26-28, NRSV)

Over the many years of my journey, I have found that it is this encounter with Christ within, and following his inward teaching that changes me inside. It is embarking on this journey together with the Friends in my Meeting that leads us all toward living out our faith in a deeper and more transformative way.

Quaker ideals and values remain at the center of our meetings today. It is a rare and memorable occasion when someone speaks about their inward experience of God and how it has changed their life. Reading Fox's Journal has left me with some important questions about Quakerism today. "Have we simply replaced one outward religion with another?" Are we just practicing religion (Quaker style) or are we really searching for and finding an encounter with Christ, our Living Teacher that can truly change us, bring us closer to one another, and speak to our world?

- Christopher Stern, Middletown Meeting

Come to the next Quarterly Meeting and see Birmingham Meeting's Young Persons' Theatre present 4 vignettes on different aspects of George Fox's life. Discuss how you respond to Fox's challenge.

What has your Coordinator been up to?

I find it hard to accept that I have been serving as your Coordinator for 10 months already! I appreciate all the support you have shown as I learn how everything functions and how the events are planned. In addition, it has been exciting to support the Aging Concerns Working Group of the Quarter and its events.

The Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns meets monthly (and is open to anyone in the Quarter), and a piece of my role is to support the group. Most recently we offered a workshop on "Aging in Place" held at Goshen Meeting with George Schaefer, the Aging and Care Coordinator for PYM. It was well attended and well received. Next up is the Aging Concerns Facilitator training April 13-15, with Callie Janoff from New York Yearly Meeting's ARCH Program, and George Schaefer co-facilitating. We are fully enrolled with 14 from Concord Quarter and 8 from elsewhere in the Yearly Meeting. We are also working to develop support and structure after the training so that the volunteers continue to feel supported.

I also attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions and bring back my impressions. On March 24 PYM Continuing Sessions were held in Harrisburg, further west than usual, in hopes of attracting some who normally don't attend. There were no new attendees, but there were a number who appreciated having to travel just a few minutes. We heard about the new process for how a minute of concern should come to the Yearly Meeting, a procedure which

was missing from the new structure. We also heard about the rejuvenation of the Undoing Racism Group with new Clerks and a website and energy around this important work. And we heard from the Discernment Team and their examination of how the conflict in Upper Dublin Meeting became so serious, and what could be done to prevent a future situation like this. Their report is on the PYM website, along with all the other reports presented. Most moving to me was the group of Middle and High Schoolers who shared their message with us and then attended the March for Our Lives in Harrisburg that day.

A recent meeting with other Quarterly Meeting Coordinators and the PYM Youth Programs staff was also helpful. This meeting had been delayed until Melinda Wenner Bradley, the new Youth Engagement Coordinator (and a West Chester Meeting member) was in place and all her facilitators were hired. It is always great to hear what is happening at PYM with youth programming, and with other Quarters. New communication lines always open up.

Event planning is also part of my role. We had a very successful Square Dance hosted by Willistown in February, and Tubing on the Brandywine is set for June 24. Stay tuned for further details! Do you have an event you would like to see on a Quarter level? Let me know! And if you have an event you would like me to publicize, let me know by the 15th (preferably) of any month.

- Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator

Wilmington Meeting Brings Friends "Berry" Close to the Neighborhood

Quakers are called into community by spirit, as George Fox entreated early Friends to walk cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in every one. At Wilmington Monthly Meeting the Berry Festival is an annual celebration with our neighborhood and community, which includes much cheerful walking, singing, dancing, and eating!

The first Sunday in June for the past eleven years, Wilmington Monthly Meeting has hosted a community block party on its beautiful green grounds. The Berry Festival begins with the celebration of the first fruits of summer - strawberries. Many, many pounds of berries are prepared and served on cake (both short and pound), on ice cream, and plain as the Lord made them! There are also grilled burgers (meat and veggie), hot dogs, smoked turkey and pulled pork with wonderful picnic sides (potato salad, baked beans, etc.), which are all prepared by members of the Meeting. Young friends prepare hand squeezed lemonade from an old recipe. A plant sale area, children's games, face-painting and amazing music round out the festivities.

But the main event is the opportunity for the Meeting to host its neighbors and spend an afternoon in fellowship. The day is a great celebration of family and f(F)riends in an urban oasis. Wilmington Meeting seeks to facilitate dialog and build community in Wilmington's Quaker Hill Neighborhood. Children from the Meeting and neighborhood enjoy the games, music and fun, with their families in tow.

Paul Wishengrad, a CTE educator and radio station manager at nearby Mount Pleasant High School, is one of the organizational

wizards who makes the Festival happen each year. In his work, Paul and his students are committed to identifying and providing a forum for new musicians and artist on the school's radio station, WMPH. Exercising his amazing Quaker talent for connecting people, Paul corrals, cajoles and encourages new artists (as well as some tried and true folk musicians) to provide truly wonderful live music throughout the afternoon of the Festival.

But for Paul, a Wilmington Meeting member, the real highlight of the day is watching the children play and join in the celebration. Many of the children do not know each other, but that never hampers the joy of a bungee jump or the excitement of a bowl of berries and ice cream. He credits the relationship with the community in coordinating events for creating a safe and nourishing environment. He enjoys seeing Friends work together across generations, each as he or she is able, to create a unique early summer celebration.

Proceeds from the Berry Festival support the work of Harmony on the Hill, a program of Wilmington Monthly Meeting. The goal of Harmony on the Hill is to promote messages of non-violence, peace and social justice by being a positive presence in the neighborhood and region. It regularly hosts concerts to bring people and

music into the community and to raise funds to support community causes.

Join us at Wilmington Monthly Meeting on **Sunday, June 3, 2018, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** for the Berry Festival. All are welcome! Friends are guaranteed an afternoon of walking cheerfully (and happily full of berries!). - Debbie Murray-Sheppard



Concord Quarter To Consider Birmingham's Minute on Nuclear Weapons

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Birmingham Monthly Meeting proposed a minute "strongly requesting" the United States to sign and ratify the *UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. At the March 4 meeting for business the minute was approved. The minute was forwarded to Concord QM for its approval, with the hope that it will be then taken up by PYM.

Background: In November 2017, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee reviewed a minute shared by Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Portland, OR, expressing support for the Treaty and urging other Friends Meetings to publicly support it.

Their minute said in part: *We, Quakers of Multnomah Friends Meeting in Portland, Oregon, United States, support the new United Nations General Assembly's Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. (A copy of that treaty is available at: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>) ... We request that all Friends and Quaker Meetings, which are so led, join to make this Treaty more widely known. Let us show our fellow citizens that the door to abolition of nuclear weapons is open. Let us proceed together as the Spirit leads and as the Way opens.*

The process to negotiate a legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons started in the UN in December 2016. On July 7, 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**. No nuclear nations participated in the process. It was opened for signature on September 20. The

Treaty will enter into force 90 days after ratification by 50 states. More than 50 nations have signed the Treaty; however only a handful have ratified it thus far.

The Birmingham Meeting minute reads as follows:

In 2017, 122 United Nations member states wrote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, designed as a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) strongly requests the United States to sign and ratify this Treaty.

On August 6, 1945, the United States incinerated, annihilated, and irradiated with one atomic bomb 200,000 people and destroyed 62,000 buildings in Hiroshima. Three days later the U.S. caused similar devastation in Nagasaki. The effects—physical, mental, and genetic—linger 72 years later. The question of the morality of using such weapons has been debated ever since.

In the ensuing decades, more countries have pursued development of nuclear weapons. Currently, nine nations possess nearly 15,000 such weapons. The risk of using this inventory of nuclear weapons and the threat of building additional ones for use must be eliminated. Total abolition of nuclear weapons is the moral choice and is essential to our survival.

—Charlie Numi - Birmingham Meeting

Care Circles Keep Friends and Attenders Within the Fold

A few weeks ago, George Schaefer, PYM's Care & Aging Coordinator, remarked to those attending an Aging Concerns seminar, on the importance of Pastoral Care committees for the health of our Meetings. The social service provided by an ordained minister in other religious communities needs to be shared amongst all the members of a Quaker meeting. Arlene Kelly, former clerk of PYM had this to say about pastoral care committees in the first PYM Pastoral Care newsletter in 1993: "Pastoral care is the way we journey with each other in times of celebration, sadness, turmoil, transitions and along the quiet stretches. Together with our shared worship experience, it is the main glue which holds our community together."

I queried two Pastoral care committee clerks in our Quarter to see how their committees kept this "main glue" working. I was interested in the concept of "Caring Circles" which both Wilmington and Birmingham have adopted as a strategy for keeping folks in touch with one another. A caring circle starts with a subset of meeting members and attenders connected to a member of the Meeting's pastoral care committee. That member has the responsibility of "keeping in touch" with those in the circle in his or her own way throughout the year.

Barbara Knickerbocker, Birmingham's clerk of their Oversight and Pastoral Care Committee (O&PC) provided this detail of their work (They call their caring circle a "care group"):

The care group leader would respond to any special need that arose for a member of the group such as an illness or a death in the family, or to a positive occasion such as a birth or graduation. In terms of an occasion of special need, the O&PC coordinates what we call our "Casserole Patrol" which is a list of Meeting members who have volunteered to bring food when needed. O&PC also has a list of Meeting members who have volunteered to provide transportation when needed. An example here would be the care group leader coordinating Meeting volunteers to provide rides to weekly physical therapy appointments for a Friend who is in rehabilitation following surgery. The O&PC also keeps a "Prayer Chain" list of volunteers who can be called upon for prayers in any special situation requested. At times, the clerk of O&PC or another committee member might inform the Meeting as a whole, via an announcement after worship or our e-mail list, of some situation such as a Friend being in the hospital, with the permission of the Friend involved. Confidentiality and privacy are always respected.

Evelyn Brownlee, Wilmington's clerk of their Committee on the Care of Meeting, provided this detail on how they stay in contact:

We have two contact groups, Caring Circles and Distant Friends. Wilmington Meeting has a large number of members who reside outside the geographical area in addition to local Friends who do not participate in the Meeting either through attendance or committee work. Each member of the Committee on care is assigned a number of people in a Caring Circle and in the Distant Friends. Each member keeps in touch with the assigned names in his or her own way. Generally, the Distant Friends are contacted at Christmas with greetings and an update on the Meeting. We keep in touch with or about those in the Caring Circles and report any difficulties where the meeting could help. Over time we have found that some members do not want this regular contact so we try to respect their wishes.

There are other ways that Pastoral Care works at Wilmington and Birmingham, but the idea of "Caring Circles" seems to be an easy takeaway example for others Meetings wishing to strengthen their sense of community. Below is the template letter that Birmingham uses to gather members and attenders into their Care Group:

Dear Friends,

As a member of Birmingham's Oversight and Pastoral Care Committee, I am writing this note to let you know about something that our committee does every year. In order for our committee to be sure that all members of the Meeting are held in the Light in times of stress or difficulty, as well as on joyous occasions, we have "Care Groups". Each member of the Meeting is part of one of these groups and a designated member of our committee makes a special effort to keep in touch with them.

In our busy lives, it can be hard to keep track of one another, but we believe this is important to ensure that everyone feels that s/he is an integral part of the Birmingham Meeting community. We could use some extra eyes and ears with this effort. To that end, our committee feels that it would be helpful for members of each Care Group to be aware of who else is in their group so we can all be alert to one another's needs. The members of our group are: ... names ... phone numbers e-mail addresses ...

If you learn of particular events happening in the life of anyone in our group, it would be helpful if you could let me know. Our committee is able to respond to a variety of needs involving medical issues or work issues, for example, by making a home visit from our "casserole patrol", coordinating transportation, running errands, and so forth. We would like to be supportive to one another in both good and bad times. Be assured that any information you pass along will be held in respectful confidence. Thank you for your help in making Birmingham Meeting the most supportive community it can be.

— Rich Ailes – Middletown Meeting

Concord Quarterly Meeting's April-May 2018 Announcements and Calendar of Events

Announcements

The minutes from our January 28 Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington have been posted on the Quarter's website (<http://concordquarter.org/documents>). If you have any comments on those minutes, please send them to David Leonard, Recording Clerk, at leonard@berkeley.edu by April 13, 2018

Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School are considering a possible care relationship. Curious? Here's a link to the DVFS newsletters: <https://www.dvfs.org/page.cfm?p=947>

Friends General Conference Gathering, Toledo, Ohio, July 1-7, early registration (<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>). The theme is "The Power of Truth". Register early for the best chance at getting first choice workshop and financial aid.

Calendar of Events

- April 10 1:30-4:30 pm** **Resilience to Extreme Weather Events: How Schools can Lead in Prevention & Preparedness, at West Chester University.** Co-Sponsored by the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative. Info and registration: <https://protectinglocalschools.eventbrite.com/>
- April 11 5 – 6:30 pm** **Sip & Sit Program on Dementia at the Anna T Jeanes Building/The Hickman, 444 N. Walnut St, West Chester.** 5:00 wine & nosh, 5:30 program. RSVP by 4/4
- April 13-15** **Ageing Concerns Facilitator Training sponsored by Concord Quarter at West Chester Meeting & The Hickman.** <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/> (Registration closed but waiting list available)
- April 15 11:15 am** **Spring Worship at Chichester Meetinghouse, 611 Meetinghouse Rd, Boothwyn, PA** <https://www.chichestermeetinghouse.org/docent/2018/spring-chichester-meeting-for-worship>
- April 17 6:30 PM** **Signe Wilkinson, a Quaker political cartoonist at the Philadelphia Inquirer,** at the Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center in West Chester. Signe grew up at Willistown Meeting. For more information and tickets: <http://uptownwestchester.org/speaker-series/>
- April 22 8:30-1:30 pm** **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham Meeting, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester, PA .** See other page in newsletter for more details.
- April 27-29** **PYM Young Adult Friends Retreat at Green Street Meeting.** For young adults aged 18-35ish. http://www.pym.org/event/young-adult-spring-retreat-renewal/?instance_id=1727
- May 4-6** **Camp Swatara 2018 for PYM Middle School and Young Friends.** For more information: http://www.pym.org/event/camp-swatara-2018/?instance_id=1683 Register by April 20..
- May 12 10 am to 12** **Preschool Fun Fair & Open House at Goshen Friends School, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester.** Crafts, games, snacks, moonbounce & playgorund fun! Meet teachers, tour, learn about their programs. Register at www.goshenfriends.org/register-for-an-open-house
- May 18-20** **Silent Retreat at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville.** Contact Scott Smith of West Chester Meeting for more information or to register: scott@envirosureinc.com
- June 3 1 – 4 PM** **Wilmington Meeting's Berry Festival –** see article in this newsletter
- June 24** **Hold the date for Tubing on the Brandywine! Details to come next month.**

Everyone Welcome, no need to be a Quaker.



**Chichester
Meetinghouse**

Spring Meeting for Worship

April 15, 2018 11:15am

**Spend an Afternoon
in a Meeting for Tubing!**
Coming June 24



Concord Quarterly Meeting – April 22, 2018

Birmingham Monthly Meeting

8:15-8:30	Sign-in
8:30-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:00-11:15	Meeting for Worship with Birmingham Meeting
11:15-11:30	Announcements and break
11:30-12:30	Intergenerational Program on George Fox
12:30-1:30	Lunch (provided; donations to Right Sharing of World Resources accepted)
12:30-1:30	Lunch for Monthly Meeting Clerks



Encounters with Fox – Young Persons' Theatre Presentation

Learn about George Fox, his life and ideas at Quarterly Meeting. The children of the Quarter will present vignettes about George Fox, father of Friends of Truth, at Quarterly Meeting, April 22, 2018 to be held at Birmingham Friends Meeting, 1245 Birmingham Road, West Chester. The intergenerational program will feature the children acting out scenes from George Fox's life with queries for the group after each vignette. The queries will help our members examine how George Fox's ideas resonate with Friends in the twenty-first century. All children of the Quarter are invited to play a part in preparing scenery and acting in the vignettes.

Children's Program

Young friends are invited to join the First Day School. All children of the Quarter will be invited to play a part in preparing scenery and acting in the vignettes. Childcare is available for the youngest beginning at 8:30.

Location: Birmingham Meeting 1245 Birmingham Road, West Chester, PA 19382
From Rte. 202 take Rte. 926 west; go south at Birmingham Rd; look for the meetinghouse on the left.
For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps/>
You can also email Lynne Piersol, Coordinator, at concordquarter@pym.org

Concord Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Meeting, January 28, 2018

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of unprogramed worship at 8:30 am.

Monthly Meeting Count: All member meetings were represented. Thirty-two Friends were present as the meeting began.

Minutes from October 22, 2018 were approved.

Joys and Challenges Report from Goshen Meeting: Laura Laky - The report is attached below as Appendix 1.

Update and discussion regarding a possible care relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School - The group had a preliminary meeting last year. The school is seeking contacts through which its students can be more involved with Friends. The group agreed that before a decision could be made about oversight, opportunities for Friends in the Quarter to get to know more about the school are needed. Westtown MM has two Friends who volunteered to get to know the school better.

Working Group on Aging Concerns Report: Rich Ailes - The report is attached below as Appendix 2.

In response to a question it was noted that after the fire at Barclay Friends our Coordinator put out to the Quarter a call for assistance. This is not, however, a focus of this committee.

Nominating Committee Deb Wood - The committee's nomination of Deb Lyons as Concord Quarter's representative to PYM's Nominating Council was approved. Appreciation was minuted for the long service of Peter Lane on the Council.

Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings with Limited Attendance Report David Leonard

David Leonard is at work at identifying groups that might like to share use of Concord Meeting House The appropriate networks/ outlets are not easy to find. Leads would be welcome.

Treasurer's Report Tom Haviland - The report is attached below as Appendix 3.

Opportunity for meetings to briefly share discernment or faithful action in accord with the testimonies

Westtown Meeting has been discerning what it should do about sanctuary for immigrants. One Friend spoke of her experience with trying to advertise the presence of the small Appoquinimink Preparative Meeting. Willistown also is challenged with modest attendance and few children, so that overseeing the maintenance of the property is difficult. It is putting on public programs to improve its outreach, which are well attended but has not spilled over to attendance at meeting for worship. Its clerk observed that many of our meetings have dynamic concerns but are struggling with regular attendance. Another Friend observed that a decline in involvement in voluntary organizations is a general cultural problem throughout our society today. Still another spoke of the conflict on Sunday mornings with youth sports now and the success that Florida Avenue Meeting in Washington DC is having with Sunday evening worship.

Coordinator Report Lynne Piersol - The report was not presented but is attached at Appendix 4.

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance – Thirty-six Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted: Deb Wood (clerk) and David Leonard (recording)

Appendix 1. Joys and Challenges Report from Goshen Meeting Laura Laky

Goshen Meeting is small and in a challenging period. We have lost members due to health, relocation, and discernment about where they want their faith community. Goshen Friends School, which shares our property, has eliminated its elementary school program and is now functioning only as a nursery school. This has changed the uses of our buildings and it appears that we may be renting space to another tenant.

Through all these changes, members shared a feeling that our community paradoxically has been strengthened by the challenges. We are working assiduously together to solve these complex problems. Members are becoming better informed on the details of managing our ten-acre property. We are growing in our sense of stewardship as we carefully look forward at our responsibilities. In preparing for this report, members reflected a sense of nourishing warmth in our meeting. Our spiritual depth is real. Members feel safe to speak their experiences in their own words and to share from the Deep Place things that are sometimes fragile and other things that are sometimes filled with incredible beauty.

We are grateful for our monthly meetings for learning and our weekly fellowship time with refreshments after worship. The meeting prayerfully considered the challenge of "bridging differences" in this culturally divided time in our country. We spent several months on this topic and found our joint reflections to be valuable as we face person-to-person differences in many aspects of our daily lives. In our small group there is strong calling to be present at worship and Friends express their gratefulness to be here. We welcomed one new member by transfer this year and we have had a couple of wonderful new attenders. Our committees are small but working hard to care for and nurture the meeting and its property. We have co-clerks now who find strength in sharing the clerking tasks and reflect that gift joyfully to the meeting.

We grieve the loss of members and our inability to provide a religious education program for children. We must be honest with ourselves that we don't have the resources for children's programming right now. We stay open however to new possibilities further down the road.

We are looking at forming a "Light Group" based on Rex Ambler's book, *Light to Live By*. Several members have expressed an interest in participating. While a few of our members serve beyond the local meeting in various ways, we are aware that we don't have members to fill all the requests at the quarterly or yearly meeting level. Right now, it is taking all our energy to keep the home fires burning. We support those who are called to broader service and release our meeting from the guilt that can come from living under "shoulds and oughts."

While our meeting is doing pretty well overall, we also feel our vulnerabilities. We need your prayers and support as we seek to stay grounded in God's strength, which is the true source of our joy, commitment, and ability to keep our meeting strong.

Appendix 2. Group on Aging Concerns – Rich Ailes

Our group has met three times since our last Quarterly Meeting, in November, December and January. It has agreed to meet monthly for the time being. All Meetings in the Quarter continue to be represented with support provided by our coordinator, Lynne Piersol. The director of the Hickman, Pam Leland remains part of the working group. Meetings are being held either at the Hickman or at West Chester Meeting.

Work on the April Aging Concerns Facilitator Training and the Aging in Place workshop in March has been the primary focus of the group. It was decided to change the date of the Aging in Place workshop to March 3 from January 20 so as not to conflict with the date of the Women's Marches in Philadelphia and elsewhere. Publicity for both events was developed and produced and has been sent out to the various Quarter email lists. An article publicizing the April training appeared in the recent Quarterly Meeting newsletter.

A required registration form for the training is now up on the QM website. Those interested in applying for the training can go to this page to fill out the form: <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/aging-concerns-facilitator-training-app>. The cost of the training is being covered by a generous grant from the Friends Foundation on Aging. Those funds have already been transferred to the Quarter's bank account. We were grateful that a thank you letter was sent out by our clerk to the Foundation shortly after our last Quarterly Meeting. So far 7 registrations have been received. The workshop has a top limit of 25 participants. The working group decided to give priority status to Concord Quarter members and attenders up to February 9 after which we will consider registrations from other parts of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

The Aging in Place workshop will be held at Goshen Meeting on March 3 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM followed by a light lunch. The Working Group has been in contact with our treasurer to see if the Quarter can provide some funding to help with the light lunch meal. The group is developing a set of questions for George Schaefer (the presenter) to address during the workshop. Materials relating to the Aging in Place theme will be available at the workshop.

The group continues to have strong attendance at the planning meetings. There is always some discussion of a relevant aging topic during the meetings as well as a healthy dose of fun Quaker banter. Anyone from the Quarter is welcome to join us. The next meeting is at the Hickman on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM. For more information you can contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org or Rich Ailes at railesjr@ailesdodson.org

Appendix 3 -- Tom Haviland, Treasurer

Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Q2 (Oct – Dec) January 28, 2017 - A non-redacted copy may be requested from the Coordinator at concordquarter@pym.org.

Income and Expenses Highlights

- Covenant contributions were received from 7 Monthly Meetings (5 of the 7 contributions were received in January and will be reflected in 3rd Q).
- Tuition Grant funds of \$8,502 were divided among 13 students (\$654/student) and sent to 5 Friends Schools
- October Picnic/Canoeing and December Drop & Shop programs expenses (\$280) were partially offset by donations (\$94). Annual Property/Liability insurance (\$504) and Admin costs (\$272) were other significant operating expenses.
- ARCH Grant (\$6993) from Friends Foundation for the Aging received and added to our books to track.

...redacted: Income and Expenses and Assets....

Assets Highlights

- From September 30 to December 31, Consolidated Fund unit value increased from \$52.05 to \$53.73 and the Green Fund unit value increased from \$38.22 to \$39.31.
- In early October, \$8502 was withdrawn from the FF – STIF account (Tuition Grant Fund). In late December, the Consolidated and Green Funds' semi-annual distributions (\$4200) were placed in the FF – STIF account.
- \$500 was taken from Reserve to open a Coordinator Operating/Programs Expense Account. A debit card for this account has been given to the Coordinator. **Note: Individual Monthly Meeting Consolidated and Green Fund balances are available by request from the Treasurer.**

Appendix 4: Report of the Concord Quarter Coordinator – Lynne Piersol

What has your Coordinator been up to?

As Coordinator, I attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions. On November 4, we worshiped, heard reports and participated in some exercises expanding on what was done at Annual Sessions in the summer about becoming more welcoming. Among other items, Administrative Council reported that work on a process for carrying a minute of concern forward to the body from a meeting or Quarter has been done jointly with Quaker Life Council and will be reviewed soon.

Quaker Life Council's clerk had just resigned, so their report was given by others. Zachary Dutton shared about the new Resource Friends program which will be training people in four areas to be resources in the areas of Social Justice, Pastoral Care, Youth Work and Religious Education, and Young Adults Support.

The other report was from the Discernment Team formed after Quaker Life Council took under their care the long-standing conflict between Upper Dublin Meeting and their member whose membership was terminated earlier this year. The Team had not gotten very far. They are humble, but are continuing to work on the situation. The individual involved was upset and frustrated that no one had spoken with her yet.

The Steering Committee for the Multicultural Institutional Audit of 21 individuals was introduced. The Clerk is tonya thames taylor, our speaker from Quarterly Meeting. She sees this as a very positive opportunity. They will be meeting in December to start work on selecting a consultant. We were asked to "love us as we go through this process."

Christie Duncan-Tessmer's report included her trip in September to the Middle East as a member of the National Council of Churches Governing Board. They got to speak with many people on all sides of the conflicts there. Christie also shared that PYM's Annual Fund raised more funds than it had the previous year, for the first time in 6 years. Later we were led in a listening exercise by Sarah Willie LeBreton, and Inspira Williams. In pairs, with the help of queries, we shared about microaggressions or structural racism. People then shared from all stages of their awareness, many from deep in their hearts.

In addition to attending Yearly Meeting Sessions, I continue to visit meetings, attend events, share information across the Quarter, plan for future events, and more. I also "staff" the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Recently I participated in the annual Quaker worship during the Sunday evening Vespers program at White Horse Village. A very successful Parents' Morning Off event was held on December 9, cosponsored with Western Quarter. 14 children attended, and their parents enjoyed a few hours to themselves.

I've been asked on several occasions if other meetings are involved in particular issues, (for example, sanctuary) and have put the clerks of Peace and Social Concerns Committees in touch with each other. I'd like to do more of that. I also would like to help the meetings in the Quarter be more visible. I'd be interested in talking with people about a Facebook page. Also, I'd be happy to help plan more Quarter events that are of interest. Ideas could include social events, like a game night, a parent discussion group, either in person or virtual, another parents' morning off, more intergenerational events? I'm thinking of doing a survey to determine interest. I'm also happy to research other kinds of resources and hear about ones that have been helpful to your meeting.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 15 Issue 2 April 2018

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Editor: Rich Ailes

Published: January, April, July and October

Phone: 610-543-7321

Submissions Due: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15

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