

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 16, Issue 3, July 2019

Note: Our July 21 Quarterly Meeting at Willistown will feature a presentation by Melinda Wenner Bradley, PYM's Youth Religious Life Coordinator.

**Fostering Community with Young Friends**

Rufus Jones wrote, "Something of God comes into our world with every child that is born. There is here with the newborn child a divine spark, a light within." For Friends, what does it mean to nurture children's spiritual lives from infancy through youth, as part of life-long spiritual formation? How do we weave together the activity implied in the language of formation, and the stillness of a faith rooted in listening within for guidance from Spirit? A related question often lifted up by Friends: How do we keep young people active in meeting life as they grow into adolescence and emerging adulthood?



For even the youngest children, Spirit is present and integrated in moments of challenge and joy and deeply connected to how they understand themselves—from the time before they have any spoken language for their experiences. Working with middle and high school students, I have found them longing for a place to talk about what they believe and the many questions they have about beliefs and faith.

In our meeting communities, we hope young people find a place to share their spiritual journeys with one another, and with trusted adults who support and walk alongside them. Religious education for young Friends can plant seeds of life-long spiritual formation when it affirms a young person's present, growing spiritual life. How do we nurture ways to weave together what is taught in youth religious education programs with what is "caught" in their interactions with the Quaker way in a meeting community, and their own experience of God?

Thinking about the range of experiences that exist, not just developmentally for children and youth, but among individuals in an experiential faith, I'd like to propose a few core ideas for nurturing young Friends' spiritual lives across childhood and adolescence:

1 - Support parents: The people who raise us are our first teachers, and pastoral care for children begins with care for their caregivers. When they cross the threshold into a meeting community, help parents explore both their individual spiritual journeys and hopes for spiritual community for their family. This isn't a process that ends when a family has become members or when kids have grown into teens. Parenting continually challenges us to adapt and grow, and spiritual nurture of care-takers at all ages is an ongoing endeavor for the meeting community.

2 - Engage in "reflective attentiveness": Isn't this one way to describe what we engage in when we worship? With any First Day School curriculum materials, where can we make space for imagination, creativity, and play together? We are not passive receivers of truth, but active seekers. How can we make space for children to explore and reflect on what they experience through silence, story, and community? Do we make space in worship for children to be part of the body gathered? (That's often a messy question, one that can challenge meeting communities and parents alike. I think we have work to do and ideas to share to make that space — see #4 below.)

3 - Create safe spaces: To thrive, children's spirituality needs safe spaces to explore, to come closer to what is bigger than them, and to trust in both the knowing and not-knowing. It's about balancing intentional child safety in our communities with the relationships built between us and between generations, and with God. Spaces have boundaries, and working with children and youth means adapting those outer edges as young people grow and gather experiences. We may be called on to create safe space in new ways, to trust in the child and trust in Spirit showing the way for all of us.

4 - Invite them to the table: In religious education programs for children, youth, and also for adults, we are laying a table with what Quakerism has to offer today. Like many family gatherings, there may also be a children's table—a place like First Day School. This table needs to exist because young people need a space that is their own, to try on ideas, to play, learn, and be in community together. At the same time, we need to make sure we ask them to pull up a chair at the "family" table with the adults. We need to invite them into fellowship, learning, and worship within the larger community. They need to know there is a place already set for them there. We need to do this both for our children, and for the future of Quakerism.

Come explore these ideas, your experiences and reflections, and more, during the program at Concord Quarterly Meeting hosted by Willistown Meeting on July 21. We'll consider some "outside the box" thinking about Quaker youth ministry today, particularly with older youth in mind, and how we might build capacity to support programs for youth in Concord Quarter. The first part of the

program will include a multigenerational activity, and child care will be available throughout the morning.

-Melinda Wenner Bradley,  
Youth Religious Life  
Coordinator



## Birmingham First Day School Builds Community for All Ages

Our younger members at Birmingham Meeting are an integral part of our community. We strive to provide them many opportunities for learning about a religious life while integrating them with our adult members. Our First Day School is staffed by eight active members of



our meeting who endeavor to ensure there is a first day school lesson planned and implemented each Sunday. Since we view a healthy FDS as being vital to the continuing life of the Meeting, we want to ensure there is some type of program each week not only for our regular members/attenders, but also

for any visiting children who may show up. There are a number of teachers who volunteer who are not part of the RE committee.

Each year, the theme of the program rotates between the Bible one year and Quakerism the following year. After First Day School each week, the class comes into the meeting room after our service and reports to those in the meeting room about the lesson that they learned that day. There is also often an activity, such as an art project, that they did as part of the lesson for the week which they share with the meeting. It is my opinion that this process helps to bond the children with the meeting and vice versa. Betsy Wenny, clerk of our Religious Ed committee agrees. She has said:

*"I have seen great growth in shy children who have become more confident in speaking to the crowd of adults and the adults are very appreciative learning about what FDS is doing. It has the added benefit of the adults getting familiar with our great kids and gives adults a segue for conversation during our social hour after meeting."*

There are also a number of projects that the First Day School participates in throughout the year. Birmingham publishes a yearly newsletter for all of its members, and I went to the newsletter to do

some research for this article, and copied below the section about the FDS activities for 2018:

First Day School youth ... had their own Youth Committee service projects such as the Heifer Project, the Christmas Giving Tree to support Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children and helping with the book sale to raise money to purchase landmine detectors. Youth Committee was able to get a 3 to 1 match from Heifer International which will triple the order.

During the Spring term, our First Day School studied Quaker history, practices, queries, and testimonies. They had a field trip to Barnes-Brinton House and learned how chocolate and Quakers are related. After a tour of the house, there was a fun chocolate-making activity. This Fall the children are learning more about the Bible.

Our young people performed an intergenerational play at Concord Quarterly Meeting in April. The play, written by one of our members, highlighted vignettes from George Fox's life and testimonies. After each segment, prepared queries elicited responses from all ages. The audience and participants were enthusiastic about the program.

Betsy also reminds us that:

*Another thing which we believe helps with communications throughout meeting is that our office manager now publishes the topic of each week's FDS lesson in our weekly bulletin. One other highlight in our FDS is the way a number of lessons are taught. We use "Faith & Play" or "Godly Play" for which several of our teachers received training in how to do it.*

I hope this brief summary gives you a flavor of how we integrate our youth into our wider Quaker community. For more information you can contact Betsy Wenny at [betsy.wenny@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.wenny@gmail.com).

- Chris McKenney - Birmingham Meeting & Rich Ailes

## A Leading into a Book: Writing Charlie Walker's History

*A Quaker Behind the Dream: Charlie Walker and the Civil Rights*

*Movement Volume 1, 1920-1955*, is finally out, after myriads of victories along with snags and frustrations. The man in my book who stood behind Martin Luther King's dream, was my father, Philadelphia Quaker and expert in nonviolence, who organized training, wrote training materials and helped set down the principles, strategies and tactics of nonviolence. He met King in Montgomery in 1955, corresponded with him all through 1956. In 1960, King wrote a letter to my dad, praising him for his writing of training materials that were very helpful to the movement, and for his skill and understanding in the field of nonviolence.



Although my father had worked all his life helping others attain their human dignity, in his waning years, he suffered debilitating strokes and heart attacks, making it impossible for him to write his own story. But, he had kept so many records, letters, reports, writings that they took up half the recreation room! It was an amazing treasure. My mother would take me down and show me these daunting boxes, saying, "If no one writes a book about your father, all this will be lost." I would nod my head in agreement, but it wasn't until the third or fourth time, I could hear God saying, "You know this is YOUR job, don't you?"

My reaction was, "It can't be! I live too far away, in Michigan. Surely someone else will step forward." But no one did. Although God never said he would write the book for me, he promised I would have what

I needed. And a wealth of helped materialized: PYM and other grants for travel East, to work in archives and to interview people who knew my Dad, such as Rev. James Lawson and Coretta Scott King's sister, Edythe Scott Bagley.

From my research, I realized nonviolence was a major key to the Movement being successful and gaining the allies it so desperately needed. People assume the civil rights movement "just happened," but there was an amazing amount of organization, strategy and commitment to the principles of Nonviolent Direct Action. Not a passive acceptance of evil, but pitting one's whole will, body and spirit against injustice.

Dr. King's only weapon as he put it, was LOVE. They prayed for their opponents (he did not call people his enemies, but they were THE OPPONENT. This was an impressive discipline, and it won them the admiration of not only the nation, but the world.) As a Quaker, I feel this dedication to doing the right thing, to conduct one's protest the right way, and to praying the way through, was one of the cores of the movement's success. It was successful so long as they clung to this discipline, this way of life, this rather Quakerly way of approaching protest and achieving change. Nonviolence was based upon longtime Quaker principles, and many Quakers helped the civil rights movement establish and maintain the cutting edge in social change and achieving justice. In my opinion from all my research, this is why it has not been duplicated since. No one since has had the commitment to Nonviolent Direct Action like Dr. King and his team.

Read about this in my book, available online through Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

- Brenda Walker Beadenkopf - Concord Friends Meeting

## What does the FGC Institutional Assessment have to say to PhYM Friends?

At PhYM Continuing Sessions in March, we considered two presentations: One was the recommendation by the PhYM Multicultural Audit Steering Committee (MASC) of a consultant for the PhYM Multicultural Audit. The committee, somewhat smaller than in its beginning, had worked for 14 months. Those remaining highly recommended Prototype Entities as the consultant. The second presentation was Philadelphia Quarter's minute recommending that PhYM not move forward with a consultant, but learn from Friends General Conference's completed Institutional Assessment. There was much discussion and we learned that several committee members had resigned because they believed that PhYM should study the FGC results before any steps were taken to hire a consultant. The body formally received the name of the consultant for possible use in the future and the MASC was released. There was not unity about moving forward with an audit at this time.

So, how can the FGC Assessment inform us? Following are some highlights from the report and some ideas to consider. There is now a 10-member Implementation Team that is available to come to meetings. A summary and full report are available here: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/fgcs-institutional-assessment-2017-2018>

The report includes stories from over the years that show how white/European-American culture, in which we are immersed, makes us unaware of the impact of structural racism. The 2016 FGC Gathering location was chosen with no input from Friends of Color, resulting in a campus where they were not safe from harassment. "White Supremacy Culture" an article by Okun cited in the report, describes a list of characteristics that exist in Euro-centric culture in organizations. Some aspects lifted up in the article and that were confirmed in the FGC data include: defensiveness, worship of the written word, only one right way, paternalism, either/or thinking, power hoarding, fear of open conflict, I'm the only one who can do it, I have a right to be comfortable, culture of scarcity. When I read these characteristics, they ring true as an unhealthy culture influencing us.

The assessment shows that the experiences of racism within the Society of Friends have never been fully heard or understood.

## A Letter to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends from the Former Clerks

Dear Friends,

As the six living former Clerks of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, we offer this letter of loving encouragement to our Yearly Meeting. Over the course of our Yearly Meeting's three hundred and thirty-eight year history, we have experienced times when Friends were troubled and exercised about public actions and weighty concerns in Annual Sessions. Nevertheless, we endured and continued with our faith, vision, and love for one another. We have a robust and proven spiritual tradition and we are called to understand and practice it today, even in the face of discord.

It is our experience that our community has been in a state of contentiousness and unfriendliness that has separated us in what seem to be secular ways. Several factors have contributed to this condition: tensions regarding a vision for undoing racism; adjustment to new structures; abuse of social media; the unfamiliarity that many Friends seem to have with Quaker decision-making practices in large groups; and hurtful behavior that has gone unaddressed. Some Friends stay away either out of frustration or because our public conflict is uncomfortable.

It can be hot and messy when we do not manage conflict well. When we are challenged, it is essential that we stay in relationship with one another while seeking the way forward and resolving individual differences. Love still abides in and with us. We can, in all humility, love one another even when there are painful differences.

Conflict avoidance is common. Those that have spoken out have sometimes been labeled troublemakers (because it has made Friends of European descent uncomfortable). They also found that those in positions of leadership are primarily accountable to people of European descent, who are often unaware how this structure comes across to Friends of Color. Our meetinghouse walls often do not reflect any kind of diversity. Many experience our decision making process as non-transparent and carried out by a few Friends of European descent.

So, what can we do? Germantown Meeting had a recent presentation about the assessment. Red Cedar Meeting in Michigan has a monthly group focusing on spiritual grounding for racial justice, looking at the intersectionality of racism and other issues. At one meeting, they read through the stories of racism in the Assessment resulting in a greater understanding of the depth of the pain. Meetings have had workshops on many topics, but then how do we put our knowledge into action? Carolyn Lejuste suggests a three-part model for our growth (based on Lloyd Lee Wilson): 1. Conviction: I am part of the problem. 2. Convincement: I can be part of the solution. 3. Conversion of Manners: I'm going to change my behavior.

Some other ideas based on the report were shared by David Etheridge, from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Thoughts include meetings designating a person to monitor the FGC website to identify resources on race and racism. Meetings can visit local multicultural congregations or congregations composed mostly of People of Color to learn how they welcome People of Color. They could get involved with other interfaith organizations that include congregations that are multicultural and a majority People of Color. Meetings can do an audit of their physical space, websites, and social media to discern what cultural norms are represented.

Perhaps most important, whenever any meeting decisions are being made, ask this question: "How does this decision support (our) goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?"

*By Lynne Piersol, who is grateful for the consultation of Carolyn Lejuste and David Etheridge from the FGC Implementation Team.*

We unite in encouraging each of us to stay in relationship, to hear one another, and to move forward with love and respect. Our Yearly Meeting is a spiritual community; with God's help, we can transform these struggles into something new—strong, penetrating and effective to address all matters before us, including our concerns with racism.

Our decision-making is a spiritual process that calls us to hold our meetings for business in a spirit of worship, seeking and being open to the leadings of the Spirit. We know that together in waiting worship and with Divine assistance many things are possible; we will be astonished at what unfolds. It takes all of us: we who pray, we who listen, we who heal, we who witness for peace and justice, and we who have voice and vision are needed now. Now is a time for us to join together, humbly finding our way, sharing kindness, and uniting as a community in Spirit-led witness. On the following page, we suggest some of the shared practices that can be useful to us as we travel with one another for Truth.

- Arthur M. Larrabee (1991 – 1995) Gretchen Castle (2002 – 2005)  
Martha B. Bryans (1995 – 1999) Thomas Swain (2005 – 2012)  
Arlene Kelly (1999 – 2002) Jada Jackson (2012 – 2015)

<https://www.pym.org/a-letter-to-philadelphia-yearly-meeting-of-the-religious-society-of-friends-from-the-former-clerks/>



# Concord Quarterly Meeting's July-August 2019 Announcements and Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The minutes from our April 28 Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Friends School are on the website <https://concordquarter.org/documents/>. Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk for April, Rich Ailes at [railesjr@ailesdodson.org](mailto:railesjr@ailesdodson.org)

For Pendle Hill events and calendar: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>. The Friendly Forest exhibit includes a piece made at West Chester Meeting.

**Friends General Conference Gathering** Check out the author event on July 2 at 3pm featuring Brenda Beadenkopf speaking on her new book *Behind the Dream: Charlie Walker and the Civil Rights Movement*. Brenda's sister, Valerie Walker Peery, Clerk of Concord Meeting will be assisting.

## Calendar of Events

- June 30**  
**7:50 pm** **Twilight Meditation at Kirkwood Preserve (8pm)**, off Grubbs Mill Rd from Goshen Rd. Meet at Newtown Friends Meeting, 120 N Newtown Street Rd, Newtown Square, PA
- July 17**  
**10:30 am to noon** **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns** at West Chester Meeting's worship room, 425 N. High Street, West Chester PA. Open to anyone in the Quarter interested in Aging Concerns. Questions? Contact the CQ Coordinator, [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- July 21**  
**8:30 am to 1:00 pm** **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Willistown Meeting**, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073, Meeting for Business, Meeting for Worship, Program with Melinda Wenner Bradley, our PYM Youth Religious Life Coordinator on youth engagement, and lunch! Children's program (and they have a new playground!). See more information in this newsletter.
- July 23,**  
**2 pm to**  
**July 24** **Spiritual Formation Retreat before PYM Annual Sessions** at The College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ 08628 Centering Ourselves in Trust and Love. Includes time with Valerie Brown. For more info: <https://www.pym.org/event/pre-sessions-spiritual-formation-retreat/>
- July 24**  
**to**  
**July 29** **PYM Annual Sessions** at The College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ 08628. How do we Center Ourselves in Trust and Love? Programs for all ages. Financial aid available. Multigenerational residential programs, business, witness, and FUN. For more information and to register: <https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>. Come for all or part of the program.
- July 25**  
**2:00 pm** **Workshop with Brenda Beadenkopf and Valerie Peery** from Concord Meeting during Annual Sessions on *A Quaker Behind the Dream* about Charlie Walker, their father and a Philadelphia Quaker from Concord Meeting and his work in the civil rights movement and working relationship with Martin Luther King. Concord Meeting is also sponsoring an exhibit about *A Quaker Behind the Dream*.
- July 28**  
**7:35 pm** **Twilight Meditation** at Ashbridge Preserve (7:45), off Goshen Rd. Meet earlier at Newtown Friends Meeting, 120 N Newtown Street Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073 to travel over.
- August 3**  
**4 to 7 pm** **Chicken BBQ and Blue Grass at Birmingham Meeting**, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester PA. Wonderful food, music and company. Proceeds benefit local causes. For info or to purchase tickets: call Marcia Cole-Quigley 610.436.8121 or email [Marcia.CQ@gmail.com](mailto:Marcia.CQ@gmail.com)
- August 4**  
**1:00 pm** **Concord Quarter Planning Committee** at The Hickman's Jeanes Building Social Room, corner Marshall and Walnut Streets, West Chester, PA. Open to anyone interested in the workings of Concord Quarter. Questions? Email the Concord Quarter Coordinator at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- August 21**  
**to 24** **PYM Late Summer Gathering for Young Friends (high school)** at Camp Onas, 609 Geigel Hill Rd, Ottsville, PA 18942. Watch the PYM website for information coming soon.
- August 25**  
**7:00 pm** **Twilight Meditation** at Newtown Meadows Preserve (7:10), off Rte 252 next to Episcopal Academy. Meet at Newtown Friends Meeting, 120 N Newtown Street Rd, Newtown Square, PA to travel over.



# Concord Quarterly Meeting

## July 21, 2019

### Willistown Friends Meeting

#### Fostering Community with Young Friends

Please join us for an **intergenerational program** designed to strengthen connections with young Friends.

**Melinda Wenner Bradley**, Youth Religious Life Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will lead a conversation about what draws young Friends to Quakerism and how our Meetings can support the spiritual and social needs of young people.

**We welcome all ages to participate in this program.** Youth programming will be offered throughout the day and child care will be provided for our youngest Friends. High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers will be participating in the main program.

**8:15** Sign in

**8:30** Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business/Youth program

**10:00** Meeting for Worship with Willistown Monthly Meeting

**11:15** Program: Fostering Community with Young Friends

**12:15** Light Lunch provided by Willistown Meeting

*Child care provided 8:30 to 12*

**Location: Willistown Friends Meeting, 7069 Goshen Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073**  
**For more information and a map to the meeting go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps>.**  
**You can also email Lynne Piersol, Coordinator, at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org).**

## Concord Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Friends School, April 28, 2019

**Opening Worship:** The meeting opened with a period of unprogrammed worship at 9:00 am.

**Monthly Meeting Count:** All member meetings, except Willistown and Goshen, were represented. Twenty Friends were present as the meeting began.

The Assistant Clerk of Quarter and today's presiding clerk, Deb Wood, introduced herself. She then asked those assembled if there was approval for Rich Ailes of Middletown Meeting to serve as temporary recording clerk for the session. Friends approved.

The clerk asked for approval of the session's agenda. Friends approved.

**Minutes from January 27, 2019 session at Goshen Meeting** were approved.

**Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Monthly Meeting** The Joys and Challenges report was given by Birmingham member Connie Esh and accepted with appreciation. It is attached as Appendix 1 at the end of these minutes. After the report a description of the foods presented at the "What would Jesus Eat" event was presented.

**Nominating Committee Report** Lynne Piersol presented the NC report and recommended Marth Boston as recording clerk starting July 1, 2019 for a 3-year term (ending June 30, 2022). Friends Approved.

**Working Group on Aging Concerns Report** Serita Spadoni of Birmingham Meeting presented the report of Concord Quarterly Meeting Working Group on Aging Concerns (penned by Rich Ailes, Clerk). The report was accepted and is attached as Appendix 2 at the end of these minutes.

**Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget** - Charles Spadoni, Concord Quarterly Meeting treasurer and member of Birmingham Monthly Meeting, presented the Treasurer's report. The Quarter is financially solvent. He explained a slight reorganization of the Revenue and Expense section of the report that adds a category of Restricted Revenue/Expense.

The budget for 2019/2020 was presented and approved. The report was accepted and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3 as well as the approved budget.

**Coordinator's Report** - Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarterly Meeting coordinator, presented highlights from her written report. The report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4 and is also posted on the Quarter's website. Lynne asked that any concerns about announcements that go out to our email list on a monthly basis should be shared with her via her Quarter email.

Serita Spadoni gave a brief report on the active involvement of Concord Quarter Friends in the activities of Delaware Valley Friends School.

**Welcome and Introduction of Newcomers** - John McKean of Wilmington Meeting and Lauren Hastings of West Chester Meeting were welcomed to the Quarterly Meeting as first-time participants.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval** - The minutes were read by Rich Ailes and approved with minor corrections.

**Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance** Twenty Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

**Announcements of Upcoming Events/Deadlines**

**Deb Wood, Clerk**

**Respectfully submitted:** Deb Wood (clerk) and Richard Ailes (recording)

### **Appendix 1: Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Monthly Meeting – Connie Esh**

We are grateful for our vibrant Meeting, our fellowship and the caring support we give to one another. Individually, we have been led to Birmingham Meeting, seeking community and a desire to find meaning and truth in our lives as Friends. Together we meet today's challenges, leading to the joy of working in a spiritual community.

Nominating Committee ensures that each Committee is filled with individuals whose gifts can fulfill required tasks. Term limits ensure that Friends rotate among committees and assignments in order to learn new skills and grow in the Meeting. We find both opportunity for service and joy in committee work. Often it is the committee work that forges the feeling of belonging and new friendships.

It is a joy to welcome newcomers and a challenge to find ways to support diverse individuals and families in learning whether Quakerism and Birmingham are the right fit for them. For several years, two members of the meeting have invited newcomers to a series of discussions called "Exploring Quakerism" to learn about fundamental components of our faith and practice and practical aspects of how our meeting works. The Friends Journal "QuakerSpeak" videos are used as a springboard for some of the discussions. Two of our new members, spoke of their experiences as newcomers in one of the QuakerSpeak videos produced in 2018.

A challenge our meeting has faced for a number of years has been finding a way to add an ADA-compliant restroom so we could be fully hospitable to everyone who uses our building. The obstacle was how to reconfigure our existing restrooms. Recently, a dedicated working group revealed a new plan for a "family and accessible restroom" in another location. There has been much enthusiasm for this plan, and it has been a joy for the community to move ahead with fundraising for a dream that we hope will soon become a reality.

After a very wet summer and fall, mildew grew on the wood in our meeting house. Our Property Committee met with indoor air quality experts, brought dehumidifiers and fans from home and organized members and attenders for deep cleaning of benches, woodwork and cushions. Running the heat at a

constant temperature throughout the week helped dry out the space until lower humidity conditions arrived with the onset of winter. The committee continues to investigate what to do differently when extremely long, wet conditions occur in a warm season in the future. Birmingham is open to other meetings with similar experience sharing their wisdom with us.

One of our greatest joys is the children and youth in the meeting, but it is a challenge to provide meaningful, age-appropriate religious education experiences to a small number of young and older children. Putting on plays provides joyful interaction among all ages and abilities. You might have enjoyed one of Birmingham's young people's plays when they were presented as the quarterly meeting program in the past. Children enjoy swimming on summer Sunday mornings. Teens gather once a month as their own Youth Committee, where activities include planning service projects such as the Christmas Giving Tree to support Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children that serves families who are homeless in Chester County.

Youth recently joined adults in our Peace and Social Concerns Committee in raising funds to purchase landmine detectors. The First Day School curriculum has focused on the Bible this year, and a highlight for the children was to host a luncheon for the meeting on the theme of 'What Would Jesus Eat?'. The children and youth rejoin the adults at the rise of worship each Sunday to share what they worked on in class or committee, and, after announcements, they race out to grab refreshments and play until their parents call them to go home. It is a joy to see all ages having fun together!

We, as Friends, appreciate the quality of worship and the gifts arising from our connection to the divine and each other. Together, we face challenges and experience joy in community.

#### **Appendix 2: Report of Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns-- Serita Spadoni**

Our group continues to meet regularly, almost every month. We have recently changed our meeting time and location. A late morning meeting was preferred by the members of the working group and this necessitated our moving to West Chester Meeting's worship room which is much appreciated. Anyone interested is welcome to attend out meetings and become part of the group. Meeting times are usually from 10:30 AM until 12 PM.

The group remains focused on developing our skills around the experience of aging, providing support to one another on various aging issues in our Meetings, and preparing workshops for the Quarter. Generally, our meetings begin with a round robin sharing of the aging concerns we have encountered in our meeting communities. The assistance we provide one another during these exchanges is often very rich and helpful to everyone.

An additional feature we've added is the scheduling of a knowledgeable resource person to present information that will help us sharpen our skills. At our first meeting, Pamela Leland, the current Executive Director of The Hickman, provided us with an overview of The Hickman's mission and services and how the Senior Living community aligns with other senior living facilities. It was very illuminating.

We have also organized our third workshop on an aging topic for the Quarter. Next Saturday, May 4, at Goshen Meeting, Pat Myatt will speak about the experience of hospice, drawing on her 20 years plus service with Neighborhood Hospice in West Chester. Also included will be breakout sessions with Laurie Worth and Laurie Lewis, from our group, who are also experienced in hospice work. The presentation begins at 10 AM followed by a light lunch provided. We hope you will attend. Please let us know if you plan to stay for lunch.

Our group continues to be a strong presence for the concerns of aging in our Quarter drawing a core group of 8 to 10 participants at every planning meeting. For more information, you can contact Lynne Piersol at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or Rich Ailes at [railesjr@ailesdodson.org](mailto:railesjr@ailesdodson.org).

#### **Appendix 4: Report of the Concord Quarter Coordinator - Lynne Piersol, Coordinator**

Communication is the work that takes most of my time. During the last three months I have continued to send out the monthly Announcements, along with answering email nearly daily. I also periodically send out more targeted information aimed at people interested in particular issues such as Peace and Social Concerns or Care and Counsel people in the Quarter, for example. I am happy, when requested, to promote (include in Announcements, post on our calendar) events happening at meetings and Quaker schools and organizations in the Quarter or sponsored by meetings in the Quarter. I also promote youth and family events sponsored by PYM, and sometimes one of a kind PYM events. As an administrator of our Facebook page, I was given approval to try "boosting" this Quarterly Meeting information for a period of time to spread the word further. Many more people were reached than would be without the boosting. I write some for the quarterly newsletter, edited by Rich Ailes, and send it out electronically and by snail mail.

Events have included helping with the recent PYM Friends in Fellowship event at Birmingham Meeting. Working with Western Quarter and others to plan this Quarterly Meeting has been a bigger project than usual since it is not at a meeting, and involved advance preparation for the afternoon program, along with the many tasks to keep track of. I also attended three events sponsored by PYM: a day on welcoming new friends on February 9, a day on aging concerns on February 23, and Continuing Sessions on March 24. A report on Continuing Sessions is on our website while the notes from the other events were circulated to various people in the Quarter.

I also attended the first organizational meeting of the Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee held on March 4, and took the minutes (now posted on our website). The group came up with a number of ideas of how to grow the relationship between the school and the Quarter. The next meeting is Monday afternoon, May 6 and is open to anyone interested in the Quarter.

I also support the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns which usually meets monthly with note taking and logistical arrangements for meetings and programs, including our next program on May 4 on "The End is Dear".

Visiting each meeting several times a year is also part of the job, so each month I plan to visit 2 or more meetings on Sunday mornings. I really enjoy connecting with those present and hearing what is on their hearts. All in all, it has been a great experience working for the Quarter. And I very much appreciate all the support I get from you. - Submitted by Lynne Piersol Concord Quarter Coordinator

*Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, the Treasurer's Report, is not included here. For a copy of that report please email [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org). The complete minutes with a redacted Treasurer's report is available on the web at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 16 Issue 3 July 2019**

Rich Ailes, Editor  
310 Park Avenue  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Clerk: Chris McKenney  
Asst. Clerk: Debbie Murray-Sheppard  
Recording Clerk: Marty Boston  
Treasurer: Charles Spadoni  
Coordinator: Lynne Piersol

Address Service Requested

**Concord Quarter Meetings**

Appoquinimink Preparative (Under Care of Wilmington MM)  
Birmingham  
Chichester (Under Care of Concord MM)  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
Willistown  
Wilmington

**Editor:** Rich Ailes

**Published:** January, April, July and October

**Phone:** 610-543-7321

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

**Staff E-mail:** concordquarter@pym.org