

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 17, Issue 1, January 2020

Helping Those Who Need Clean Water

(Ed. Note: West Chester Peace & Social Concerns Committee presents this special program at our Quarterly Meeting on January 26– see flyer for details)

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us love not with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth.” 1 JOHN 3:17-18

The United Nations recently reported that around the world, nearly 1,000 children die every day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases. Further, half of the world’s hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering water borne diseases. Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for the poorest families across the world.



Erica Young is a member of West Chester Monthly Meeting’s Peace and Social Concerns Committee who has been fortunate to travel globally for over four decades. Her travels have led her to over 60 countries each in

various stages of development- subsistence, emerging, developing. Erica’s travels are for both business and pleasure but her connecting to local people and learning about their life journeys, struggles, and perspectives have altered her perceptions in a life changing way. One significant perception is the critical importance which access to clean water plays in the life of a developing community.

Economic opportunities arise if water is easily accessible to irrigate crops. Families have less hunger stress. The outsized burden placed on women and girls of finding and transporting water lessens. The “girl-child” can spend time at school instead of spending her days fetching heavy loads of water over long distances. Families have improved hygiene and fewer water borne disease issues.

Erica’s desire to help in this area became a leading which she shared with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of West Chester Meeting. Extensive research to learn about work being done to increase fresh water sources led that committee, with support from West Chester Monthly Meeting and Concord Quarter, to two organizations having excellent results.

In the upcoming Concord Quarterly Meeting, we want to share this leading. Information on two organizations with proven track records in providing potable water sources to African communities will be presented, followed by a multi-generational filter build.

The Water Project is a U.S.-based charitable organization unlocking human potential by providing clean, safe water to communities around the world. In the United States, the organization creates tools, educational materials, and media that individuals, small groups, businesses, schools and churches



can use to learn about, act on, and then see the tangible impact they can have by providing access to clean water. Our Quarter is raising funds for The Water Project. Once we reach our fundraising goal, we will pick a project and be able to see the its progress through updates and photos as we bring economic

opportunity and security to a specific school or community.

Wine To Water is a non-profit organization committed to supporting life and dignity for all through the power of clean water. One of their projects is providing low cost water filters to help families get clean water in hard to reach areas, like refugee camps and natural disasters. At a W|W Filter Build, you can help us assemble these water filters and learn about the world water crisis. The filters are easy to put together in ten steps and give you a direct hand in getting clean water to families around the globe. We will be putting together 25 of these water filters during Concord Quarterly Meeting. This will be an easy and fun activity where children can participate.



Access to safe water improves the health of families and children, keeps children in school, and gives women and girls back their time lost collecting water. Girls under the age of 15 are twice as likely as boys to be the family member responsible for fetching water. Over half of the developing world’s primary schools don’t have access to water and sanitation facilities. Without toilets, girls often drop out at puberty. In Western Kenya, approximately half of schools lack basic access to safe water.



We can make a difference. It is estimated that every \$1 invested in water and sanitation programs yields up to \$12 in economic returns. In 2018 alone, The Water Project supported over 80 schools in Western Kenya with new water projects, improved sanitation and hygiene programs, and provided ongoing service and support to over 220 schools where they previously worked to provide safe water.

During Concord Quarterly Meeting, we will gather together to learn more about this crisis and how we can help. Erica Young will be presenting more information about the organizations we’re supporting, as well as personal stories she’s witnessed during her global travels. After a brief presentation, we will build 25 water filters to go to communities in need.

Programs for children and youth, and childcare for the littlest Friends are available from 8:45 until lunch during Concord Quarterly Meeting. All ages are welcome. The morning for young people will focus on the importance of water and concern for water scarcity. We’ll share activities and information from Quaker Earthcare Witness, stories in community, snacks and playing together. The morning program will culminate with young people joining the whole community to build water filters. – *Peace & Social Concerns Comm*

Quaker School Parents: Applications for Concord Quarterly Meeting’s Tuition Aid Program for Quarter members attending Quaker schools in 2020-2021 are now available and can be found at <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition> Requests for aid are due February 17, 2020 to the Concord Quarter Coordinator. For more information contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org or call 610-864-3802.

Let's Get Together! Creating a youth program planning group for CQM gatherings.

Since January 2019, Friends have engaged across meetings to plan the children and youth programs at our Quarterly Meeting gatherings. This has created a sense of collaboration, intention, and connection between Friends -- both the planners, and the young people attending programs!

At the Quarter's meeting for business in January, we'll consider a proposal to form a youth program planning group. This core group of volunteers would have care of working with the four host meetings to plan the youth programs for that year's Quarterly meetings. The host meetings for the four QM gatherings could send someone to serve on the group for the year, or a Friend from the host meeting could join the "core" planning group to serve for just the planning period before the QM they host. Interested Friends might serve for one year or renew to serve longer.

The children and youth program planners would work together to plan a year-long arc of program and communication to meetings and families,

At the Religious Education and Youth Work Thread Gathering on December 7

I attended this gathering held at Wilmington Meeting. It was part of the ongoing creation of a "community of practice" which includes the newly developing Religious Education and Youth Work Resource Friends. We heard about resources, shared with each other, played a little and learned about some interesting programs being offered at meetings.

Resources include people who can consult with your meeting. Melinda Wenner Bradley, the Youth Religious Life Coordinator at PYM, and a member of West Chester Meeting, visits meetings once a month with resources in hand. She also has an e-newsletter, "The Tote Bag", which comes out 6 times a year with suggestions for families and children's programs. Other staff can also be called on to help with a meeting retreat and there is a childcare pool.

Another resource is the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative. It is a way to share across the branches of Quakerism with monthly conversation circles on different topics, along with a helpful website. An annual gathering is held in the summer with PYM scholarship support.

Third Haven Meeting has increased the number of families attending! When Amy Owsley, now the First Day School Clerk, arrived, her children were the only ones. She was determined to get more families attending with the support of the meeting. So they did a family friendly fundraiser to raise some money to work with, a garage sale with children's activities. Next they offered a "summer camp" for ages 5-10 which was 4 days over 2 weeks using nature to find centering (The meeting does have 7 acres). Two teachers designed the activities. Some families started coming to meeting for worship, having gained familiarity with the building through the camp. First Day School includes one Sunday a month outdoors and

Friendly Audit of CQM Accounting Performed

Concord Quarterly Meeting asked David Wickard of West Chester Meeting and Tom Gilbert of Willistown Meeting to conduct a so-called "Friendly Audit" of its financial books and records for the Quarter's two prior fiscal years: June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

This really should be called a "Friendly Review" because the word "audit" is a technical term that requires the use of certain accounting procedures that are not included in a "Friendly Audit." The review seeks to determine whether a meeting's financial books and records are in "good order." They are if they are understandable and logical and they accurately reflect the financial operations and financial condition of the meeting for the period under review. See E. Muench, *Friendly Audits* (Philadelphia: Quaker Press, 2002). An unstated and very important objective of such a review is to deter embezzlement.

On September 14, 2019, David and Tom met with the Quarter's current Treasurer Charles Spadoni to conduct such a review. Their report, which covered the 16-month period during which Tom Haviland was Treasurer and the 8-month period during which Charles was Treasurer, will be presented by David Wickard at the January 27, 2020, Quarterly meeting for business. In general, David and Tom did not discover any material deficiencies in the

with the CQM Coordinator's support with communication. Collaborating to provide the four programs annually for youth in CQM means that the planners could build on an experience, project, or conversation from one event to the next, while also creating programs that connect with the main CQM program each time. Experience in the last year has shown that this approach could continue to grow the sense of connection among the youth in the Quarter.

The proposed plan will also serve to support meetings where there isn't a religious education committee, or families with children currently in the meeting; regardless of whether a host meeting sends someone to the planning group, a program will be planned for each QM gathering. If Quaker communities are going to be vital and grow, we need to be paying explicit attention to families and children, and this is an opportunity to try an idea toward that end. - *Melinda Wenner Bradley/PYM Youth Coordinator*

one with Faith and Play. They also offer a caregiver / child playgroup program with lightly guided mindfulness activities and discussion for the adults. They now regularly have about 12 children attending.

Marty Smith of Moorestown Meeting, with years of experience in the Quaker Parenting Program, offers a Quaker Parenting group at her meeting. She uses the principles of *Paths to Quaker Parenting* edited by Harriet Heath, founder of the QPP. It meets monthly with a potluck supper on a Saturday, although breakfast on a Sunday has been tried elsewhere. Marty is willing to help set this up for a meeting.

Sharing from the afternoon interest groups included some discussion about including children in worship. Research indicates that children who never go to worship, even after attending children's programs, end up leaving their denomination in late teens. One suggestion: offer children quilts and pillows on the floor and quiet toys and books during worship.

We discussed using "Quaker" versus "Friend" or "Monthly" to describe our meetings on our signs and websites. "Children's Meeting" or "Children's Program" could be used instead of "First Day School" or "Religious Education". Families generally go to websites a number of times before they actually attend, looking for community and children's programming. There is money available from the PYM Membership Development Support Fund to change incorporation and signage.

We ended with a short worship, grateful for this "community of practice" and all the sharing and resources that are available

-*Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator*

completeness or accuracy of the Quarter's financial books and records for those periods.

They made several recommendations. The first was that the Quarter should adopt a document retention policy, which would include a policy on the submission of documents to the Friends Historical Library housed at Swarthmore College. The second was that a second person should receive on a monthly basis all bank statements from The National Bank of Malvern and on a quarterly basis all investment statements from Friends Fiduciary Corporation. The third was that the Treasurer should maintain the Quarter's financial data on "cloud" storage so that it can be protected from loss as a result of a computer crash that could interfere with financial operations. These recommendations will be discussed, but not acted upon, at the January 2020 quarterly meeting.

During the review a discussion about the Quarter's insurance policies led the Treasurer to discover that Pennsylvania law requires the Quarter to maintain a worker's compensation insurance policy for its sole employee, the Coordinator Lynne Piersol. The Quarter obtained such a policy which became effective on October 1, 2019.

-*Charles Spadoni - Birmingham Meeting/CQM Treasurer*

Downsizing – A Personal Journey

Downsizing, essentially, is about minimizing our footprint on this earth. It is appealing, but when you are faced with the task of doing it you will find it a daunting and at times wrenching experience. Before I discourage you too much, know that you will get through it and possibly find, as I did, that you do not miss the things you gave away. You may even feel liberated from the storage and care that many possessions bring.

It became necessary for us to move from our house of many steps, inside and out, because of my husband's increasing lack of mobility. He had been waiting patiently for me to retire so we could move to a Continuing Care Retirement Community. I was not keen on moving for I found the maintenance of our house and gardens a creative and relaxing activity. So, it was with a great deal of sadness and anger that I accepted this new reality.

We had helped my mother downsize and move from the house she had lived in for fifty years, so we knew what had to be done. Of course, there what was required was mostly muscle and patience.

Our first step was to divide up the tasks according to our abilities. Terry, who is skilled at analyzing data, looked into appropriate retirement communities in the Delaware Valley that gave us access to his doctors, to the organizations and activities I enjoy, and not take us too far from our friends. He compared location, size, price, amenities, ratings of skilled nursing, etc. When the time came, he engaged movers and a realtor for the sale of our house. I handled the logistics of downsizing and anything that took physical and mechanical skill.

My first step in tackling any project is to make a list of tasks and prepare a rough timetable. I decided to take one room at a time and weed anything of mine that I knew we would not need in an apartment. I started in the garage and basement where I had my studio, workshop, laundry, and tools for gardening and general maintenance. Terry had no opinion about what was my domain which freed him to concentrate on finding our future dwelling. During the time I sorted and filled boxes, he contacted numerous facilities.

I moved quickly through the garage and basement with the assumption that I would take with me a few essential tools for maintenance and gardening. Items such as a leaf blower, snow shovels, and plumbing tools were given to neighbors. As soon as we had enough filled boxes, we moved them out to Goodwill, a local church Thrift Shop, the Free Library of Philadelphia, a community Tool Library, and to an auction house that took tools and equipment. Old paint went to a hazardous waste drop off in Philadelphia. A salvage junk dealer took away excess large wooden furniture.

I slowed down at my family archive and soon realized that I would make no progress if I examined each document, photograph, slide, and memento.



Deferring the painstaking work involved in sorting these items, I purchased archival boxes and separated the documents into general categories and arranged to store these boxes temporarily at the library where I worked.

I found it was helpful to intersperse the tasks that were either physically or emotionally difficult with easy tasks like pairing down clothing, coats, linens, towels and blankets that went to our local Thrift Shop.

Next on the list was our floor to ceiling library in the office. The interests and passions of our whole lives from childhood, through graduate school and beyond were arrayed on one wall of that room. Here is where Terry and I had to work together and agree. Taking it one shelf and one book at a time we soon felt the pangs of downsizing. Fortunately, my niece wanted the bookcases. Temple University Music School was pleased to accept Terry's extensive library of chamber music and sent staff to pack and transport the collection.

I realized before we could downsize the kitchen, dining room, and living room we had to have an accurate idea of the square footage of our new residence. Terry had narrowed our search to three possibilities within the desired area. Once I had the square footage and dimensions of the rooms and layouts of the units, I had an idea of what furniture might fit and what pieces we would have to pass on.

We quickly downsized the kitchen, keeping the basics. The dining room proved to be difficult because so much of the furniture came from a large farmhouse that held some the happiest memories of my childhood. There would only be room for the most utilitarian pieces. Terry's steady insistence on the practical got us through this. My goddaughter accepted my gift of the hutch and the collection of lusterware that went with it. Her enthusiasm about it and its place in her new home helped me realize that things have little meaning if not shared and that it was time to let go.

Our final task was selecting what artwork would go to our new apartment. Each of us had brought art with us when we married. Throughout our time together we had collected more. For any piece to be kept we both had to like it enough to give it the limited wall space. We were helped immensely by our friends who raise funds by organizing an annual auction of fine and decorative arts. It pleased us that others will enjoy the pieces as we did.

Our friends and our former neighbors were the key to our success. They were there to back us up when we needed extra muscle, vehicles with large trunks, encouragement, and good counsel. What I learned about downsizing is that you need to remind yourself why you are doing this, that success comes in many small steps, and that no matter what you do, you will always bring too much with you. *-Eileen Magee -Middletown Meeting (Eileen and her husband, Terry Braverman, have been attending Middletown for about 2 years)*

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Delaware

Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI) offer noncredit courses with no assignments or grades to "seasoned" adults over age 50. Since 2001 philanthropist Bernard Osher has made grants from his foundation to launch OLLI programs at 120 universities and colleges throughout the United States.

OLLI at The University of Delaware is one of the largest in the country. It was originally started as the Academy of Lifelong Learning in 1980, so it is almost 40 years old. It typically offers 300 plus courses and extracurricular activities. Membership is typically 2,200 to 2,400 each semester and 450 members during the summer session. Courses take place from Monday to Friday in Arshat Hall, at 2700 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington, DE. Parking is free with 658 spaces. In the first few weeks of each semester, it is hard to find a parking space. Another 100-space parking lot is in process.

The program provides opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation, personal growth, and social interaction in an academic cooperative run by its members who volunteer their time and talents. Classes are developed and led by fellow members. The student population is skewed older with the average age at 73. Members tend to come from Delaware and Pennsylvania with a good showing from Maryland and even New Jersey. The average distance members travel is about 20 miles. With free parking it is worth the trip. Non-Delaware residents are welcomed.

There is a curriculum committee and a program coordinator who monitor courses. Instructors have to review their course material with the program coordinator if they are a new instructor to show they have knowledge of the topic and can carry a course for 13 sessions. The courses meeting once a week for 13 weeks. While attendance is not taken, a head count is done at 4 weeks in and again at 8 weeks in. Knowing the number who registered and comparing it to the number in attendance at 4 and 8 weeks, if attendance drops below 50% an exploration of why is conducted by contacting students in the class, sitting in on the class and / or discussing it with the instructor. There are times when instructors have had to be denied teaching. Many of the instructors have taught courses for years. Also, teacher training is offered each semester. In the case of music course instructors, experienced retired professional music teachers are recruited.

There is a modest membership fee to participate. For the upcoming Spring 2020 semester, the fee is \$275 for classes held February 10 to May 15. Registration begins on January 8. For more information go to: <http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/about/> or call 302-573-4417.

-Rich Ailes & Carol Bernard (Carol presented the Downsizing workshop at our Aging Concerns event in November)

Concord Quarterly Meeting's January-February 2020 Announcements and Calendar of Events

Announcements

The minutes from our October 27 Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting are on the website <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes> Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk Marty Boston at mboston0916@gmail.com by January 15, 2020

For more events across Philadelphia Yearly Meeting <https://www.pym.org/calendar>

Have an idea for the Quarter? <https://concordquarter.org/lets-try-this> These come to the Coordinator.

Concord Quarter Tuition Aid applications due February 17! Contact the CQ Coordinator for more information. Applications here: <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition>

Calendar of Events

- Jan 3-5 **PYM Young Adult Friends Winter Retreat at Chestnut Hill Meeting**, 20 E. Mermaid Lane Philadelphia, PA For those 18-35ish. For more information and to register: https://www.pym.org/event/yaf-winter/?instance_id=2272
- Jan 8 **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns**, Jeanes Building Social Room, corner Walnut and Marshall, West Chester, PA. Join this active group which is planning workshops and discussing end of life issues. All welcome. For more information contact concordquarter@pym.org
- Jan 11 **PYM Winter Family Overnight at Camp Onas**, Ottsville, PA. For families with children in K-5th grades. For more information and to register: https://www.pym.org/event/winter-family-overnight-2020/?instance_id=2392
- Jan 13 **Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee at DVFS**, 19 E. Central Ave, Paoli, PA. Focus on growing the connections between the Quarter and the School. Meetings are open to members of Concord Quarter and the DVFS communities. Questions or RSVP to concordquarter@pym.org. Previous minutes: <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>
- Jan 19 **Friends General Conference information session** at Birmingham Meeting, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester, PA. Learn more about what FGC does for Friends today and hear about the proposed vision for strengthening and increasing programming. General Secretary Barry Crossno will be present as well as Frank Barch, Clerk. Please RSVP to FGCclerk@gmail.com
- Jan 26 **Concord Quarterly Meeting**, West Chester Meeting, 425 N High Street, West Chester, PA. Children's Program for the whole morning! Special program on clean water and fundraiser! <https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2020/quarterly-meeting-at-west-chester-jan26>
- Jan 30 **PYM Middle School Friends Gathering**, Lancaster Meeting. For more information: https://www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-winter-gathering-2020/?instance_id=2383
- Feb 2 **Concord Quarter Planning Committee** at The Jeanes Building Social Room, 444 N. Walnut St, West Chester. All are welcome to attend this group which meets 4 times a year and plans for Quarterly Meetings and other Quarter events. Note new time! Questions: email concordquarter@pym.org
- Feb 14 **PYM Young Friends (High School) Gathering with YSOP in New York City!** For more information and to register: https://www.pym.org/event/young-friends-winter-gathering-ysop-2020/?instance_id=2502 Price is the same as a regular gathering.
- Feb 22 **Concord Quarter Square Dance** at Willistown Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073. All ages! Live caller and the Thornbury Ramblers playing music and the Creaky Knees Cloggers! Bring a snack or beverage to share. Cash contributions to the West Chester Food Cupboard welcome. Snow date February 29.
- Mar 28 **PYM Spring Continuing Sessions at Westtown School!** Programs for all ages. More information coming.

Concord Quarterly Meeting January 26, 2020 West Chester Meeting

8:30-8:45	Sign-In
8:45	Children's programming and childcare begin
8:45-10:15	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:15	Meeting for Worship
11:15-11:45	Presentation: Helping Those Who Need Clean Water
11:45-	Activity: Put Together Water Filters
12-1	Lunch for all



West Chester Peace and Social Concerns
Committee Presents

Helping Those Who Need Clean Water



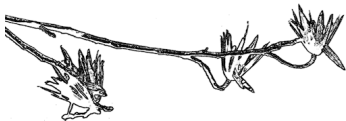
The United Nations recently reported that around

the world, nearly 1,000 children die every day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases. Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. In our next Concord Quarterly Meeting, we'll come together to help these families by supporting two NGO's that have a proven track record in providing water resources to African communities.

After a brief presentation, we will build 25 water filters to go to [Wine to Water](#). We are also fundraising for The Water Project. The committee has set up a donation page at The Water Project's website. Find out more info by visiting the link below or use your smartphone app to scan the QR code provided. [Concord Quarter Water Project Link](#)



**Programs for children and youth, and childcare for the littlest Friends,
available from 8:45 until lunch. All ages are welcome!**



The morning for young people will focus on the importance of water and concern for water scarcity. We'll share activities and information from Quaker Earthcare Witness, stories in community, snacks and playing together. The morning program will culminate with young people joining the whole community to build water filters!

For more info and a map to our meetings, go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps/>
You can also email Lynne Piersol, Coordinator, at concordquarter@pym.org
or call 610-864-3802 and leave a message.

Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting, October 27, 2019 - Minutes

Opening Worship - The meeting opened at 8:30 AM with a period of worship. Twenty-six friends were present as the meeting began.

Welcome to Newcomers—Chris McKenney (Clerk) - The clerk welcomed all newcomers and had them introduce themselves.

Monthly Meeting Count (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington, Chichester)—Chris McKenney - Representatives were present from all meetings in the Quarter except for Concord, and Goshen Meetings.

Approval of Agenda— Chris McKenney - The group approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2019—Chris McKenney - The minutes were approved without further correction.

Joys and Challenges Report from Middletown Meeting— Rich Ailes from Middletown Meeting presented the report. It is attached as Appendix 1. Rich answered some questions from the group. The Meeting begins worship at 11 AM. They have a new sign in front of the Meeting to invite people to the Meeting. Rich talked about the Men's Group at the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (attached)—Charles Spadoni - Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. It is attached as Appendix 2. The group thanked Charlie for his work on behalf of the Quarter.

Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)—Rich Ailes - Rich Ailes gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Rich thanked Lynne Piersol for the support that she has given the Group. Rich said that the presentations from the Group on Aging Concerns are open to those from Western Quarter and Caln Quarter. The report is attached as Appendix 3.

Coordinator Report (attached)—Chris McKenney - Chris McKenney gave the Coordinator's report as Lynne Piersol was unable to attend the meeting. After the report was read a friend announced that the PYM Thread Gathering on Religious Concerns will be held at Wilmington Monthly Meeting on December 7th. Chichester Meeting offered thanks to Lynne Piersol for her help with some of their recent projects. The Coordinator's report is attached as Appendix 4.

Minute of Travel for Religious Service for Deb Wood—Bruce Harrison - Bruce Harrison read the minute of travel for religious service for Deb Wood. The travel minute was approved by the group. The Minute is attached as Appendix 5.

Time to share what is happening in your meetings around Peace and Social Justice or other areas.—Chris McKenney

Chichester Meeting used to have help from Delaware County people who had to do community service help care for their grounds, but now the county imprisons or fines these people and they no longer can help Chichester. Judy asked help from the group to see if there is a way to change this new practice.

Birmingham Meeting holds two dinners to help local charities. They have asked the recipients from these groups to come speak about their work. Birmingham Meeting has also raised money for twelve landmine detectors. Birmingham contributes to the food bank monthly. Some Birmingham Meeting members work with Gun Sense Chester County.

Wilmington Meeting hosts Pacem In Terris at their Meeting. The Meeting works with Hockessin Meeting to support Family Promise, a group that supplies meals for families in crisis. They help citizens returning from incarceration. They are trying to figure out a way to help people who are recovering from addiction.

Willistown Meeting has been donating supplies to the New Day Halfway House in Philadelphia for women who have been abused by human trafficking. They donate monthly to the West Chester Food Cupboard.

Peter Lane from Westtown Meeting announced that he and his wife will go to Mohonk Center to a meeting called Creating and Sustaining Peace. Westtown participated in Chester County Green Day. They are also helping with The Middle East Collaborative. A Peace March from Nazareth and Bethlehem is going on in the first weekend in December and some of their members will attend.

Reading of Minutes for Approval—Marty Boston (Recording Clerk) The group decided not to have this redone as it had just been completed.

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance—Marty Boston (Recording Clerk) Thirty-two members were present at the end of the meeting. All meetings except for Concord and Goshen were represented. The group was asked to fill out an Evaluation form and leave at the sign in table—Chris McKenney

Chris McKenney, Clerk

Martha Boston, Recording Clerk

Appendix 1: Middletown Meeting report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Oct 2019

Middletown Meeting remains a small but strong community. Our worship is rich and often deeply rewarding. Our meetings for business are filled with a mix of serious discernment and humor. Our social gatherings are warm and supportive. We continue to meet on all Sundays with an average of about ten attenders and members in attendance. We now have an ongoing after-worship social event every first Sunday of the month, thanks to the commitment made by specific members to prepare and host it. In September at that event there were about 12 of us who sat around the table in the Social Room for more than an hour taking refreshment and sharing stories. There seems to be more openness to fellowship in our meeting community these days. As in the past we had a successful Middletown Day in June and a Christmas Social in December, which brought about 25 past and present members and attenders together for fun and food. At both events there was even homegrown music provided by aspiring member musicians.

Our meeting benefits from our location next door to Lima Estates retirement community. Currently three of our member / attenders live at Lima.

Some new folks have entered our community and regrettably a few of our elders have passed on, so our numbers are probably the same as when we reported two years ago. But the commitment of our members and attenders has now extended to two new committees. We have reinstated our Property Committee and we have a Worship and Care Committee, both meeting regularly. The Property Committee is currently working on a restoration of our mid-19th century stone schoolhouse and the Worship and Care Committee is discerning gifts of members, how we know we are led to speak in worship, and the appropriateness of approving a member as a recorded minister. Our ad hoc Nominating Committee has functioned effectively, having brought forward two clerks of Meeting for approval in the last 2 years. We recently approved Richard Ailes to replace outgoing clerk, Thomas Ceresini, using this Nominating process.

Our Men's Group meets regularly, almost every other Monday evening for fellowship and worship. Over the summer three of the men traveled to Maine to spend five days in retreat with our Quaker minister Friend, Ralph Green at his son's parsonage on Swan's Island near Bar Harbor. On the way up to Maine, the three Friends visited

with Peter Crysedale and his partner Daphne Clement, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Peter is the pastor of nearby Allen's Neck Meeting. That Sunday morning the three Friends participated in Allen's Neck's Meeting for Worship.

Last Fall the Meeting held six adult First Day School classes on the gospels of Mathew and Luke. This Fall we are following up with six classes on the Gospel of John. We have been blessed with two members committed to teaching these classes.

Our joys include our depth of worship and the discernment in our business meetings as well as the increasing sense that God's presence in our community is growing. Our challenges remain our aging membership and our difficulty in attracting younger people into the meeting. With God's help we hope to meet these challenges in a future filled with grace and faithfulness and love for one another.

Note: This report was approved at Middletown Meeting for Business, 10/13/2019

Appendix 2 - Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Financial Statements for the First Quarter Ending September 30, 2019

Concord Quarterly Meeting's financial statements for the first quarter ending September 30, 2019, are set forth below. The revenue and expense statement displays actual revenues and expenses versus the prior year's first quarter revenues and expenses.

September 30, 2019 Revenues and Expenses Versus Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses

A non-redacted report is available from the Concord Quarter Coordinator

Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report Financial Statements for the First Quarter Ending September 30, 2019

Concord Quarterly Meeting's financial statements for the first quarter ending September 30, 2019, are set forth below. The revenue and expense statement displays actual revenues and expenses versus the prior year's first quarter revenues and expenses.

June 30, 2020 Revenues and Expenses Versus Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses

A non-redacted report is available from the Concord Quarter Coordinator

Appendix 3: Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting 10/27/2019

We continue to meet regularly, almost every month, sometimes at Birmingham Meeting and sometimes at West Chester Meeting. Anyone interested is welcome to attend our meetings and become part of the group. Meeting times are usually from 10:30 AM until 12 PM, the first Wednesday of the month.

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.

Occasionally we schedule a knowledgeable resource person to present information on aging that will help us sharpen our skills. At our second such meeting, June Lunney, a Birmingham Meeting Friend who has done research on the subject of trajectories of functioning in late life will speak to us. It will be at the end of our normal working group meeting on November 6 from 11:15 to 12. Everyone is invited to attend this discussion.

We have organized our fourth workshop on an aging topic for the Quarter, set for Saturday, November 16, at Willistown Meeting. Carol Bernard of Hockessin Meeting will speak to us about downsizing. Carol is the former director of the University of Delaware's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute where she taught "Organized for Life" courses for a number of years. She is currently the co-clerk of Hockessin's Ministry and Care Committee.

For more information, you can contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org or the clerk, Rich Ailes at railesjr@ailesdodson.org.

Appendix 5: Minute of Travel for Religious Service for Deborah Wood

Westtown Monthly Meeting 215 Friends Meeting Lane West Chester, PA 19382 Sixth Month 2019

Dear Friends:

This letter serves to introduce Deborah Wood, a member in good standing of Westtown Monthly Meeting, Concord Quarterly Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Over the coming year, and perhaps longer, Deb will be traveling to various parts of the world following her leading to become more involved with the work of Friends Peace Teams. Deb does so with the enthusiastic support of Westtown Monthly Meeting, under whose care a clearness / oversight committee has been established to guide her work. The Meeting has also committed to providing financial support for her travels and related service.

Westtown Meeting is clear that Deb's leadings are grounded in the Spirit and in Friends' testimonies, particularly the testimony on peace. Her leadings arise from her life's work to date and were most recently prompted by her lead organizing role on behalf of Westtown Meeting in hosting the annual meeting of Friends Peace Teams in May 2019. In Deb's own words:

"Multiple times during Friends Peace Teams meetings in May, I felt a deep swelling of the Spirit. FPT's work clearly speaks to me; it combines my current volunteer work with the Alternatives to Violence Project, my previous work with Friends Peace Teams, my 28 years of teaching, and my graduate work in Conflict Resolution and Peaceable Schools, and my search to walk cheerfully answering that of God.

"...The Compassionate Listening training I completed in November [2018], March [2019], and will continue in late July [2019], complements the FPT programs. Indeed components of Compassionate Listening comprise key skills and structures utilized in the FPT's trauma healing and peace building programs." Deb plans to attend an international facilitators training (Creating Cultures of Peace) by Friends Peace Teams in Pati, Central Java, Indonesia in January 2020. While there, she anticipates joining participants from the Philippines, Korea, Aotearoa / New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Chechnya, several African countries, and Indonesia. Post-training, she will be looking for openings for further volunteer work with Friends Peace Teams, involvement that will build on previous work she has undertaken in Africa and the Middle East.

Westtown Meeting is fully aligned with Deb's calling. We have united around the sense that Deb and her leadings are a blessing to our meeting. We believe you will have similar corporate and individual experiences as she comes into relationship with you. We commend Deb to you and ask that you hold her in your loving embrace and offer her your support as she ventures forth into the world.

Respectfully, Margaret Haviland, Co-Clerk Bruce Harrison, Co-Clerk Westtown Monthly Meeting Westtown Monthly Meeting

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, (Appendix 4) the Coordinator's Report, is only available at <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
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