Dear Friends:

Nancy Gibbs Retiring

As I announced in January, Nancy Gibbs, Director of the Arch Street Meeting House since October 2007, will be retiring as of the end of this month.

We have prepared a minute of appreciation for Nancy’s service to be found elsewhere in the agenda materials. I would ask the meeting to consider the minute and to discern whether it is led to endorse it. The minute would be signed by me and our clerk, Jada Jackson.

Dorothy Carroll’s Financial Legacy

As many will remember, our beloved PYM member Dorothy Carroll died last year on March 24, 2012. Dorothy was a member of Birmingham Monthly Meeting.

In her will, Dorothy bequeathed an unrestricted gift of $34,087 to our Yearly Meeting. It was received last fall. This is not the only legacy that Dorothy left-- I’m thinking of her spiritual legacy. We are grateful for all of them.

Pursuant to our policy, this money has been added to the Unrestricted Bequest Pool. Each year 25% of the Unrestricted Bequest Pool is taken for inclusion in the General Fund budget.

The Thread Program- A Growing Success

Another way of naming the new thread program is to call it:

*The Thread Approach to Supporting our Monthly Meetings.*

There has been a lot of positive energy around the launch of this program. It is a way of connecting members of the Yearly Meeting according to their interests and areas of involvement within their monthly meeting.

So far there have been four thread gatherings. Below is information about the theme, the location and how many were present. You can see that it is growing.

Saturday, October 27- “First Day School”- West Chester Meeting- 14 people present
Saturday, January 26- “Worship and Ministry”- Newtown Meeting- 63 present
Saturday, February 16- “Communications”- London Grove Meeting- 27 present
Saturday, February 23- “Pastoral Care”- Gwynedd Meeting- 51 people present

This program has been set up to be a cooperative one such that participants from monthly meetings are taking responsibility for keeping it going and alive. The focus is on monthly meetings supporting monthly meetings.

Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life has been the creative energy behind this work. I am grateful for her vision and her leadership.
William Penn Lecture, Saturday, March 23, Arch Street Meeting House, 7 p.m.

This will be the third year of the revival of the William Penn Lecture. It is an event under the care of the Young Adult Friends of our Yearly Meeting. I have been an avid supporter of this opportunity.

This year, Michael Gagné, PYM’s former EcoJustice Organizer, currently the Executive Director of Envision Peace Museum, and someone known to many of us, will be speaking on the topic: “Continuing Revolution: Love, Truth, Soulforce and the Future of the Religious Society of Friends?” There is a flyer elsewhere in the packet. I would love for us to fill the downstairs of the West Room. It will take 350 of us to do this. Will you help by spreading the word? Michael is a bright light among us and his presentation should not be missed.

PYM’s New Website:  www.pym.org

We have a new website. Everyone here should check it out if you’re not already using it. The address is just above. A tremendous amount of time and effort has gone into completing this work and I want to recognize and thank all of our staff, but especially Martin Reber, our Director of Communications and Naman Hampton, our Web Content Manager. We realized along the way that our working together as staff on a shared project had the side benefit of helping us to heal from the trauma of staff layoffs and financial contraction. We aspire for the website to be easy to use, to sparkle and to represent our faith community well. If you see things that need attention, please email them to info@pym.org  Both Martin and Naman monitor this mailbox.

New Volunteer Position- Recorder of Yearly Meeting Membership- Peter Lane, Westtown Monthly Meeting

We have created a new volunteer position: Recorder of Yearly Meeting Membership. The job will be to help us to gather membership and contact information from our meetings so to update and keep current our PYM database. With accurate and complete information we will be much more able to serve the needs of our community. One example is this. If we don’t have accurate and up-to-date contact information for the young people in the Yearly Meeting, they won’t know about our youth programs.

Peter Lane, Westtown Monthly Meeting, will be our first volunteer Recorder of Membership.

I have spoken with the Nominating Committee about making this position an actual office of the Yearly Meeting, not unlike the Treasurer. I hope that this matter can on the agenda for our annual sessions in July.

A concern has arisen about whether a volunteer is legally permitted to handle data that may be sensitive such as the ages of members. This is not a concern of mine, but it will be checked out before we proceed.

The General Secretary Is Retiring

The General Secretary has informed me that he wants to retire next year. I have enclosed his letter in the packet.

Respectfully submitted, Arthur M. Larrabee, General Secretary