



**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

# Salem Quarter: State of the Meeting Reports Received

*Written on: JULY 27, 2021*

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## Mullica Hill Monthly Meeting

*From our Meeting for Business minutes, May 10, 2020, Query response on Meeting for Worship, Beth Frederick, co-recording clerk:*

“Meeting for worship is described as sacred for our members and attenders, a grounding source in our faith and there is great unity between our community and God occurring simultaneously. Our Meeting has continued to center onto that which is spiritually rooted. Note was made of the unusual circumstances of this year with Meeting taking place via internet/Zoom application, thus while we are not physically together, we are meeting in a deeply gathered way. When we speak of a gathered Meeting, we are using a physical term as a metaphor of a spiritual reality. Suggestion was to slightly adapt the Bible verse: “When two or three are gathered together in My name (no matter how geographically scattered they may be), I am here in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20). We are all on the same round ball hurtling through the universe. Hindus will tell you that this physical reality is an illusion. Reality is a spiritual realm. Ours is another realm of consciousness.”

More from queries answered through the year:

- Meeting for Worship is seen as our Meeting's strength. "There's a power." It has remained our realistic focus as we've watched our numbers decline in recent years and there are too few for strong committee work. Meeting for Business is conducted in a spirit of loving-kindness. Mullica Hill Friends grew up thinking, "There was always a way", including times of uncertain decisions appearing as conflict.
  - Welcoming a new attender through Zoom connection is a great joy! Just conquering the setup and use of Zoom by our members has been an accomplishment to celebrate this year! This includes managing to still host our 90th Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in November 2020, via Zoom, thanks to a member and support from community clergy.
  - A prayer video was the inspiration and creation of Meeting for Learning sessions around the work of Joe Dispensa over the year. Friends explore a wide variety of texts and experiences with open minds and hearts. Healing prayer focus is regularly scheduled. We were blessed with an inspiring Good Friday program created annually by a Friend, this year via Zoom.
  - This spring we are reading and reflecting on the letters of Brother Lawrence during Meeting for Learning. One of his few quotes known, "My God, here I am all devoted to thee. Lord, make me according to Thy heart."
  - "We keep on steppin," grateful for our opportunities in this worship community to deepen and grow in our spiritual Life, both individually and collectively. Supporting, encouraging, listening to and teaching one another, we step out into the world prayerfully doing what we can.
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# **Woodstown Monthly Meeting**

## **How have we sustained our commitment to be a covenant\* spiritual community during this past year?**

Adult First Day School, Meeting for Worship, committees, and our Music at Friends program were offered via Zoom.

Also on Zoom, we began a monthly Breakfast with Friends one Sunday a month for fellowship, celebrated our Christmas Eve Carol Sing, and hosted Quarterly Meeting.

## **What have been the joys and the learnings of this past year and where have we encountered challenges?**

It has been a comfort for all to see one another on Zoom and we learned that we connect online as well as in-person for worship.

## **How has our faith supported our social witness?**

Our benevolences continued – local/ regional – exs. – food bank, women’s shelter, Friend School and Village, mine detectors – and Quaker organizations – FCNL, PYM, QUNO, AFSC.

## **How have our community members supported one another?**

We have been checking in on members we do not see on Zoom and those who may have transportation or health challenges – also delivering Christmas and Easter flowers to them. Birthday cards and Scattergood calendars sent to all. Reached out to new membership requests.

*Sally Crane, Clerk*