



London Grove Monthly Meeting Bulletin

~ Begun 1714
~ Established 1792
~ March 2015

Query for Third Month: Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?
- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?

March 2015 Calendar

- Sunday 3/1 8:15 am Religious Education Meeting
 9:30 am Meeting for Worship
 Children's First Day School
 10:30 am Meeting for Worship for Business
- Thursday 3/5 7:30 pm Property Committee
- Saturday 3/7 1 pm Memorial Service for James Brofee.
(In the manner of Friends, this will be a very simple worship service. Please do not send flowers. If you wish to make a contribution in his memory, you may do so to the Education Outreach Fund of London Grove Monthly Meeting or to Doctors Without Borders.)
- Sunday 3/8 9:30 am Meeting for Worship
 Children's First Day School
 10:30 am Adult Religious Ed.: Principles of Respectful Dialogue
 Jari Santana-Wynn
 7 pm Worship and Ministry Committee
- Thursday 3/12 7 pm Care and Membership Committee
- Sunday 3/15 8:30 am Peace & Social Justice Committee
 9:30 am Meeting for Worship
 Convergent Children's First Day School (See p. 5.)
 10:30 am Welcome guests in Social Room
 11 am Adult Religious Education: Bible study:
 Luke Ch 3: 21-22, Ch 4: 1-13, Donald LaBranche
 12 Noon Soup lunch.
- Tuesday 3/17 7 pm Kindergarten Committee
- Thursday 3/19 9:30 am Library Committee
- Sunday 3/22 9:30 am Meeting for Worship
 Children's First Day School
 10:30 am Adult Religious Education: Quakers and the Bible
 Donald LaBranche
- Sunday 3/29 9:30 am Meeting for Worship
 Children's First Day School
 10:30 am Adult Religious Education: Listening Circle
 Greta Rech

March Child Care and Flowers

Date	First Hour	Second Hour	Flowers
3/1	Georgia Delaney	Grace Pfeifer Karen Conlan	Jill Benjamin
3/8	Marianne Whitlock	TBA	Rana Carnes
3/15	Jill Benjamin	Tammy Brosius Rebecca Mitchell	Karen Conlan
3/22	Anna Myers	Betsy Walker Heidi Benson	Sam Cypressi
3/29	Jane Brosius	Gail Newbold Denis Newbold	Louise Price



London Grove Monthly Meeting

Clerk of Meeting - Karen-Lee Brofee 443-754-1051 londongroveclerk@verizon.net

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Care & Membership - Jill Benjamin 610-347-1754 abambenjamin@gmail.com

Worship & Ministry - Ginny Green 302-245-8203 ginnyblackie@aol.com

London Grove Meeting House - 610-268-8466 londongrovemeeting.org

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Community Outreach Committee - londongrovequakers@verizon.net

Newsletter Co-editors - Marianne Whitlock and Susanna Davison.

Send submissions for the London Grove Bulletin to londongroveinreach@verizon.net
or to their email addresses in the directory.

Western Quarterly Meeting <http://westernquarterquakers.org/>

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting www.pym.org

[London Grove Monthly Meeting](#), [Philadelphia Yearly Meeting](#), [Friends General Conference](#) and [London Grove Friends Kindergarten](#) each have Facebook pages also. Check them out!

Bulletin deadline is usually the third Monday of each month. We make exceptions, though. Just ask.

Clerk's Summary of Second Month Seventh Day 2015 Meeting for Business

MINUTES: Jill Benjamin, substituting for Gail Newbold this month, read the Minutes from 1st Month, 2015. Meeting approved the Minutes with one revision – “Robert Frye has agreed to serve as clerk of the newly formed Education Outreach Fund committee, beginning in 2015.”

TREASURER'S REPORT: Meeting accepted Doug Myers' monthly financial report indicating contributions of \$26,425 in 1st month, expenses of \$29,211, and a closing balance of \$71,020.

KEEPER OF THE CALENDAR REPORT: Meeting approved a request by the Moore family for use of the meetinghouse on 8/1/15 for their family reunion (1:00 – 8:00 pm).

RECORDER'S REPORT: Betsy Walker revised her Annual Report from 288 adult and 28 child members to 289 adults and 27 children as a result of mischaracterizing one member. No change in total membership.

300th ANNIVERSARY: Sandy Reber gave the committee's final report with several suggestions from committee members on programs that the meeting might want to continue – musical, educational, and historic presentations; compilation of a London Grove cookbook; partnering with the Hadley Foundation; etc. (A summary of the suggestions is on p. 6.) Meeting approved the committee's request to be laid down.

WQM FUNDING REQUEST DISCUSSION: Meeting had a very healthy discussion about the Finance Committee's recommendation on how meeting should respond to the request from Western Quarter for a higher funding level in the future. In essence, there were two recommendations (1) London Grove cannot increase our financial commitment to WQM, and (2) we would like to offer three recommendations to WQM to improve their budget process. The sense of the meeting was in support of Richard Wortmann's draft of the Finance Committee's recommendations, but felt that approval should be sought during 3rd Month's Meeting For Worship For Business – after the document, in final form, has been approved by the Finance Committee.

Susanna Davison announced, on behalf of the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE, that London Grove will host a Convergent First Day School program on 3/15. Meeting approved her request to slightly modify our traditional practice on that day – eliminate Opening Exercises after the rise of meeting and use this time as a period to welcome guests. There will be no other changes to other components of our First Day format.

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING CALLED MEETING ON RACE & JUSTICE: Donald LaBranche offered his reflections on participation by him and Elinor Thomforde at the event held at Arch Street Meeting. Over 400 people were present, representing 70 monthly meetings, to consider two queries and to approve a PYM Minute of Action.

WESTERN QUARTER ACTIVITIES: Margaret Walton indicated that she would offer an update on events/activities of Western Quarter next month.

Preliminary Agenda for Third Month Meeting for Business

1. Minutes of 3rd Month's Meeting with Attention to Business
2. Standing Reports: Treasurer, Recorder, Keeper of the Calendar
3. Consideration of Finance Committee's recommendations to Western Quarter
4. Western Quarter Activities Update
5. Concerns of the Meeting
6. Clerk's Items

Convergent First Day School Coming to London Grove 3/15/2015

Western Quarterly Meeting has begun a series of round-robin experiences as children around the Quarter come together in a First Day School program. Thirty-five attended the inaugural Convergent First Day School, hosted by West Grove Friends Meeting, last fall. Now it is London Grove's turn.

Our Religious Education Committee has planned events for young and middle level children and for teens. The children will hunt for hidden boxes (colorfully decorated by our First Day Scholars) containing clues to Friends' Testimonies. Discussion of the Testimonies will follow, led by RE Committee members. Weather permitting, the hunt will take place outdoors. Meanwhile, teens will be hearing from Lancaster Meeting's Young Friends about their experiences last summer with Washington Quaker Work Camps, in and around the District of Columbia.

To welcome visitors warmly, the RE Committee has received Friends' approval to omit traditional Opening Exercises on 3/15. After Holding in the Light, we will announce that visitors are present from the participating monthly meetings and invite everyone to meet them, over hot beverages in the Social Room. Adult Bible Study will be held from 11 am to noon, followed by the Soup Luncheon. The children's program will resume, as usual, during the second hour.

From Worship & Ministry – Retreat Being Planned

Last March, Elinor Thomforde led a discussion inspired by an article in Friends Journal entitled "Did Quakerism Leave Me?" Small groups explored the spiritual life of London Grove and of Quakerism in general.

Discussion continued on February 1 of this year, led by Ginny Green. In small groups, we explored "Rekindling the Fire", and there was much to discuss when we came back together. People shared freely from the front of the room using the microphone, which helped to make people's messages easier to hear.

People expressed interest in continuing our exploration and sharing in a retreat. We are envisioning a one day retreat, with a facilitator to guide us, as we move forward, updating as needed, listening to the Divine and to each other, focusing on the Light, and allowing Spirit to move through us, both individually and collectively.

We will keep you informed as plans for the retreat are made.

Suggestions from the 300th Anniversary Year

There is a desire in the community for meaningful programs, musical performances, inspiring speakers and interesting information about local history and Quaker concerns. We suggest that Meeting outreach can take the form of programs that feed our minds and our souls.

Specific areas of interest and concern include *music, art, Quaker history, the Underground Railroad and prominent Quakers*. Also, *Native American history and lore* is of interest. Another suggestion was for excellent storytellers and lecturers about a broad range of topics.

One event that was enjoyed by many people was the *dinner* held on our anniversary day, 10/18/2014. This is *an event that should be repeated* annually. This event involved a great number of meeting members, including some members who are not involved with other meeting activities. We suggest producing a *London Grove cookbook*.

We suggest continuing to *partner with the Hadley Foundation*, perhaps every other year. The concert we presented with Thomas Pandolfi in March, 2014 was very well attended and enjoyed by many community members.

The *Meeting House Tours* were very successful. It was suggested that this event should be repeated every few years, but organized and run on the Quarterly Meeting level.

It was noted that the *Meeting building will celebrate its bicentennial in 2018*. This might be something to celebrate with the larger community.

Finally, the idea of a *plaque commemorating the Oak Tree*, either on the tree itself or on a separate sign, is worth considering since many people visit our Meeting House property to see our tree. We suggest speaking to Scott Wade, arborist and curator of historic trees at Longwood Gardens.

We turn over to you copies of *London Grove Friends 300th Anniversary* and offer suggestions to *sell the book, perhaps on consignment, at local concerns where that is appropriate*. We suggest Chester County Book Company, Chester County Historical Society, FGC Bookstore, stores at the Kendal and Crosslands Communities, Chester County Tourist bureau and Longwood Gardens.

PYM News: Friends Economic Integrity Project

The **Friends Economic Integrity Project** continues to learn about the intersection of economy and ecology, and considers how we can respond in our individual lives, our meetings, and the wider community. We start with worship, followed by a brief presentation/discussion of new information, and updates from participants on how the projects they are working on, individually or in small groups, are developing. The group meets on the **first Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm** (next on **March 3, 2015**) in the Conference Room at Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Link:<http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/friends-economic-integrity-project-open-discussion-support-group/>