



London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

March 2016 Bulletin

3rd Month Queries on 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?

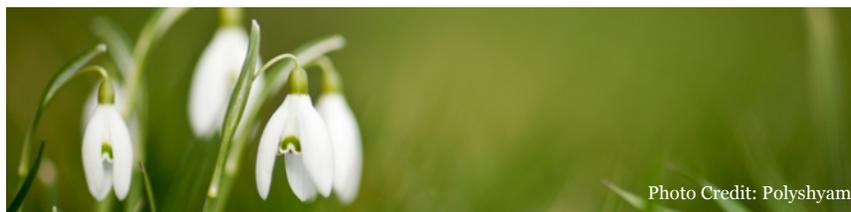


Photo Credit: Polyshyam

March 2016 Calendar

Thursday 3/3	7:30 PM	Property Committee
Sunday 3/6	8:15 AM	Religious Education Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10:45 AM	Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday 3/10	7 PM	Care & Membership Committee
Sunday 3/13	8:30 AM	Peace & Social Justice Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10:45 AM	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education/Bible Study
	Noon	Worship & Ministry Committee
Thursday 3/17	9:30 AM	Library Committee
	7 PM	Kindergarten Committee
Saturday 3/19	7 PM	Forum: Alternatives to Violence
Sunday 3/20	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10:45 AM	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education - Conversation with Western Quarterly Meeting's Arianna Langford and Sarah Kastriner
	Noon	Soup lunch sponsored by Care & Membership Committee
Sunday 3/27	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10:45 AM	Intergenerational Easter: Bible Reading, Story, Music--and Pansies



Childcare and Flowers Volunteers

Date	First Hour	Second Hour	Flowers
3/6	Kelli Trice	Tammy Brosius, Carolyn Muller	Alexia Vaughan
3/13	Dawn Thompson	Karen Conlan, Cecilia Tang	Henry Pautler
3/20	Mary Jo Ciganek	Grace Pfeifer, Anna Myers	Dan Thomforde
3/27	Susanna Davison	Intergenerational Easter Program	Anna Myers

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2/7/2016 MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

DENIS NEWBOLD brought forward the report from Care & Membership Committee that BRITTA BENSON and BEN MARSDEN (who were present today) met with a Clearness Committee, which has recommended their marriage go forward under the care of the Meeting. After hearing reflections from members of the committee, Friends were pleased to approve the report. Appointment of a committee to oversee the wedding will be the next step.

ANNA MYERS sought approval of 6/25/16 for the Benson-Marsden wedding and 8/6/16 for the Moore Family Reunion. Friends approved the addition of both dates to the Calendar.

DOUG MYERS presented Income & Expenses for 1st month, noting that an additional \$1,304 in 2015 contributions and reimbursements were received after 12/31/15. The adjusted opening balance was \$101,848. Total income for 1st month was \$2,074; expenses were \$10,265. Closing balance on 1/31/16 was \$93,657. Friends are encouraged to spread their contributions to the budget throughout the calendar year.

DENIS NEWBOLD presented the Library Committee's annual report. The year's main activities were acquisition and cataloging of 16 books for the Main Collection, two for the Young Adult Collection and one for the Children's Collection. The report included handouts from the recent Adult First Day School program about the Library, which introduced the Library's online catalog and demonstrated how books can be found using the "LibraryThing" tool.

Speaking for the Meeting Outreach Committee, REBECCA MITCHELL described the difficult decision to postpone the 1/30/16 "Dukes of Destiny" concert, owing to parking difficulties attendant on the January snowfall. After discussion about the pros and cons of rescheduling in 5th month, Friends authorized the committee to set the date that seems best to them.

MARGARET WALTON gave a brief summary of the Western Quarterly Meeting held 1/17/16 in Hockessin's beautifully renovated meetinghouse. Friends are encouraged to send their email addresses to Coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org to receive notice of events. Centre Meeting will host the next quarterly meeting on First Day 4/17/16.

The Assistant Clerk offered some highlights from the 1/28/16 Committee of Clerks Meeting, including rotation of clerks and co-clerks on both Worship & Ministry and Religious Education Committees; meeting-related brochures that are under development; challenges of attendance and supervision in the children's program; and Meeting InReach Committee's strong encouragement of Friends to seek necessary clearances to serve as volunteers and Friendly Adult Presences with our young people. This requirement will be in effect as of 7/1/16.

The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held on 3/6/16.

Susanna Davison, Assistant Clerk

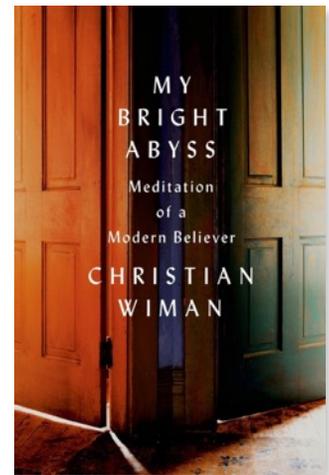
EASTER CHOIR There will be one rehearsal the prior week, on 3/20/16, following the First Day School program. Forward questions/suggestions to Eileen Hickman, who hopes we will have lots of singers! Her phone number is 610.869.9702; or email her at emh725st@yahoo.com

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE hopes to communicate London Grove Friends' ideas for legislative priorities to the Friends Committee on National Legislation. This is our opportunity to work through FCNL's good offices "to speak truth to power" in Washington, DC. The committee's plan is to submit London Grove Friends' concerns to FCNL by 4/14/16, in time for our views to be included in the group's next legislative agenda. Please share your personal priorities with a member of the committee: Barbara Walker, David Watkins, Donald LaBranche, Bob Frye or David Williamson.

ADULT FIRST DAY BIBLE STUDY ON MAY 15 will be a "coffeehouse" discussion of the book 'My Bright Abyss', by the author and poet Christian Wiman.

DONALD LABRANCHE quotes (from the book's dust jacket) that it may be...*useful not only to believers but to anyone whose experience of life and art seems at times to overbrim its boundaries. How do we answer this "burn of being"? Wiman asks. What might it mean for our lives--and for our deaths--if we acknowledge the "insistent, persistent ghost" that some of us call God?*

Although it would be good if Friends read the book before May (find a Reader's Guide at www.fsgbooks.com.) those portions of the text for discussion will be provided to everyone.



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