



London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

August 2016 Bulletin

8th Month Queries on Peace

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

- to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?
- to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?
- to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
- to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?

Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?

Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?



August 2016 Calendar

8/4	6:30 PM	Committee of Clerks
	7:30PM	Property Committee
8/7	8:15 AM	Religious Education Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship
	10:45 AM	Meeting for Worship for Business
8/11	7 pm	Care & Membership Committee
8/14	8 AM	Peace & Social Justice Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship
	10:45 AM	Outdoor Refreshments
8/18	9:30 AM	Library Committee
	7 PM	Kindergarten Committee
8/21	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship
	10:45 AM	Outdoor Refreshments and Reception for Newer Meeting Members
8/28	9:30 AM	Outdoor Meeting for Worship (Please come early to help with chairs)
	10:45 AM	Outdoor Refreshments



Childcare and Flowers Volunteers

Date	Childcare	Flowers
8/7	Margaret Walton	Mary Jo Ciganek
8/14	Christine Hinks	Baz Powell
8/21	Carolyn Muller	Anna Myers
8/28	Carolyn Muller	Jane Brosius

SUMMARY OF 7th MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

A Letter of Appreciation to Cindy Patton and Lori Ruggieri for their many years of service to the Kindergarten was read and approved. Drafted by Brenda Macaluso, the letter read in part, "Thank you both for your many years of dedicated service to the London Grove Friends Kindergarten. You provided indispensable stability in times of transition, for which we are especially grateful. The care, attention, and affection you have always shown toward the many children who have come through our doors will always be appreciated." Upon approval, the letters were circulated for signature by all who were present.

The Marriage Under the Care of the Meeting of Britta Benson and Ben Marsden has been recorded by Betsy Walker. Our Recorder also noted that this is the 13th union on record of couples who were both members of London Grove. Rebecca Matos, on behalf of the wedding's Clearness Committee, provided a summary report.

Keeper of the Calendar, Anna Myers, sought and received approval for two requests for use of the Meetinghouse.

Doug Myers offered the Treasurer's Report for 6th Month. We are 50% through the year but have only received 33% of budgeted contributions. Our contributions for the month were \$3,800. Expenses in 6th Month were \$29,000, primarily due to stonework performed on the Caretaker's house; the quarterly payments to WQM and PYM, and a Leadership Fund grant.

The Peace & Social Justice Committee's Annual Report was given by all committee members. During the past year the committee assessed participation in the county's Family Promise initiative, offered a community Forum on Alternatives to Violence, participated in PYM & WQM sponsored Undoing Racism events, and gave the annual Helen Corson Peace Awards to students in six area high schools. It was noted that the committee is marked by "camaraderie, information sharing, and mutual support".

Carolyn Muller, Clerk of Inreach Committee, offered an update on the committee's efforts to ensure maximum Child Protection Clearances, to assure adequate childcare volunteers in the coming year. The committee will be reaching out to all who have not yet completed necessary Clearance steps and wish to do so. It was noted that securing volunteers is becoming increasingly difficult.

Finally, Rebecca Mitchell (Outreach Committee) requested and received meeting approval to contribute surplus proceeds from the 8/22/16 Dukes Of Destiny concert to our Kindergarten program.

Summarized and submitted by
Robert Frye, Clerk

Fall Religious Education Preview (page 1 of 2) *The Religious Education Committee is hard at work this month, planning for the 9/11/2017 resumption of First Day School classes for children at 9:30 and adults at 10:45, after Opening Exercises. Donald LaBranche opens the first Second First Day Bible Study of the 2016-17 year, positing that “The question of our relationship with the Bible and the movement of the Spirit from within its wisdom is reflected in the Parable of the Soils (Luke 8).” And here is **Billy Collins’ poem** “On Turning Ten,” recommended by Donald to help set the stage for this year’s explorations together:*

*The whole idea of it makes me feel
like I'm coming down with something,
something worse than any stomach ache
or the headaches I get from reading in bad light--
a kind of measles of the spirit,
a mumps of the psyche,
a disfiguring chicken pox of the soul.*

*You tell me it is too early to be looking back,
but that is because you have forgotten
the perfect simplicity of being one
and the beautiful complexity introduced by two.
But I can lie on my bed and remember every digit.
At four I was an Arabian wizard.
I could make myself invisible
by drinking a glass of milk a certain way.
At seven I was a soldier, at nine a prince.*

*But now I am mostly at the window
watching the late afternoon light.
Back then it never fell so solemnly
against the side of my tree house,
and my bicycle never leaned against the garage
as it does today,
all the dark blue speed drained out of it.*

*This is the beginning of sadness, I say to myself,
as I walk through the universe in my sneakers.
It is time to say good-bye to my imaginary friends,
time to turn the first big number.*

*It seems only yesterday I used to believe
there was nothing under my skin but light.
If you cut me I could shine.
But now when I fall upon the sidewalks of life,
I skin my knees. I bleed.*

Religious Education Preview, continued (continued from page 4)

In September, Children attending First Day School will begin learning about Quaker Leaders in America with stories and activities about John Woolman (1720-1772).

Families may want to spend time together Googling this 18th Century Quaker mystic, activist and journalist (in the Quaker sense) who traveled from his Mount Holly home in the province of West New Jersey to convince Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends to move away from the practice and products of slavery.

Woolman's Journal ("the only piece of Colonial American literature continuously in print since publication," according to an article on woolmancentral.com) begins with his testimony: "I have often felt a motion of love to leave some hints in writing of my experience of the goodness of God."

From Peace and Social Justice Committee, here are the latest thank you notes from students who received Helen Corson Peace Awards last month:

June 2016

Dear Mr. Watkins,

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive the Helen Corson Peace Award! I am very honored to have received this award. I am excited to see what my future holds for me! Have a lovely summer!

Sincerely,
Maria Kaliakin

July 1st, 2016

Dear Mr. David Watkins and the London Grove Peace and Social Justice Committee,

I apologize for the late response, but I am beyond thankful for the incredibly generous Helen Corson Peace Award.

Helen Corson's selfless acts throughout her long life are both inspirational and, quite frankly, legendary. Her commitment to peace in violent times, even when it was frowned upon by the public (like her stand against McCarthyism), sets a precedent. Her support of racial equality and work as a suffragette especially stood out to me. Her life was not dull, and I can only hope to lead a life that's equally as fulfilling. She has taught me to trust my gut against violence, and to continue to take a stand for what I believe in despite people trying to sway my views.

My sophomore year I started the Peace Club at Avon Grove High School. This club is devoted to acknowledging and celebrating our differences throughout the school by meeting to discuss them and educating others publically. I believe that the most effective form of non-violent conflict resolution is educating. By spreading messages of peace and informing the world about the dangers of violent and hate, we can raise more tolerant and harmonious generations. I also believe that, like Ms. Corson advocated, standing up for peaceful beliefs publically is an important way of spreading the message, and encouraging others to stand up as well.

Starting this fall I will be living in Washington, DC while attending school full time at American University. While living in our country's hub of government and politics, I hope to spread peaceful solutions to the often violent problems our nation faces. This generous scholarship in honor of Ms. Corson will not only fund my secondary education, but also fuel my passion for helping others.

Thanks again for your recognition and support,

Kathryn Malone

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