



London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

January Bulletin

1st Month Queries Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship

- A. Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
- B. As we worship in the living silence, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Do we experience a deep reverence of that integrity of creation?
- C. How does our worship nurture all worshippers, creating a deeper sense of community?
- D. How does our meeting encourage vocal ministry that spiritually nurtures the worshipping community?
- E. *Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*
- F. *Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationships with other persons and with all of creation?*
- G. *Does worship enhance my capacity for attentive, non judgemental listening to others?*
- H. *How does participation in meeting for worship contribute to my life-long spiritual journey?*

Editor's Note:

The Queries offered above comprise the first in a set of twelve from the newly-approved Faith and Practice. These Queries may differ from those seen in previous years.*

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice is the source of Queries used by our Monthly Meeting. During last summer's PYM Annual Sessions, a revised version of Faith and Practice was approved.

Queries have been regrouped under broad headings (Deepening Our Faith; Nurturing Our Community; Grounding for Transformed Lives; Witnessing in the World). In some (but not all) cases, Queries have been renumbered. Each Query now has sub-letters.

*Both sets are currently on line at the PYM website, if anyone wants to compare them!

January 2018 Calendar

1/4	7:30 PM	Property Committee
1/7	8:15 AM	No Religious Education Committee meeting
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School--S. Cypressi--Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet
	10:30 AM	Meeting for Worship for Business
/11	7:00 PM	Care and Membership Committee
/14	8:30 AM	Peace and Social Justice Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School --S. Cypressi-- Loving One Another
	10:30 AM	First Day School--Guest Speaker--Suhaiba Toomey--"Islam"
/18	9:30 AM	Library Committee
	6:30 PM	Committee of Clerks
/21	9:15 AM	Quarterly Meeting at Kennett Meeting: "Non-Violence Skills"--followed by lunch (see pg. 4)
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship
	10:30 AM	No First Day School. Please attend Quarterly Meeting in Kennett (see pg. 4)
/28	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School--J Benjamin--Book Arts Craft Project
	10:30 AM	Adult First Day school--M.Myers--London Grove Quakers and the Revolutionary War

Childcare and Flowers Volunteers

Date	Volunteer bringing Flowers	Childcare Volunteers FIRST HOUR	Childcare Volunteers SECOND HOUR
1/7	Jane Brosius	Jill Benjamin	Carolyn Muller
1/14	Karen Conlan	Karen-Lee Brofee	Alexia Vaughan
1/21	Sam Cypressi	Susanna Davison	Tammy Brosius
1/28	Dave Williamson	Margaret Walton	Betsy Walker

12th Month Meeting for Worship for Business Summary

Friends who gathered in Worship with attention to business on 12/3/2017 approved Minutes of last month's business meeting and accepted the 11th Month Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Doug Myers noted that we have received 77% of budgeted contributions but we are now 92% through the year. Doug's accounting reflected generous contributions raised at our annual fall Simple Meal that benefitted La Comunidad Hispana and UNICEF.

Doug distributed copies of Finance Committee's Draft Budget for 2018 and responded to comments and questions. The 2018 draft budget is unchanged from 2017: Income and expenses remain balanced at \$107,500. This was the "first reading" of the 2018 budget, which will be brought back for approval next month.

Georgia Delaney presented the Annual Report from the London Grove Cares Committee. In addition to the recent Simple Meal, the committee has been active. It is currently collecting canned corn and green beans to help fill 400 holiday food boxes to be distributed by Kennett Area Community Service.

According to Allen Thomforde's Property Committee Annual Report, 2017 was a busy year. Care of our mature trees, repaving the sidewalk, repair and replacement of rain gutters, kitchen plumbing and water heater were mentioned. Major repairs to the caretaker's house are nearing completion.

Clerk's Announcements included a letter from the committee that distributes funds from the John Martin Trust for the benefit of "necessitous Friends." They ask that applications for grants or loans be discerned and forwarded to the Trust by our Care and Membership Committee. Denis Newbold will be the point of contact for such requests. Donations are solicited to benefit The Hickman's Resident Assistance Fund, which aids their residents who find themselves in financial need. Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting in Palestine are requesting spiritual and financial support for their planned ministries in the coming year: A Quaker preschool in the nearby Amari refugee camp and resumption of ties with Brumanna Friends Meeting in Lebanon "with the near future goal of reigniting Middle-East Yearly Meeting." The job description for the next class of Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows, as well as their possible locations, are shared elsewhere in this Bulletin. Applications to join QVS may be submitted by young adults (ages 21-30) until 3/15/2018.

Summarized by

Susanna Davison, Clerk London Grove Monthly Meeting

QUARTERLY MEETING

January Quarterly Meeting will be hosted by Kennett Friends, and will be held on Sunday, January 21. The morning program--*Peace is a Verb; Love is the First action*--begins at 9:30, and is a continuation of the discussion begun at October QM. All are welcome, even if you were unable to participate in October's discussion. Worship will be at 11:00, with lunch following. Kennett Friends will be serving soup and sandwiches. Visiting Friends are welcome to bring a side dish or a dessert to share, if they are so moved.

A wonderful children's program is being planned, as well as childcare for the very young.

Quarterly Meeting for Business will be after lunch. **We will be hearing MM responses to the Twelfth Query.** This is likely the last time we will be considering the "old" queries because...

PYM has a new Faith and Practice! While printed copies are not yet available, the entire edition is available on line. Searchable F&P has been replaced with the new one, found here: <http://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/>. The next WQM newsletter will contain links to the new query sections as well.

QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Quaker Voluntary Service is a year-long Fellowship program in which young adults between the ages of 21-30 live communally, work full time at social service and social change agencies, and explore themes of spiritual and personal growth with local Quakers.

Fellowships are available for the program year beginning August 26, 2018 and ending July 31, 2019 in Atlanta GA, Boston MA, Minneapolis/St. Paul MN, Philadelphia PA and Portland OR.

QVS provides housing and utilities, a public transit pass, grocery allowance, support securing health insurance and mental health resources as needed, student loan counseling and assistance, a simple living stipend, access to conferences and trainings, dedicated time for reflection and community building, as well as robust support from staff and volunteers. All Fellows who successfully complete the year will receive an exit stipend.

Applications may be made until March 15, 2018 at

www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/apply

Elements of the application process include reference forms available at

www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/references/

to be filled out by a current or past supervisor, a spiritual mentor/friend and a housemate. These arrangements take time, so applicants should begin the process well before March 15!

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

This month we will begin a new adult First Day School series on *The World's Great Religions*. The series will begin on January 14th with a presentation on **Islam** by guest speaker Suhaiba Toomey. On February 11th, Lelia Calder will speak on **Buddhism**. On March 11th, Jack Moyer will discuss **Mormonism**. On April 29th, Maury Hoberman will speak on **Judaism**. And on May 20th, Don La Branche will speak on **Religion and the Human Heart**, a discussion of our need for religion. Please mark your calendars for what promises to be a stimulating First Day series.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you are in need of financial assistance, either short or long term, the Meeting may be able to help, either through London Grove's Care of Members fund, or through the John Martin Trust, administered by the Philadelphia Meeting. Please contact Denis Newbold, Clerk of Care and Membership Committee. Your inquiry will be strictly confidential. The John Martin Trust can provide up to \$7500 every six months. More information can be found at <http://www.archstreetfriends.org/jmt.html>, and in the following topic in this bulletin.

JOHN MARTIN TRUST FUND

PUPOSE: To assist financially needy PYM Friends with either a grant, or a loan.

WHO CAN APPLY: Monthly Meetings within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, on behalf of an individual member with financial need.

GENERAL GRANT/LOAN PRACTICES: The John Martin Trust (JMT) most often provides **grants** to Friends in financial need. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the maximum amount of a JMT grant is \$7500 per person per six month period. These grants are generally but not exclusively made for living expenses of elderly Friends. Currently, there is no limit to the number of times a Friend may receive this grant.

In cases of short-term financial crisis, JMT may make considerably larger grants or loans. These crisis funds go to families where there is a reasonable expectation that the funds will serve to avoid bankruptcy or dependency on public assistance.

In the past, JMT has assisted Friends with financial need due to injury, illness, storm damage, job loss, and more.

JMT may make **loans** rather than grants, when applicants have the ability to repay in the foreseeable future, or have substantial assets such as a home.

Grants and loans are given for six month terms; January to June, and July to December. The committee asks that requests be submitted at least one month before a term begins, but will consider later requests. Recipients may repeat their requests for assistance.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. In the interests of confidentiality, the JMT Distribution Committee requests each requesting Monthly Meeting choose only one person (usually the Clerk of Care, or the Assistance Committee) to be the Meeting's representative to correspond with the Trust.
2. The requesting Monthly Meeting's representative determines the member's financial need. The brief JMT application forms and guidelines are intended to assist with this determination. The Clerk of the JMT Distribution Committee is available for consultation as necessary. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded here as an electronic document. (Each is a complete set):
Word document: **JMT-Word-27nov16.docx**. Fillable PDF form: **JMT-PDF-27nov16.pdf**. If necessary, Meetings can obtain paper forms from the MMFP Secretary, and mail them to JMT Clerk at the meetinghouse.
3. The Meeting's representative a. completes the JMT application, including a cover letter explaining the applicant's circumstances; and b. submits the completed application on behalf of its member to the JMT Clerk to **jmtrust@archstreetfriends.org**, or by mail to 320 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19106 (Using paper forms will likely slow the process).
4. The Clerk of the JMT Distribution Committee reviews the application and requests additional information as needed.
5. The JMT Distribution Committee reviews the application and decides whether to approve the request as a grant, or a loan, to deny it, or to request additional information.

6. The JMT Distribution Committee notifies the Meeting's representative of their decision, and requests that a check be sent to the Meeting's treasurer.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Eric Wickstrom Clerk of JMT Distribution Committee
EMAIL: jmtrust@archstreetfriends.org (preferred for receiving forms)
PHONE: 610-627-1641 for information about John Martin Trust Fund
ADDRESS: Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia
320 Arch St Philadelphia, PA. 19106
MMFP SECRETARY: Gael Livingston 215-625-0627 (if you need paper copies of forms)

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JOHN MARTIN TRUST FUND: Elizabeth Simms, a seamstress, and one time servant of William Penn, married John Martin, a Quaker tailor. Penn gave Simms the property at 320 Walnut St in Philadelphia, on which she and her husband built a small stone cottage. John Martin inherited this property from his wife, and at his death in 1702, left it to the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (now at 4th and Arch Streets) to be used to assist poor and necessitous Friends. A succession of buildings on the property were devoted to the care of needy Friends, including a large two story building known for many years as the Friends Almshouse. In 1841, when the Commonwealth took over the care of the indigent, Friends built an office building on the site as a rental property. This office building was sold in 1924, and the proceeds of that sale provided the funds for the John Martin Trust, with which we are able to assist needy Friends today.

London Grove Monthly Meeting Contact Information

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Bulletin deadline is the third Monday of each month.