

Concord



Quarterly News

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Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

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Volume 7, Issue 3 July 2011
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New Year Begins in July

The focus at July QM at Willistown will be on activities for the coming months and budget issues. In line with our fiscal year, which starts July 1, we will review our financial situation and work toward making decisions about where to direct our resources. We expect a shortfall in the 2012 fiscal year, and possibly in the current fiscal year, so it is important that all members of the Quarter familiarize themselves with the issues and come prepared to listen to the Spirit as it directs us toward fiscal responsibility. An article explaining our budgetary dilemma appears on p. 2. This same article and a copy of a draft budget is being sent to each meeting to consider. Thoughtful, creative responses are encouraged.

The other main focus at business meeting will be on how to use our time in the coming months. October will mark seven years of the coordinator's position. Many changes have taken place in the Quarter structure over these years and rich programming has been presented. A listing of these changes and

activities appears on pp. 10 & 11 and is also being sent to the meetings. We ask that you look these over and come prepared to help discern where we are called to use our time and energies in the near future. We will respond in a worship sharing mode to questions such as:

What is your hearts desire for us as a Quaker community?

What takes you deeper into Quakerism and into connection with others?

What would you like to see happen in the Quarter in the next 12 months? The next 24 months? What programs, projects, fun activities would speak to your condition?

If you have any questions or comments about either of these business items please contact our clerk, Charlie Spadoni at cbspadoni@verizon.net, 484.883.7930, or our treasurer, Ron Ploeg, at rploeg@verizon.net, 610.359.0538.

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Picnic and Tubing on the Brandywine!

We're doing it again! Following business and worship at Willistown in the morning, (see above article) we'll head out for an afternoon of fun and food at Maryetta Clendenin's home on the banks of the Brandywine River. Western Quarter will join us for the afternoon, and we will have a special emphasis on activities for our middle schoolers.

Please see the flyer inside for the complete schedule and information on what to bring. All tubers must

sign a hold harmless statement and all children must have written permission from their parents before they go into the water. A map to Maryetta's is on the back cover.

Child care will be provided during the business meeting and worship at Willistown. If you can't make the whole day, join us for whatever part fits into your schedule-we will be happy to see you!

Coordinator Budget Has Shortfall

At Concord Quarterly Meeting's meeting for worship with attention to business held on May 1, 2011, the Quarter's Treasurer, Ron Ploeg, presented "projected revenues and expenses" for our CQM Coordinator Budget ending June 30, 2011, and also "projected revenues and expenses" for a budget ending June 30, 2012.

If Ron's projections are correct, by the end of June of this year the \$5,118 reserve fund for the Coordinator budget (which has been accumulated over time and is held by PYM) will be exhausted and the budget will incur a deficit of \$3,650. Ron's projections also indicate that if nothing is done, and assuming PYM will provide a \$20,000 General Fund allocation (questionable, see below), the CQM Coordinator Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 will experience a \$3,963 deficit.

These projected deficits are the result of three factors: First, funds from CQM's constituent meetings have not increased since 2005, even though expenses have increased. Second, PYM (which was supposed to pay approximately 36% of the Coordinator Budget) did not fund all of its commitment in 2010 and it is unlikely to be able to fund fully its commitment in 2011. Third, PYM is in the process of adopting a budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, that incorporates

drastic cuts in expenditures to match a significant decline in income, particularly its investment income. The proposed budget, if adopted, will likely result in a decrease in PYM's contribution to the Coordinator budget for 2012.

At its May 1, 2011, meeting for worship with attention to business, CQM authorized the Planning Committee to review the budget issues presented by Ron and to develop a recommended 2012 Coordinator Budget to be acted upon by the Quarter on July 24, 2011. At its meeting of May 15, 2011, the Planning Committee made two recommendations. First, it recommended that Ron Ploeg, Treasurer; Charles Spadoni, Clerk; Rich Ailes, Assistant Clerk; and Beth Lawn, Coordinator, recommend cuts in expenses. (They are in the process of doing so.) Second, it recommended that the Clerk contact the clerks of the constituent meetings to ask them to inquire of their respective meetings whether they would be willing to make a supplemental contribution to the CQM Coordinator Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. (The Clerk sent a request on May 19, 2011.)

Although we had originally planned to present a budget for approval in July, the uncertainty of our finances and the unresolved budget issues of PYM necessitate our postponing that decision until October. Our July business will therefore be focused on discernment of a way forward to guide us toward final approval at October QM at Westtown.

Charlie Spadoni, CQM clerk

Community Gardening at The Hickman

Two months ago fifth grade students, along with Teacher Alice at WC Friends School, helped start a small "community" garden on the grounds at The Hickman. This past month residents from The Hickman and the Mary Taylor House have enjoyed fresh salads from "just picked" lettuce in the garden. Swiss chard, carrots and tomatoes have also been planted to be enjoyed later this summer. Next year we hope to expand the project to include more Friends and Community neighbors. If interested in helping please contact Nancy Wilkinson, Volunteer Coordinator at The Hickman, 484-467-6404.



Remembering Ann Preston

Ann Preston was born in West Grove, Chester County, on December 1, 1813. She began her career as a teacher and writer, publishing in 1849 "Cousin Ann's Stories," a book of poetry and short stories for children. She attended the female Medical College of Pennsylvania as one of its first students. Upon graduation she became a medical professor and in 1865 was elected Dean of the school, making her the first American woman to hold such an office. Dr. Preston founded the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia in 1860. She was a Quaker and an abolitionist involved with the Underground Railroad. Throughout her life, Dr. Preston was dedicated to advancing women's rights. She died in 1872 at the age of 58.



A member of West Grove Meeting, Hicksite, Ann Preston is buried in its cemetery. An historical marker has been placed at her home at 225 State

Rd., West Grove. Dr. Preston spoke at the first women's rights convention in PA, held in West Chester in 1852 at 225 N. High St (now the Chester County Historical Society building). An historical marker commemorating the convention has been placed there as well.

Editor's note: This article was submitted by Linda Fisher, West Chester Meeting. Robyn Young, Concord Meeting, contributed the information contained in the final paragraph. If you have a story to share about a notable local Quaker, present day or past, please send it to the editor for publication consideration.

Betsy Wenny Honored for Service to Scouting

In a surprise visit from scouting officials to Birmingham Meeting on May 15, Betsy Wenny was presented with the Friends Emblem award, "given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the spiritual and social development of Young Friends through Scouting/Guiding and Camp Fire USA as well as active involvement in the life of the Religious Society of Friends." Jim Lehman and Tim Mullady came up from Annapolis and Sandy Springs, MD to present the award. I asked Betsy to describe her service:



Tim, Betsy and Jim at Birmingham Meeting

"I have been a Girl Scout for 44 years, 6 as a girl and the other 38 as an adult volunteer. Various positions I have held over the years are: leader, consultant, trainer, auditor, registrar, Service Unit Manager, Gold Award (think Eagle) Review Committee and Gold Award Advisor. I've been on several Council-wide committees, help run various events, and have been a Council delegate to a National Convention. I have taken troops of older girls to the world Girl Scout/Girl Guide Centers in Switzerland, London & Mexico, as well as an international camp in England. I've been on the Friends Committee on

Scouting for 21 years, of which 8 were as the Recording Clerk and 5 as the Clerk. I guess you could say I've been active in Girl Scouting!" I'll say! Congratulations, Betsy, on a rich life of service to our youth.

You can learn more about Friends and Scouting at scouting.quaker.org.

Circling Concord Quarter

Willistown Meeting Seeks Children's Religious Education Coordinator

Willistown Friends Meeting located in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania is a wonderful religious community consisting of many dedicated members and attenders. Many of these members have attended Willistown since childhood. Others have joined us more recently. We strive to provide a spiritual dimension as well as friendship and a sense of service to our community. Children are extremely important to this framework. We have been blessed with a dedicated Religious Education Coordinator who is leaving to pursue her career. Our Meeting is seeking an inspiring, able, enthusiastic person to serve as our new Religious Education Coordinator beginning September 2011. Interested, qualified persons should contact and send a resume to: Laurie Dilzer, lauriedilzer at comcast.net, 436-5730; or 484-459-9814.

Westtown Extends Invitation to Lake Suppers

Westtown Meeting invites members and attenders of area meetings to join us on Wednesday evenings through August for supper near the East shack at the Westtown School lake. Grace is at 6:30. Main dish and beverages provided; please bring a side dish to share and your own utensils and dinnerware. Rain location is the lower level of the Westtown meetinghouse. Directions to the Lake: From Rte. 926 take Westtown Rd. north; bear left as you approach the school, go under the stone bridge and turn right through the gate at the school. Turn left at the second drive and go down the hill to the lake. Picnic area is to the right along an unpaved road.

Fall Worship at Chichester

Concord Meeting invites you to worship at Chichester Meetinghouse on September 18 at 11:15 a.m. Refreshments will follow. Chichester Meetinghouse is located at 611 Meetinghouse Rd. in Boothwyn, PA. Contact Robyn Young for directions, 610.453.4075, or herashouse at yahoo.com.

Birmingham Holds Mid-week Meeting for Worship

Birmingham Meeting invites all to join in mid-week meeting for worship Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:15 at the meetinghouse located at 1245 Birmingham Rd, West Chester, PA 19382. For more information see our website at www.birminghamfriends.org; or you may call us at 610-793-1734, or e-mail Info@BirminghamFriends.org

The Hickman Has a Full Lineup of Events This Summer and Fall

Join your friends and neighbors and come celebrate the Summer with The Hickman at our free lawn concerts. Ice cream and root beer floats will be served as we enjoy two evenings of great music! *Voices of Africa Choral & Percussion Ensemble* perform July 20, and the *Barbone St. Jazz Band* August 17. Performances are from 6:30 to 7:30p.m. Rain date the following day for July event only.

October will offer the Artists Illumination Series and The Art of Caring. We are excited this year to feature the diverse art work of our own residents! All are invited to the "Meet the Artists" Reception as part of West Chester's Gallery Walk Friday, October 7 from 5-8pm. Reception at The Hickman is from 6-8pm. Art will be on Exhibit Oct. 1-Oct 30, weekdays 9am-8pm, weekends 11am-7pm.

The Hickman's 8th Annual "Art of Caring" Fundraising Event will be held Friday, October 14 from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Please plan to support The Hickman's mission by attending an incredible evening of fun, fine food, entertainment and a live and silent auction featuring distinctive and unique items. Please see www.thehickman.org for more details as the event draws closer.

Concord Quarterly Meeting

Picnic and Tubing on the Brandywine

July 24, 2011



The day begins with Business and Worship at

Willistown Monthly Meeting

7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073

8:00 Sign in; meeting for worship for business begins at 8:15

10:00 Meeting for Worship with Willistown Meeting

11:15 Head out to Maryetta Clendenin's for pot luck picnic and tubing

(Join us there at 12:30 if you can't come to Willistown)

*Middle School and Youth Activities with
Western Quarter!*

What tubers need to know: Please wear old sneakers or water shoes and shorts (the creek bottom is hard on feet and swim suits); you will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement at the site; children under 18 must have permission slips signed by parents (these are on our website and will be available at the picnic); young children must wear a flotation device; parents are responsible for their children and will be asked to help with "creek watching" to ensure everyone's safety.

Direction to Willistown: From the west: Rte. 3 (West Chester Pike) to Rte. 352; left onto 352 to E. Strasburg Rd.; right onto E. Strasburg to the meeting on the right, approx. 3 miles (note-name changes to Goshen after 1 mile). From the east: Rte. 3 (WC Pike) to Providence Rd.; right onto Providence to Goshen Rd.; left onto Goshen to meeting on the left, approx. ½ mile.

To the Clendenin's: Address is 1005 Brandywine Creek Rd., Coatesville PA 19320. Map available on back cover, at Willistown Meeting, and at www.pym.concordquarter.org (archives). Contact Beth Lawn for more information-610.872.1522, concordquarter at erizon.net.

CQM Calendar of Events: Pull Out and Post

July

- 6 Lake Supper
Westtown Lake, sponsored by Westtown Meeting. Every Wednesday through August. See p. 4 for details.
- 7 Mid-Week Worship
*6:30-7:15, The Hickman living room, every Thursday.
7:30-8:15 p.m., Birmingham Meeting, every Thursday. See p. 4 for details.*
- 20 Summer Concert on the Lawn: *Voices of Africa*
6:30-7:30 p.m., The Hickman. Bring a lawn chair. Rain date next night. See p.4 for details.
- 24 Quarterly Meeting at Willistown and Picnic and Tubing on the Brandywine
See flyer on other side, articles on pp. 1 and 2, and map on back cover.
- 27-31 Annual Sessions
Residential sessions at DeSales University. Kids come free! See PYM Website for details www.pym.org.

August

- 6 Annual Chicken Barbecue
4-7 p.m. Birmingham Meeting. Bluegrass band; barbecue chicken and vegetarian entrees; local summer vegetables, drinks, desserts. Take out available. \$12 for adults in advance, \$13 at door, \$6 children under 12. Contact Debra Sparre 610.696.4117 or debra@sparre.us for tickets. Proceeds benefit charity.
- 7 Planning Committee Meeting
7:30-9 p.m. The Hickman living room.
- 17 Summer Concert on the Lawn: *Barbone St. Jazz Band*
6:30-7:30 p.m., The Hickman. Bring a lawn chair. See p.4 for details. No rain date.

September

- 18 Fall Worship at Chichester Meetinghouse
11:15 a.m. Refreshments afterwards. See p. 4 for details.

October

- 7 Meet the Artists Reception: *The Hickman's Own Artists*
6-8:00 p.m., The Hickman. Artists Illumination Series, See p. 4 for details.
- 14 The Art of Caring
6:30-10:30 p.m., The Hickman, annual fundraising event. See p. 4 for details.
- 23 Quarterly Meeting at Westtown
See next newsletter for details.

November

- 5 Harvest Buffet
3:30 - 6 PM, Birmingham Meeting, delicious selection of local foods, profits donated to local Friends' organizations.

- Ongoing** **Gentle Yoga** Willistown. 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Bring a blanket, mat, cushion. Call Sharon Bennett, 610.761.1962 for more information.
- Sacred Harp Singing** Birmingham. Laura Densmore 610.793.5102, LDensmo1@swarthmore.edu.
- Tanguy Sings** Monthly; contact Rich Aldred; raldred@comcast.net, or 610.399.6724.

Minutes of Concord Quarterly Meeting May 1, 2011, West Chester Monthly Meeting

Clerk Charles Spadoni welcomed Friends to Concord Quarterly Meeting, May 1, 2011 at West Chester Monthly Meeting. Charles asked that new attenders to Quarterly Meeting introduce themselves. Jennie Sheeks, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and Annual Giving Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, was welcomed.

Charles then asked which meetings had members in attendance. In attendance were members of Birmingham, Concord, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, and Willistown. Goshen and Wilmington were not represented.

Friends approved the agenda for the meeting.

David Jones of Birmingham Monthly Meeting was approved as acting Recording Clerk for the Meeting. The Clerk asked that the Recording Clerk handle reports a bit differently. If no decision is required, rather than summarizing reports in the minutes, reports memorialized in writing would be attached to the minutes. Minutes reflecting decisions will be in the body of the minutes, as always. Friends approved this suggestion.

Treasurer Ron Ploeg presented the projected income and expenses for the 2011-12 fiscal year. A first draft of Ron's report is attached. Ron stated that he had not heard from the Treasurers of all meetings as to their covenants for next year. He asked the Monthly Meeting Treasurers get him that information as soon as possible so that he can complete his work. Ron suggested that constituent meetings allow open disclosure of their covenants (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Quarterly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting Coordinator covenant amounts). Full disclosure will hopefully help meetings recognize the importance of their contributions in the overall budget of the Quarter. **The Quarterly Meeting approved disclosing specific PYM, QCM and CQM Coordinator covenant information in the budget reports. The information will be released to the Planning Committee and at Quarterly Meetings with the understanding that an article will be written for the newsletter explaining the rationale, but will not to include specific numbers.** The Treasurer also clearly explained that there is a projected shortfall in next year's operating budget. There is no issue with PYM covenants because income is passed through to PYM in the amounts received from Monthly Meetings. There is no issue with education grants because the total of the grants is equal to total income received from the Tuition Endowment Fund plus Meeting contributions to the Tuition Operating Fund. To balance the budget, the main issue is the Quarter Coordinator expense which is complicated by the fact that amounts for some of the income (General Fund Allocation) and expense (salary and benefits) are set by PYM. For next year the amount of the Coordinator subsidy from PYM will depend on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's resolution of its budget which will occur over the next few months, but if a shortfall is realized all Friends should consider how a Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator balanced budget will be realized. One possibility is to reduce the hours of Beth Lawn, our coordinator, and another possibility is to raise additional funds from each Monthly Meeting. Beth asked for resolution of the matter as soon as possible so that she can plan accordingly. **The Planning Committee is asked to take the weight of the budget issue under its consideration at its May 15th meeting, become familiar with the PYM budget status, and move forward as needed to achieve a Quarterly Meeting Coordinator balanced budget to comply with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Quarter requirements and schedule. The Meeting approved.** Friends were encouraged to understand the PYM budget and reminded that we are all PYM. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Nominating committee process changes were presented by Clerk Charles Spadoni. He asked that names for Clerk and Assistant Clerk of CQM continue to be brought forward from the Planning Committee for another year. He also asked that the Quarter eliminate the process of electing two at-large members of the Planning Committee for the Coordinator's review committee, and approve having the Clerk, Asst. Clerk and Treasurer serve in that role. The Meeting approved these changes.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Sallie Jones of Birmingham Monthly Meeting. She reported that the Committee had recommendations for officers of CQM for a one-year term, beginning July 1, 2011. They are:

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1. For clerk of the Quarter: Charles Spadoni, Birmingham Meeting;
2. For assistant clerk of the Quarter: Rich Ailes, Middletown Meeting;
3. For treasurer of the Quarter: Ron Ploeg, Willistown Meeting;
4. For recording clerk of the Quarter: John Lavin, Birmingham Meeting

The recommendations were approved with sincere appreciation for the individuals' willingness to continue to serve.

In addition, Sallie Jones reported that the Nominating Committee is continuing to search for one or more individuals to serve on the PYM Nominating Committee. Peter Lane of Westtown Meeting is the Quarter's only representative at this time. Our Quarter is entitled to five representatives based on the size of our membership.

Beth Lawn, Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator, reported on an upcoming planning process and on the successful social activities over the past few months. Beth's report was accepted with appreciation and is attached to these minutes.

Deb Lyons of West Chester Monthly Meeting reviewed their Meeting's Joys, Challenges and Hopes. That report was accepted with deep appreciation by the body and is attached to these minutes.

Charles Spadoni of Birmingham Monthly Meeting reviewed their Meeting's Joys, Challenges, and Hopes. That report was accepted by the body and is attached to these minutes.

There being no additional business the meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Clerk: Charles Spadoni, Birmingham Monthly Meeting

Acting Recording Clerk: David Jones, Birmingham Monthly Meeting

Coordinator's Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting May 1, 2011

In March the Planning Committee decided that it would be good to have a review and goal-setting session at Quarterly Meeting in July since it has been two years since our last one. The process decided upon was to have me prepare and present today an updated report on the happenings in the Quarter since the establishment of the Coordinator position in the fall of 2004. I have included with the report the goals/needs lifted up when we had our last review session in May 2009, and also follow-up from the Planning Committee meeting that August. Please take these back to your meetings for review and discussion. I will also send the report out to the meetings and publish it in the July newsletter, and hopefully all will come prepared to discuss it and set new goals when we meet at Willistown on July 24th.

The square dance and middle school sleepover in February at Westtown School were well attended and enjoyed by all. Ten young people slept over in the cabin after the dance, eight from Concord Quarter and two from Western. A third youth from Western Quarter joined us at the dance. During our rap-up session Sunday morning the young people said they would like to get together again and came up with a variety of ideas for activities. Greta Rech, Western Quarter Youth Coordinator, and I will plan another gathering for late May or June. Young people and their families from both Quarters will have an opportunity for furthering connections again in July when we have our annual picnic and tubing on the Brandywine, held jointly with Western Quarter these past several years.

The Planning Committee continues to visit monthly meetings. We had productive visits with Willistown and Middletown recently. We will visit Birmingham in May. Our next Planning Committee meeting will be held May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at The Hickman. All are invited to attend.

Beth Lawn, CQM Coordinator

Birmingham Monthly Meeting's Response to the Query:

"What were your greatest joys and challenges this past year and what are your hopes for the next?"

Joys: Birmingham began several initiatives to strengthen the worship experience. Once a month we have 'Second Hour', a quiet conversation in which we share our personal experience of worship and what it is that God, Spirit, and the

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Light would have us learn, do, or be. Each such meeting focuses on a particular question to help participants explore their own experiences and share more deeply with each other than they would in normal conversations.

We participated in the "Listening Project," an undertaking of *The Center for Deepening and Strengthening Our Meetings*, a working group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. And we continued to hold extended Meeting for Worship to allow members to participate in a deep level of worship available from a longer period of worship.

The Youth Committee held a cookie sale to raise funds for HomeAid for Africa. It also organized the Christmas giving tree to support needy children at the Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children.

The First Day School's annual Pennies for Pumpkins provided a way to connect with Barclay Friends and provide support for disadvantaged children through UNICEF.

The Meeting redoubled its efforts to be more environmentally responsible. An extensive composting center was built behind the school house to recycle its kitchen and yard waste. It switched to compostable coffee cups, soup cups and paper plates. It also purchased and is using whenever possible in lieu of paper products, Corelle ware that can be washed and reused. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is investigating ways the Meeting can be a part of the "350 initiative" which is helping citizens find ways to contribute to the lowering of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

The Meeting met its financial goals after requesting a 7.5% increase in the level of contributions from its members and attenders.

Challenges: Birmingham laid down its annual Turkey Supper that was in existence for at least 60 years. It appointed an *ad hoc* committee to find alternative undertakings for the Meeting to provide community outreach and fellowship. That committee has made three suggestions, and it is in the process of attempting to implement them.

Membership remains stable, but there is room for growth. The Meeting is continuing to strive to make itself a welcoming place for those seeking a spiritual home.

Given the difficult economic times, the Meeting remains committed to finding ways to ensure that its financial needs do not outstrip the means of its members.

Hopes: We are seeing a resurgence in the number of families with children, and we hope to see that continue. We are considering plans to replace the heating system in the First Day School Wing and make other capital improvement to the meetinghouse and its related structures.

West Chester Monthly Meeting Joys, Challenges, and Hopes

The year since April 2010 has brought us the joy of welcoming new attenders, both individuals and families. We were delighted that many of them were among those attending a one-day "Quakerism 101" course led by Yearly Meeting Clerk Thomas Swain last fall, and that this winter many also joined in a First Day Afternoon "Attenders' Gathering." The "Quaker Questions" basket placed on the facing bench to prepare for that session has become a useful addition to Meeting life and learning. We welcomed to membership two applicants: Michael Gill and Eleanor Wenner Bradley. And we also welcomed littlest member Lucinda Pearl Smith, daughter of Scott and Sharon Smith and baby sister of Hazel Rose Smith.

Our growing First Day School and Young People's Group continue to delight our Meeting, especially when a Multigenerational Godly Play/Faith & Play experience (at Advent, for example) lets the whole community share in this simple, accessible, deep way of encountering the Light. The Christmas pageant and carol-singing spread that spirit to Meeting folks and Hickman residents at our Christmas dinner. And our RE Committee hosted (and invited Friends School parents to) a six-session Quaker Parenting Project.

Our re-energized Peace and Social Concerns Committee presented the "Confronting the Growth Dilemma" program by Quaker Earthcare Witness's Steve Loughin—and provided the impetus for this Quarterly Meeting's adult program. It also took part in a Nonviolent Peace Force Fundraiser, and it has come together with The Hickman's volunteer group to initiate a Community Garden. Meeting supports the Salvation Army's work with monthly "First Monday" dinners (some by the Young People's Group) and Christmas bell-ringing at Exton Square. Boy Scout Troop 6 continues to help with

Editor's note: This report was presented at Quarterly Meeting in May at West Chester and this updated version will be distributed to the meetings along with the budget in preparation for July Quarterly Meeting at Willistown. Please read it, bring it along with you to QM business session, and come prepared to help with focus on what we are called to in the coming months. See articles on pp. 1 & 2 for background.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Seven Year Review November 2004 to July 2011

Summary of Changes and Events

Quarterly Meeting Structure and Functioning

1. Newsletter is published quarterly.
2. Nominating committee is formed.
3. Relationship with The Hickman changes.
4. The Quarter incorporates, purchases insurance.
5. Planning Committee adds pastoral care to Coordinator's job description.
6. Assistant clerk position created; four year system for clerking approved.
7. Child Safety policy put in place.
8. System for archiving minutes created.
9. Website posting of minutes, events, pictures and write-ups from QM sessions set up.
10. 5th Sunday W&M Gathering given support; standing committee idea explored and rejected.
11. Oversight committee laid down and duties folded into Planning Committee.
12. Two new at-large members added to PC for Coordinator review; later laid down and duties taken up by clerk, assistant clerk, and treasurer.
13. Network for consultation on Property, Buildings & Grounds, and Burial Grounds established.
14. Networking for Religious Education teachers established.
15. Increased participation at Quarterly Meeting sessions; program support.
16. Intergenerational programs at selected QM sessions.
17. Intervisitation information disseminated and promoted.
18. Workshops/programs in the fall and/or the late winter held regularly each year.
19. Visits to monthly meetings by Planning Committee members undertaken.
20. Sound system purchased and used at QM sessions and events.
21. Tuition Aid committee laid down, duties taken up first by assistant clerk, then coordinator.
22. Nominations from Planning Committee for clerk and assistant clerk begun on trial basis.
23. Budget process for tuition aid reviewed and revised; budget for coordinator and for QM expenses reviewed and revised.
24. Stronger connection to Yearly Meeting and other quarters established with improved communication, information exchange, and access to resources.

Programs and Events

1. *QM Retreat explored*; information gathered including attending Caln Quarter's event at Camp Swatara.
2. *Gathering on Environmental Stewardship* held regularly for about 18 months in 2005-2006.
3. *Children's Religious Education Workshops* held Feb. 2006 at West Chester, and Feb. 2007 at Westtown
4. *Pastoral Care Information Day* held at Birmingham Meeting in April 2008, follow-up day on *Learning to Listen* held in April, 2009; *Aging in the Light* information day held in February 2010.
5. *Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Project* established and supported by members and the Quarter.
6. Christmas worship advertised in local newspapers.
7. *Public meeting for Worship* held in West Chester several times over summer of 2009
8. *Communications Workshop* held at Willistown November 2010.
9. *Square Dance* held at Westtown School February 2011.

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Intergenerational, Children and Youth

1. *Intergenerational Quarterly Meetings* held at Westtown in July, 2005; at West Chester in April, 2007, 2009 and in May 2011; and at Birmingham in April, 2008 and 2010, with MS programs and service projects (included HS at Westtown) and children's programs.
2. *Picnicking and Tubing* on the Brandywine held July, 2006 2007, and 2008; and jointly with Western Quarter 2009, 2010, and 2011.
3. *Camp Dark Waters Family Camping* retreat planned and then canceled due to lack of interest
4. *MS field trip to FCNL* explored and abandoned due to lack of interest
5. *Children's RE Workshops and Networking* (see above)
6. *MS and Older Service Project and Sleepover* in April 2008 at WC Meeting.
7. *Intergenerational Square Dance* held at Westtown School February 2011 (see above).
8. *Middle School sleepover* at cabin at Westtown with Western Q. after square dance Feb. 2011.

Specific Monthly Meeting/Member Support

1. Publication of events by email, newsletter, website, other Quarters as requested
2. Birmingham Meeting PC & O Committee support.
3. Concord MM support for meeting, outreach; Young Adult Friends support.
4. Support committee formed for clerk of Yearly Meeting (member of Middletown Meeting).
5. Willistown Meeting committees support.
6. Middletown Meeting support in programs at annual sessions 2009 & 2010, and at Middletown Meeting May 2010 and May 2011.
7. Connections with YM Central Staff programs and resources through our programs and events; by individual request; and through email and in-person information dissemination.
8. Other pastoral care monthly meeting and individual member support as requested.

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such efforts as cleanup after our Roast Beef Dinner. And our opening exercises have ranged from a sampling of parallels in Christian and Buddhist teachings to a singing lesson.

Meeting encountered a terrible sorrow just after Christmas, when a car accident on an icy road caused the deaths of two vital and generous members: Rick Holmes and Kris Hazard, parents of Elisabeth and Blythe Holmes. We were thankful to be able to help their family members who reached out to Meeting, to come together with them for a deep and touching Memorial Meeting, and to be able to assist with practical arrangements. That great sorrow led to joy a few months later, when another pair of young parents, attenders Mark Rimple and Julie Ferris, gathered five fellow musicians for an inspiring concert of classical vocal music to benefit a scholarship fund for the girls.

A quieter but still deeply felt sorrow was the death of Steve Thomas, who for so many decades generously shared his joy in his Quaker faith and his willingness to help in the work of the Meeting.

The greatest challenge we face may be filling the empty spaces left in our Meeting and our hearts by the loss of those three Friends. Other challenges include finding ways to help our attenders "fold into" our Meeting community, and assisting both attenders and members explore and become better acquainted with Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting.

We desire to strengthen our community spiritually and make it more welcoming. We hope the fledgling Community Garden, with participation by Mary Taylor House residents, Meeting members, and West Chester Friends School children, will be one of those avenues of welcome.

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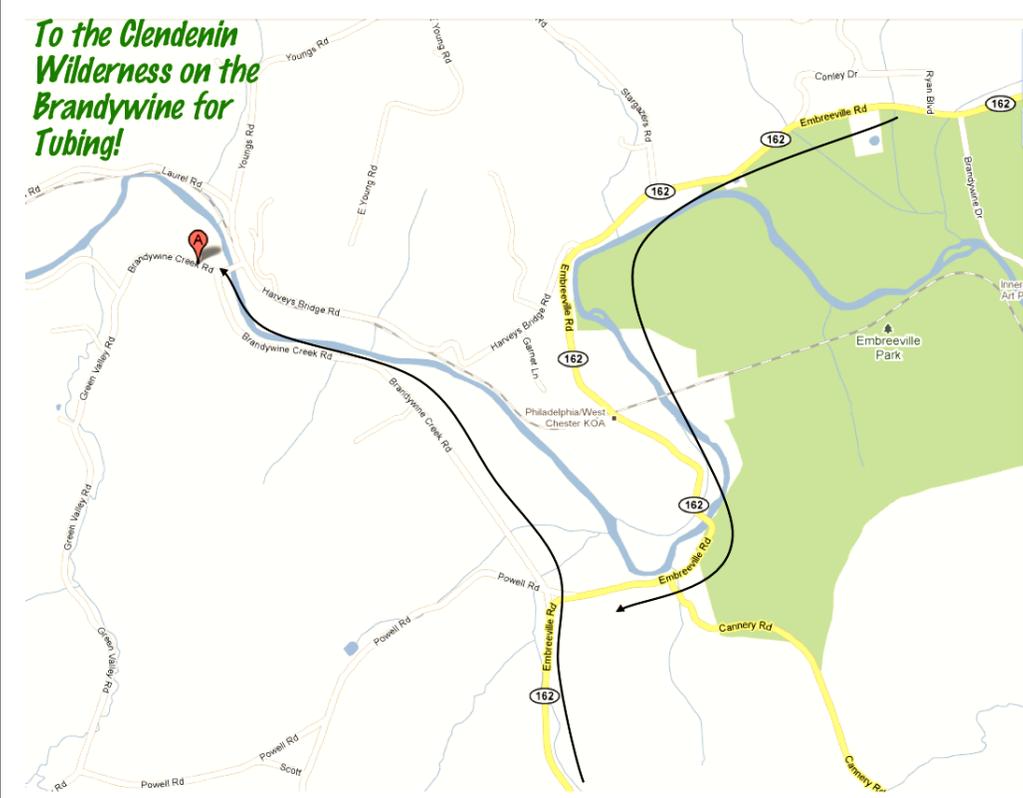
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Coordinator: Beth Lawn

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

- Birmingham
- Concord
- Goshen
- Middletown
- West Chester
- Westtown
- Willistown
- Wilmington



To the Clendenin Wilderness on the Brandywine for Tubing!

Map to Maryetta Clendenin's for Picnic and Tubing July 24 from 12:30-4:30.

Location: 1005 Brandywine Creek Road, Coatesville, PA 19320, immediately upstream from Harvey's Bridge Rd.

See flyer inside for details. Questions contact Beth Lawn at 610-872-1522, or concordquarter at verizon dot net.

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