

Concord Quarterly News

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 4 October 2013

Friends Travel to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center in England for Conference

We are pleased to announce that Concord Quarter is sending 3 Quarterly Meeting Friends to the Kindler's Visioning Conference which will be held at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center in Birmingham, England in October. Brigitte Burger (Concord Meeting), Zachary Dutton (Wilmington Meeting) and Todd Krasnai (West Chester Meeting) accepted the invitation of the Quarter's ad hoc support committee to attend the event which is billed as "A weekend conference working for Quaker renewal". At Quarterly Meeting in July an ad hoc support committee was approved to seek out Friends

who would benefit from this experience. Since then Rich Ailes, Ed Dunlop, Thomas Swain and Elizabeth Varley have been working with Averyl Hall to plan the itinerary, discover funding, and provide transportation for the 3 travelers. Please hold these Friends in the light as they make their journey the weekend of October 11. At business meeting at Westtown, Todd and Brigitte will be reporting back to us on the conference. For more information you can visit this URL: <http://www.londonquakers.org.uk/events/visioning-new-fire-kindlers-woodbrooke>

Community Service Workers Contribute as Chichester Friends Meeting

by *Larry Walker of Concord Monthly Meeting*

At Chichester Friends Meeting, Community Service Workers from Delaware County have been working to remove cut tree limbs, remove brush, clear a perimeter walking path, and repaint the Meeting House. They have come four times this summer. The efforts of these work crews have helped make a substantial improvement in the appearance of the Meeting property.

Quakers have long been interested and involved in prisons and prison reform, and Concord Meeting has been willing to continue this involvement by sponsoring workdays where individuals can work off their court mandated community service sentences. Many groups and organizations are unwilling to be involved in any way with convicted offenders of any sort because of fear and unwillingness to make the effort to arrange for work. The courts had already decided that Community Service Workers should labor in Delaware County for a period of time, instead of having them spend time in jail, which is expensive to the government, in addition to not being a very effective deterrent for low-level non-violent offenses. A Delaware County judge ruled that parochial organizations could take advantage of this program, along with non-profit organizations. At any time, there are usually far more offenders seeking to work off their

community service hours than there are groups willing to accept their free service, but any crew comes with a "Corrections Supervisor" to monitor the workers. Our Meeting was willing to come forward to offer sponsorship and projects for them to complete.

The Chichester Meeting grounds cover seven acres, and much of it is woodland, which ensures that there is always something that needs to be done. There were large areas next to the woods that over the years had become overrun with scrub trees, vines, fallen branches, and brambles, and the workers cut these down before dragging them to a place where they were shredded so the wood chips could be used for making an all-weather path around the boundary of the woods. Over four weekends, they spread crushed stone over the driveways, and loaded up several truckloads of items that had been abandoned over the decades. Two painters happened to be on a crew, and it was decided to have them repaint the Meeting House doors and windows, which was a much better use of their skills and interest. The grounds are clearer, and the building looks much nicer. The Meeting was saved the labor costs of the maintenance projects, and the Community Service Workers have benefited by being able to work off their sentences in a more meaningful way.

Return for the 50th Anniversary of King's "I Have a Dream" Speech

Larry Walker of Concord Meeting went back to Washington in August to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. "I went to Washington for the March a few days before I set off for Earlham College as a Freshman, but the main reason I went was that my father Charles Walker was a principal organizer of the event.

To me the most impressive things of the March were the sheer size of the crowd, the fact that the crowd was very mixed racially, that the men wore suits and ties, and the women wore nice dresses in the August oppressive heat, that everyone was so friendly to one another, and that there was no violence with this unprecedented huge crowd. Security was not an issue, so I walked up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial unchallenged to find my father, who naturally would be near the speakers' platform. I was about 20 ft. away from Dr. King when he made his famous speech, so I was very near history, though I did not realize it at the time." Half a century later, people saw that this March was a demonstration that moved Congress to act in an

unprecedented way on Civil Rights, and it accelerated the changes on racial attitudes in our country. Since Larry had been there for the first march, he decided to attend the Anniversary March. "This one was different from the 1963 event." said Larry. "The attendees were overwhelmingly African-Americans, everyone was dressed informally, the crowd was less than half the size, the public address system was not adequate, and the Lincoln Memorial steps were largely vacant, except for the speakers, who stood very alone. There were the modern "jumbo-trons" so more people could see the speakers, there was a much greater DC police and National Park security presence. There were tents for medical aid, food, and free water, and a large portion of the gathered people were looking at their cell phones throughout. Compared to the 1963 March, about half the number of people came to this latest March, but it was still an impressive, orderly, demonstration.

Civil rights, race relations, and job opportunities are greatly improved from the 1960s, but the clear message from the speakers was that things still have a very long way to go

Visiting with Friends in Cuba and the Constant Search for Truth

*by Averyl Hall of Downingtown Monthly Meeting,
Concord Quarter Coordinator*

I was fortunate enough to spend three weeks in Cuba during the month of January with Friends United Meeting and Guilford College. While there were many reasons I wanted to travel to Cuba, one of the most important was my desire to see what Quakerism is like in a place other than the U.S. Unbeknownst to me when I was planning on going on this trip, we would have the opportunity to sit in on classes at the Cuban Quaker Institute for Peace. As well, we had the chance to spend time with various groups of Quakers of different ages and to help with some construction and painting of meetinghouse buildings.

We split our time between Holguin and Gibara. While we were in Gibara we sat in on classes that were part of the Cuban Quaker Institute for Peace. In the mornings and afternoon we sat in on a class about Conflict Transformation, which looked at different ways of addressing conflict. In the evenings we sat in a class on Quaker processes taught by an Earlham School of Religion professor, Steve Angell. In this class I became profoundly aware how much of my unprogrammed

liberal Quakerism does not translate to Quakerism in Cuba. In one of the classes we were talking about Quakerism, and so many things just weren't translating. I have never been with Quakers and felt as though the Truth that I am present to and the values that I find to be guiding me to be obsolete. It was unsettling and something I have been continually working through.

During one of these classes we settled into one of our few opportunities to have unprogrammed worship. During the silence a woman spoke about how it may seem as though we are sitting in silence, when in reality we are in communication with God. She very wisely posed the dilemma of how we know whether we are only listening to our own voice, or to God's voice. This observation dumbfounded me. It challenged me to continue the task of discerning where my thoughts in meeting are coming from.

Overall, my trip to Cuba was a transformational one. I learned a lot about myself and the dynamics between the U.S. and Cuba. I also have come to realize that the practice of worshipping with Friends from different backgrounds is one of the most important aspects in seeking Truth.

Concord Quarterly Meeting

October 27th 2013

at

Westtown Monthly Meeting

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:15-8:30 | Sign in |
| 8:30-10:15 | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (Nursery Care will be available 8:30-1:00) Youth Program (From 8:30-1:00--See Below For More Information) |
| 10:15-10:30 | Break |
| 10:30-11:30 | Meeting For Worship with Westtown School students |
| 11:45-12:45 | Program |
| 1:00-2:00 | Shared Meal |

“Why Fossil Fuel Divestment, and Why Particularly for Friends?”

Tom Jackson, Member of Dover Monthly Meeting (N.H.) will address some of the misconceptions and concerns about fossil fuel divestment and share why his Meeting decided divestment is particularly appropriate for Friends at this point in time. His presentation will be followed by small and large group worship sharing on queries related to the question of fossil fuel divestment and the potential role of Meetings.

Apple Butter, Canoeing, and Worship at the lake!

Youth programming during Quarterly Meeting at Westtown will be an exciting morning! Come help make apple butter followed by an opportunity for canoeing at the lake and a lakeside meeting for worship! Dress to be outside!

Encourage your entire Meeting, including the First Day School, to come to Westtown for Quarterly Meeting!

Location: Westtown Monthly Meeting is located at 975 Westtown Road West Chester PA 19380 on the campus of Westtown School. Please see the map on the Quarter's website at:

<https://concordquarter.squarespace.com/meeting-maps/>

Concord Quarterly Meeting Calendar of Events

October

11-13 Young Adult Friends Fall Retreat: Play!

Come to Newtown Friends Meeting, Newtown, PA. Young Adult Friends (YAF) age 18-35ish from across the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting region and beyond for our annual fall retreat, organized by the PYM YAF Working Group. Cost: \$35 (financial aid & workgrants available). For more information, see www.pym.org/calendar/events/young-adult-friends-fall-retreat or contact Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt at youngadultfriends@pym.org.

12 Junior Interim Meeting

9:30-1:30 (Includes lunch) Arch St Meeting House, 4th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA. \$5 donation suggested for lunch. Quaker kids (1st -5th grade) gather to pursue the PYM *Children's Priority* as discerned by them at Annual Sessions. Fulfilling God's Big Idea involves service, fun, and community. Come join us for the Fall term, Winter term, or both as we work and play as a Quaker community. Middle schoolers are awesome leaders! 6th-8th graders are invited to serve as Junior Friendly Presences at Junior Interim Meeting. For more information, see www.pym.org/calendar/events/junior-interim-meeting-3 or contact Benjamin Camp, Children@pym.org or call 215-241-7228.

19 First Day School Thread Gathering

9:30-3:30 at a Meeting to be announced. This Thread Gathering is an opportunity for grounding and skills development for Friends who are active in the ministry of nurturing the spiritual lives of children in our meetings. Thread Gatherings offer wisdom, experience sharing, workshops, and community around a thread of concern that runs through our meetings. For more information see www.pym.org/calendar/events/first-day-school-thread-gathering or contact Programs@pym.org or 215-241-7008.

25-27 Middle School Friends Integrity (and Halloween) Gathering

At Haddonfield Meeting, Haddonfield, NJ. We welcome Middle School Friends (6th-8th grade) back for the first gathering of the 2013-2014 school year and it will be an exciting one! We will talk about what it means to live a life of integrity. As always, we'll run around outside, and we'll celebrate Halloween with a costumed dance party! For more information contact Matt Sanderson at MiddleSchoolFriends@pym.org or call 215-241-7171.

26 Screening of *Out of Balance*

7pm. Meet Quaker film director Tom Jackson and watch his award winning film *Out of Balance* on the role of Exxon Mobil and US energy policy. Location to be announced.

27 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting

See flyer for details.

"Leading message" meeting at Middletown Monthly Meeting

11am at Middletown will be holding a once a month Meeting for Worship with a "leading message." Each of these "leading message" Sundays will include a prepared message being given within the expectant waiting time in the first part of the Meeting for Worship. The volunteer speaker, Chris Stern, will be giving a message connected to how "God Still Speaks" to us today.

November

2 The Harvest Buffet at Birmingham Friends Meeting

Saturday, November 2nd, 3:30-6 PM –Fresh and Local Food, Pasture-raised turkey, organic vegetables. Presented by Ted Pace of Brandywine Catering. Vegetarian, Vegan and Gluten-Free options. Proceeds to benefit Local and Quaker Charities.

11 Lecture: David Zarembka on the African Great Lakes Initiative's Friends Peace Teams in Kenya

7pm at West Chester Friends Meeting David Zarembka, Coordinator of the Friends Peace Teams, African Great Lakes Initiative. The AGLI works with African based Friends Peace committees and local Quaker churches in Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Eastern Congo. AGLI has taken techniques like "Alternatives to Violence Program" and developed their own "Healing and Reconciling Our Communities" (HROC) program. Their work includes healing the rift between the Tutsi & Hutu communities and preventing tribal election violence. Come to learn more about this active example of Quaker Peacebuilding and how we might help. Childcare is available. Contact us 3+ days in advance: ed@computer.org or (610) 430-3265.

17 Paul Spiegel and screening of *Kilowatt Ours*

3:30-5 at the Lower School Gathering Room, Westtown School. Join Paul Spiegel of Practical Energy Solutions (and Westtown Monthly Meeting) for a workshop on household electricity: assessing your priorities, financing your conservation plan, choosing a good contractor, followed by a screening of *Kilowatt Ours*. Don't miss this opportunity to get professional advice on conservation and saving money.

24 "Leading message" meeting at Middletown Monthly Meeting

11am at Middletown will be holding a once a month Meeting for Worship with a "leading message." Each of these "leading message" Sundays will include a prepared message being given within the expectant waiting time in the first part of the Meeting for Worship. The volunteer speaker, Rich Ailes, will be giving a message connected to how "God Still Speaks" to us today.

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING SEEKS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) of the Religious Society of Friends seeks candidates for the position of General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting. The PYM Search Committee will begin active consideration of candidates in December 2013. Under the direction of the Yearly Meeting, the General Secretary leads the operations of PYM and its programs, supervising a staff of approximately 20 full and part time employees.

Responsibilities include fundraising, personnel management, budget and finance, public relations and outreach, and communications with and support for PYM committees, member Meetings and other Friends organizations.

Qualifications include active membership in the Society and a demonstrated record of servant leadership, team building and management skills. A detailed description of the position and qualifications will be posted on the PYM website (www.pym.org) in mid--October. Information regarding the application process will also be posted on the website. Questions or nominations may be emailed to: gssearch@pym.org

Check out Concord Quarter's website for an up-to-date calendar!
<https://concordquarter.squarespace.com/quartercalendar/>

Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Held at Willistown Monthly Meeting
July 21th, 2013

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Rich Ailes welcomed everyone and thanked Willistown Meeting for hosting the Quarter. There were 30 Friends in attendance, with all 8 Monthly Meetings represented. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Meeting approved David Scott (Wilmington) as the day's Recording Clerk.

Nominating Committee Report (David Scott)

David Leonard from Birmingham Monthly Meeting is nominated to be Recording Clerk. David has served as Recording Clerk at several monthly meetings over the past 46 years and spent the last 6 years among British Friends. He will be available to record starting with the October 2013 Quarterly Meeting. Meeting approved his nomination.

Minute of Appreciation for John Lavin's service as Recording Clerk

Friends record their appreciation for the service of John Lavin of Birmingham Monthly Meeting who has faithfully served as recording clerk for Concord Quarter since July of 2008. His timely and accurate minutes have been a blessing to the smooth functioning of this Quarter. We will hold him in the light as he moves into service as a recording clerk for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Bruce James, Westtown)

Bruce reported an analysis of the 2012/2013 fiscal year. The Coordinator covenants for the past year have exceeded the expenses. Meeting approved that the resulting surplus should be moved to the general reserve fund.

Meeting approved establishing a second account (about \$300) for coordinator expenses, with Bruce James, Rich Ailes, and Averyl Hall registered as signers on the account.

Meeting approved removing all previous account signatories on the primary business account and listing only Bruce James and Rich Ailes as the signatories.

Bruce presented the proposed 2013/2014 Budget:

- Monthly Meeting covenants remain unchanged
- Operating expenses are increased \$800 (total \$1600)
- Coordinator covenants remain unchanged
- Any budget surplus in the coming year would go to the Tuition Endowment Fund

Meeting approved the budget with this addition:

Any budget surplus over 10% in the coming year would go to the Tuition Endowment Fund and that future budget surplus policies be reviewed annually when new budgets are brought forward.

A copy of the budget is available by contacting Bruce.

Coordinator's Report (Averyl Hall)

Averyl has been discussing with Planning Committee and coordinators in other Quarters how to move forward with youth events. She has started a FaceBook page for the Quarter.

Deborah Fisch, Associate Secretary for Ministries for Friends General Conference, is able to be the presenter at a morning workshop on Quaker business practices to be hosted by Concord Quarter on March 22, 2014 at Concord Meeting. The Quarter will need to pay half of her travel expenses (about \$250).

Monthly Meeting Reports

Reports were heard from two Monthly Meetings (see attached):

- Report from Concord Monthly Meeting (Elizabeth Varley)
- Report from Willistown Monthly Meeting (Betsy Swan)

Report on Ministry travel in Great Britain/Sweden (Thomas Swain, Middletown)

Thomas spent 3 months abroad this spring to visit 14 Meetings to teach workshops on Spirit-given Gifts. Many were full weekend events. During the week he visited Friends and did historical research.

His workshops touched on the following themes:

- How Gifts can be transforming for us, our community, and the World.
- How to identify Gifts: what we do well as individuals
- How we nurture those Gifts and develop them into ministry

His travel minute was endorsed by other Meetings.

Kindler's conference in England update (Rich Ailes)

At last Quarterly Meeting it was approved for Planning Committee to support a Young Adult Friend's participation in the Visioning New Fire with the Kindlers workshop at Woodbrooke from October 11 to 13 in Great Britain. This is a weekend conference working for Quaker renewal. The clerk reports that no progress has been made on finding participants for this event and would like some assistance to make this happen. The organizing group is currently holding 3 spots open for participants from PYM. Clerk asked for help in identifying an appropriate participant. Thomas Swain and Ed Dunlop volunteered to help Rich. Suggestions of people 20-40 years old who might be interested in participating should be sent to Rich within the next 2 weeks. Meeting approved the formation of this ad hoc committee.

Report from Hickman (Ellen Millick, Willistown)

A report on the Hickman was heard. Pamela Leland is the new Executive Director, replacing John Schwab who retired last year. Replacement of Sharpless Hall remains a priority for the Board. West Chester Monthly Meeting, the school, and the Hickman have a liaison committee that meets regularly. Upcoming events are the blueberry festival and the Art of Caring (in the fall).

List Serve (Rich Ailes)

Clerk asked if the Quarter could set up a list serve to improve email communications. Meeting decided to hold this decision over until the next Quarterly Meeting at Westtown.

Rich Ailes, Clerk

David Scott, Recording Clerk Pro Tem

Report of Willistown Monthly Meeting

Over the past 12 months, Willistown Meeting has focused on 4 areas of work and growth: maintaining a rich spiritual practice, continuing the daily care of our community and facility, creating structures which support the business life of the Meeting, and undertaking a major renovation project. Each of these has presented joys and challenges to the Meeting.

The membership of Willistown remains stable at just under 200 people, 14% of whom are under 21. We have an active community of attenders as well. Though several dear members of Meeting have died over the past year, and some are no longer able to attend regularly, we have an influx of young families keeping the Meeting vital. Key to our strength as a Meeting is our First Day School program. Run by a very dedicated group of committee members, we have been extraordinarily lucky to have a Religious Education Coordinator as a paid position at the Meeting. Though we had difficulty filling this position when it was vacant, we have had 2 talented teachers in this role over the past years and a few talented, dedicated Meeting members who have stepped in when the position has been vacant. (And we are hiring again now, if you know of anyone who might be interested!) Over the course of this year, the First Day School Committee and the Buildings & Grounds Committee worked together to design several intergenerational projects, including a bird and bat house building workshop which brought the community together joyfully.

The active membership at Willistown, like many Meetings, is divided between families with young children and

Friends whose children are grown and independent. There are fewer active members between ages 40 and 65 than in these other age groups. As a result, we are, in addition to tending to the spirit of our youngest attenders, beginning to consider how we can support local members who find it difficult to get to Meeting on a regular basis.

The Peace and Social Action Committee and the Kirk Plumsock Trust Committee have been most active in helping us live our Quaker values outside of the Meeting. We have cooked and served a regular mid-day meal for Safe Harbor shelter in West Chester on Sundays and contributed monthly to the West Chester Food Cupboard. The Kirk-Plumsock Trust Committee has served the broader Quaker and West Chester area communities with grants on a semi-annual basis.

Our property committees have worked assiduously to maintain the meetinghouse, outbuildings and surrounding grounds. After several years of delayed upkeep, this has been an all-consuming task, and we feel lucky to have the financial wherewithal to accomplish a host of projects.

The committee structure of the Meeting has been a focus of discussion for the committee clerks, who have begun to meet on a periodic basis to coordinate our work and support one another in our roles at the Meeting. Following the example set by other meetings in the Quarter, we have tried to streamline our committees this year. Our first steps have been to combine the House, Buildings & Grounds, and Cemetery committees into one Property Committee and to lay down the Library Committee. These changes were offset by the creation of a Communications and Outreach Committee (last year), which combined the production of our newsletter with oversight of the Meeting's website, and the creation (2 years ago) of a Development Committee, whose primary focus has been to attend to member contributions, though now includes the capital campaign for our handicapped access addition. We have found it difficult to populate our committees with members and attenders who have time and commitment to be actively involved in the business of the Meeting, and will continue to evaluate our committee structure to be sure it meets the needs of the Meeting.

To support committees in accomplishing the work of the Meeting, we have undertaken several projects. Two years ago we began the process of putting in writing the policies and processes followed by the most active committees: the Tuition Assistance Committee, the Burial Grounds Administration Committee, and others. We are slowly compiling a reference guide which will help younger members of the Meeting (me included) as we transition into leadership roles. We have been lucky enough to hire a bookkeeper who will also provide some secretarial help to the Meeting – a move many of us find very exciting. And, thanks to a grant through the Chester County Community Fund, we were able to have Arthur Larrabee lead a one-day clerking workshop for our members and some Friends from Concord Quarter.

With all of this work, we are trying both to tend to the current needs of our community and look toward the future. Perhaps our most hopeful act as a Meeting has been to begin building an addition to the meetinghouse, which will provide handicapped access to all three levels – classrooms, Meeting room, and social room. The desire to have handicapped access at Willistown is decades old, and it has been actively pursued for much of that time. It has been a remarkable experience of Quaker process which has, over the course of the last 19 months, brought it to fruition. We celebrated the groundbreaking last Sunday and with that embark on a new year at Willistown Meeting.

Joys and Challenges of Concord Meeting, July 2013

Due to lack of enrollment we had to close down our Nursery School. We are having ongoing conversations about how to restart the Nursery School in a more sensible and businesslike manner.

We are in the process of cleaning out and reevaluating how to best use our large underutilized Meeting house space and grounds. Historically Concord was the centrally located Quarterly Meeting gathering place. We would like to offer the Quarter more use of Concord Meeting as a place to gather. We would like to host Quarter activities and committee meetings, and we have offered the use of some space for the Quarter Coordinator

office, in one of our classrooms or our Saddle House that was once home to the Friends Suburban Project. One use for our space is that we are hosting a PYM Middle School Gathering for a weekend in December 6-8, 2013.

Parochial institutions in Delaware County are now able to utilize Delaware County Community Service Workers who work off their non-violent crimes in community service. We have had them for two weekends so far. We supervise 8 workers for 2 full days over the weekend, and our members have been wonderful about volunteering their time for this ongoing project. Concord Meeting is responsible for the old Meetinghouse in Chichester. The workers have helped our caretaker with much needed projects there: clearing neglected land; painting Meeting House woodwork; cleaning up storm damage; hauling brush; and fixing the cemetery wall. They made a huge pile of chips, and are working on making a path around the perimeter of the property. It is a fine example of community outreach and inreach, and it demonstrates the Meeting's willingness to work with the local corrections system. The County is always looking for places to utilize Community Service workers.

Concord Meeting is in the challenging process of paring down the membership list to one that is realistic and reflective of our actual Meeting Members. We hope to re-vitalize our meeting. Any and all help on that front gratefully accepted.

Our commitment to the Quarter and PYM remains firm.

Valerie Peery, Clerk of Concord Meeting

October Coordinator's Report

Since Quarterly Meeting in July I have noticed a theme within a few of the tasks and projects that the quarter is undertaking: this theme is a desire to deepen and to strengthen the life of the Quarter--both in depth of worship and in the quality of and effectiveness of our business practice. An ad-hoc committee is working to plan a trip for three members of the Quarter to attend a conference in England in October, while another is working to bring Deborah Fisch for a morning workshop on Quakers and business practices in March.

An exciting project that the Quarter has been working on for the past several months, and more intensely the past several weeks, has been planning for three Friends from the Quarter to travel to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center for a weekend conference--"Visioning New Fire with the Kindlers". This conference will be on Quaker renewal and will address deepening the worship within in our meetings and how to nourish our inner spiritual lives. The three Friends from the Quarter who will be attending are: Todd Krasnai (West Chester), Brigitte Burger (Concord), and Zac Dutton (Wilmington).

The ad-hoc committee on Deborah Fisch has been discerning what topics we would like to discuss during a morning workshop on March 22nd. From conversations, we have identified that we would like to have a workshop to be focused on how people can or should be engaged in business processes. We are also hoping to discuss the place of technology in how we conduct business. It should be a really wonderful morning; keep an eye open for more information in the coming months.

In addition to these two workshops, I have noticed an increase in energy within many meetings to have a greater presence on

the internet. The details of how best to have an internet presence are being discussed by each meeting so that their needs are met. How to best utilize the internet is a question that has been brought up in both Quarterly Meeting and in planning committee. A proposal was brought to the Quarter to have a listserv to better enable the coordinator to get the word out about important announcements. A facebook page has also been created to have a more informal presence on the internet where information can be more freely shared by anyone in the Quarter. Planning Committee has been in conversation about the potential role of e-mail in its decision making process. Perhaps these technologies will not meet the needs of the Quarter, but there is energy around seeing if they can be of use.

In closing, I also wanted to reflect on a question that I have been continually coming back to, and it is a question that I know that others in the Quarter are asking as well: what is the purpose of the Quarter and what is the unrealized potential of the group? The Quarter addressed this question in the discussion about the tuition fund, but I believe that the Quarter can be used for support in ways other than solely financial. In what ways can programming be strengthened by involvement of meetings in the Quarter? How can meetings support each other?

This will be my last report as coordinator. I am feeling strongly that I need to follow leadings that have been present for me for a few years, and that have only become more urgent in the past few months. It has been a joy to work for the Quarter--to share in your worship and programming. Love and Light in all aspects of Quarterly Meeting life!

If you are interested in applying for this coordinator position please send a query to concordqmsearch@gmail.com

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 9, Issue 4 October 2013

Averyl Hall, Editor
575 Fellowship Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Clerk: Rich Ailes
Asst. Clerk: Bruce Harrison
Recording Clerk: David Leonard
Treasurer: Bruce James
Coordinator: Averyl Hall

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington

**Do you have something you would like to share with the
Quarter? Share it in the Quarterly Meeting Newsletter!**

Concord Quarterly Meeting's Newsletter is published four times a year: January, April, July and October.
Deadlines for submissions the 15th of December, March, June, and September. E-mail submissions to
concordquarter at pym.org.

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