

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of Friends Newsletter

Meeting for Worship: 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Foulkeways: Thursdays: 10am
First Day School (Sept-June): 9:45a.m.
www.gwyneddfriends.org



December 2003

Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 21 at 5 o'clock

Come and join the fun and fellowship at the annual Christmas Tea.



Musical program at 5 followed by refreshments. Please drop off finger foods in the kitchen on your way to the program.

Highlights:

Meeting for Business, p.2

Youth Group, p. 3

Worship & Ministry, p. 5

Coffeehouse, p. 5

Winter Retreat, p.6

PYM Budget, p.8

Additional Queries, p.8

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ FDS SCHEDULE

- Dec. 7 Peace Center Connie Lezenby
- Dec. 14 Meeting for Business
- Dec. 21 Children's Christmas Program FDS Teachers. Sign up for Secret Friends
- Dec. 28 College Students' Experience
- Jan. 4 New Plan of Organization
Lea Stabinski
- Jan. 11 Conscientious Objection (Adult and High School) Gary Lapreziosa

Query on Care for the Meeting Community

Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does the Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept the graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders one of welcome?

Faith and Practice, pp. 208-209

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting Minutes (Condensed Draft)

16 Nov. 2003

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends meeting for worship with a concern for business was held on the 16th of November 2003 at the Meetinghouse in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania.

The Clerk asked for the Meeting's indulgence in adopting a few changes in the order of business, so that we have time to attend to the Meeting's business in a worshipful manner. The changes in this month's meeting are a response to emails, letters and discussions following last month's meeting for worship for business that left many of us with a feeling of frustration, anger and disappointment. For many reasons there was inadequate time for us to reflect on our business in a worshipful manner and to complete the business before us. The changes for today are:

The query on Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education will not be read and considered today, but it has been printed, in full, in the November newsletter.. The October minutes will not be read today. The two major subjects, the meeting's 2003-2004 budget and the Hilltop proposal to rent to the Academy of Community Music will be addressed again today. The October minutes are condensed in the November newsletter and the draft should be in the library within a couple days after meeting for business. All presenters at MMB were sent a copy of draft minutes to review and correct.

The Annual Report from Worship and Ministry will not read today unless the business moves along and there is time. It will be bound with this month's minutes and will be published in the next newsletter. The Annual Report of the Preschool will also be published in the next newsletter and read in the December Meeting for Business. In order to help us consider our entire business agenda, we will be resuming the meeting for worship for business at 1:30 after the 12:15 potluck lunch today.

There will be discussion and discernment of

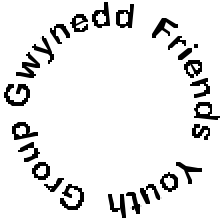
what should be included as routine in the business agenda in the December 14th (note: second Sunday) meeting for business.

Stewardship: Henry Beck reported on the proposed budget for 2003-2004. He reviewed his presentation last month, where the budget as presented asked each member to give approximately 20 percent more. He outlined the responses: some felt we should not budget more than we currently have, others felt we could manage a greater percentage of giving. While possibilities were being weighed, a report came in from the office manager: the regular contributions for the month had increased substantially and there was a large contribution made to the general fund. This was enough to deal with the current shortfall, and therefore the budget was offered as previously proposed. The large, singular gift will be used to replenish the property reserve, to restore monies taken from the treasurer's reserve, and some will be used for current operations and some will be given to Gwynedd Fiduciary for long-term investment. For the future, Friends approved sending a pledge card with the annual giving request letter. The informal questionnaire about credit cards and automatic-check-transfer giving was reviewed, and as there was a demand for automatic check transfer that will be offered this coming year. There will be a report from Stewardship and a quarterly report from the Treasurer each month in the newsletter. Members of the Meeting agreed that greater reporting would be most helpful. Tracking fiscal progress will help the Meeting to keep on top of budget. Thanks were expressed for the large gift that was given to help the Meeting. The budget was approved as presented.

Hilltop Subcommittee:

Lea Stabinski read the following and invited people to speak of their experiences: An open worship sharing session was held

(Continued on page 7)



CROP walk in October
We are proud to report that Gwynedd Friends Youth group raised \$640 to help fight hunger.

November was another busy month and very productive for the Youth Group. On November 8th we had our annual Mystery Dinner. The theme this year was a Beach Party. A lot of planning went into this evening. The youth group cooked all the food and arranged all the beach games. It was well worth it. We must thank all of our guests for your patience and fantastic senses of humor. We must also congratulate you on your ingenuity and creativity in coming up with quite clever ways to eat. I think the most popular one was eating spaghetti with the cocktail parasols from your drinks.

The children would like to thank all of you so much for supporting their efforts to make the holiday season a bit warmer and joyful... We raised \$240 and this Christmas we will be adopting a family from Manna on Main St. Laura and I would like to thank all the youth group kids for your hard work and laughter and most of all for your dedication towards bringing smiles to those that need them.

We would also like to thank all the adults that helped us that evening: JB Baker McAllister, Peter Vail, Laurel Doran, Paul Spiker, Wendy Ostrow and Janet Henderson. We couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you.

December 7th at 11:00AM we will meet in the community room for a bagged lunch. At about 11:30 we will leave for our holiday shopping spree. All FDS children as well as youth group attenders are welcome to join us. We will need parents to drive as well.

December 11th at 7:00PM we will meet at Manna on Main Street in Lansdale to wrap our gifts and help to wrap any other gifts Manna may need help wrapping.

Please remember to bring in your washed aluminum cans and tabs and place them in the

box under the youth group bulletin board. We will use the funds from these to make welcome baskets for the families that move into homes built by Habitat for Humanity.

Please encourage your children to attend the Youth Group business meetings each month... The Youth Group offers opportunities to build friendships as well as opportunities to serve the community and the world which surrounds us.

For a schedule or more info, contact Laura Taylor at ltt901@comcast.net or myself Pauline Rosa-Martir Schepperd at Cassandra.night@verizon.net



HISTORICAL MUSINGS

History notes from 12th Month minutes

1803- The preparatives reports they have not quite completed their subscriptions for Westown School. They are desired to attend thereto and report to next Meeting.

1903 A copy of the testification prepared by this meeting has been forwarded to Ellwood Cleaver with the information of his right to appeal.

1953 The meeting noted the death of our member William W. Ambler on the 13th of Twelfth month, 1953, and his burial at Plymouth Meeting after a meeting for worship at this meeting-house on the 16th of Twelfth Month.

Watch for These Events

Donate a Gift then Buy a Gift

The first holiday recycle bazaar to benefit Friends Children in Friends Schools at Gwynedd will be held Sunday, December 7 in the community room.

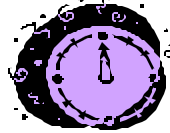
If you have a special item, or several items, that are of such quality or interest they could be given as a gift, consider donating them to our special holiday bazaar. Then on December 7 purchase a gift to give a family member or friend.

Your gifts may be placed on the balcony beyond the showcase no later than Friday, December 5. You may also give items to Laurel Doran, Scott Penniman, Marie Crawford or Beth Binford.

The AFSC is holding its annual Holiday Bazaar at 15th and Cherry on Wednesday, December 3, starting at 10:00 AM. The best donated items are saved all year for this one event: antiques, collectibles, linens, books, glassware, china, prints, paintings, designer clothing and more. We hope to see you there. Proceeds benefit the worldwide work of the AFSC.

Costa Rican Dinner Saturday January 31st, 6:00 p.m.

Here's your chance to taste a bit of Costa Rica and preview what our Gwynedd travel group will experience. Our Middle-school and High-school travelers will cook up a fine and tasty Costa Rican style dinner for your enjoyment. Cost: what you would normally pay for a restaurant night out. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



New Year's Eve Party !

Starting at 9 PM, we will start celebrating the end of the old and the beginning of the new year. Bring your favorite games and a snack to share. We will start with games that you bring and conversation with friends, then the Gwynedd frolics.

Anyone wishing to participate in that, all ideas welcome, contact Rich, Mary Adelle, or David Himmer in person, phone 610-272-2164, or email, mary.himmer@juno.com. (Spontaneous entertainment at the event is also welcome.) If you don't know what to contribute, bring a poem, skit, joke, photography, art work, dance, juggling routine, short story, you name it, as you like, and all levels of ability are welcome to participate. The more participating, the merrier. At 11:15 pm we will have Meeting for Worship. We will break right before midnight to toast in the New Year with punch and cookies. You may come and go as your schedule permits, but we hope you join us for the fun and worship.

Love, joy, peace, and lots of fun-filled moments, Mary Adelle Himmer.

Directory Update: New address for Tara Mohan: 1460 Allentown Rd., Lansdale, Pa 19446



Congratulations Al & Marie Hubbs on the birth of their granddaughter, Camille Madeleine Hubbs, born November 6, 2003

Note from the Editor:

Please email me articles for the January Newsletter to trishschoor@comcast.net by December 20, 2003.



Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse

Doors open 7:30 PM; Program starts at 8 PM

<http://www.gwyneddfriends.org/Coffeehouse.htm>

Saturday, December 6 - Christopher Westfall - a return engagement. He specializes in the music of John Denver and also includes material from contemporary folk and pop artists such as, but not limited to: Pete Seeger, Beatles, John Prine, Guy Clark, Buddy Holly, David Mallett, Cheryl Wheeler, Brooks and Dunn, Emmylou Harris, and Kate Wolf.

The Fellowship and Outreach Committee has concluded that about ten people are required to run the Coffeehouse. At the present time, there is not enough people power on the Committee to continue the Coffeehouse beyond the present season. We are asking if there is enough interest at Gwynedd Meeting to form a sub-committee of Fellowship and Outreach whose sole task will be to select the performers and do the tasks required to run seven Coffeehouses a season (the first Saturdays in October, November, December, February, March, April and May). If you have an interest please contact Carl Baron, 215-699-7835 or cbaron@mail.med.upenn.edu

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

Worship and Ministry Annual Report 2003

In reviewing our year together, the business of Worship and Ministry Committee appears to break into two types of activities. There has been a lot of work on procedures and clarifying "how" we do our work. In addition, we have been working on how to deepen and develop the spiritual gifts of our members and attenders in this Meeting.

We have completed the development of a written procedure for childcare responsibilities. This procedure has been in the process of evaluation and development for the past two years. For the next year, we will implement and evaluate the current procedure. We are also participating in the revision of our current Plan of Organization together with the rest of the Meeting. In the course of working on that procedural area, we have given the Meeting our recommendation that retention of records for Worship and Ministry be limited to 3 years of meeting minutes. The committee's annual report is the only regular item we deem necessary to be sent to Swarthmore for permanent retention.

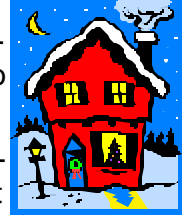
We reviewed and updated pamphlet packets for newcomers. These packets are available as an introduction to both the Society of Friends and Gwynedd Monthly Meeting.

We developed a procedure to limit the number and length of announcements at the rise of Meeting. Announcements should be related to Gwynedd activities and the upcoming week's schedule. Our office manager, Jeanette de Richemond, has prepared an area for other announcements on the blue background bulletin board in the hallway. Meanwhile, we have included in the 11:15 Meeting for Worship a tradition that has been ongoing in the 9am Meeting

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(*Worship & Ministry's Annual Report continued from page 5*)

for Worship since its inception. We now ask each worshiper to introduce themselves and share concerns and joys. We hope that this small change can add to our sense of community in some small way.



We held Seekers' Meetings this past fall for new attenders. Reactions of attenders at the Seekers meetings were favorable. There was a comment that while there are many people at Gwynedd to whom they can turn, these seeker's meetings became a "real group" where more and deeper interaction could occur.

Worship and Ministry prepared our summer breakfasts in July and August. This has become a good way for the committee to get to know each other as we all work together to do something for the rest of the Meeting. This year we decided that we also needed to develop a program to help us address our own concerns regarding peace and the current climate of war in our country. We developed a workshop on peace that allowed us to share our thoughts, feelings, and spiritual struggles about this issue. In doing so, we also have become more able to assist others in addressing their own concerns.

We prepared three Lives and Callings programs for Adult First Day School. This format has been much appreciated in the past, and was very meaningful again this year. We are planning to use the same format next year for other issues. It not only gives us all a more personal experience of those who speak about their own lives, but also seems to leave each of us with the question "what canst thou say?" And therefore allows each of us to deepen the examination of our own lives.

We continue to look for ways to encourage children's participation in Meetings for Worship. We have found that the children are active in First Day School and other activities within the Meeting. It may be that other committees already working more with the children can be a part of developing the children's experience of Meeting for Worship.

We have been examining our role in the life of the Meeting. Throughout the past year, we reviewed the role of a Worship and Ministry committee in the nurturing of a monthly meeting. We used Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's 1997 Faith and Practice as a starting point for our discussions. We discussed the nature of eldering and nurturing in our Meeting. This is a continuing focus for the next year. We are focusing on how we can all nurture the Meeting in its general worship and its worship with a concern for business.

We want to thank Roger Buchanan is representing Gwynedd in the North Penn Ministerium and Mickey Edgerton for her continuing work with the Ministerium. Also we want to thank Lisa and Pete Vail who have been our paid childcare representatives for the past year.

We happen to have, as a member of our committee, the Meeting's historian, Ginny Bergey, who has been reviewing the minutes of our committee's past. I would like to close with a portion of the Report of Ministry and Counsel of Gwynedd Meeting -- January 1954. It gives a sense of the mission of our committee and our Meeting.

"To kindle others, we must be kindled ourselves. We must radiate the joy and the beauty of living, ever dependent upon God, if we would be of service. We could close with the prayer, that in the months ahead, we may heed the spiritual hunger within ourselves and in those about us and, surrendering our wills to God, accept from Him, His strength and His leading.

- The Committee of Ministry and Counsel of Gwynedd Meeting, Eliza A. Foulke, Clerk."

Respectfully submitted by Barbara A. Seidel, Clerk, Worship and Ministry Committee

(Monthly Meeting Minutes continued from page 2)

last Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm regarding the proposed rental to the Academy of Community Music. The idea for the worship sharing came from a joint meeting of Friends from the Hilltop, EEOG and Peace Center committees. It is a response to the situation at the October meeting for worship with a concern for business in which there was not time to hear everyone who wanted to speak, and there was little time to reflect. Things seemed rushed and the business meeting ended without a sense of worship flowing through the consideration of the proposal.

It was the desire of the Hilltop committees to bring that sense of worship back to the weighing of the proposed plan. A decision on this plan was not the goal of this worship sharing. As was clear in the October business meeting, there is more information that we need in order to move forward. The format for the evening was that in the first ½ hour, there was brief fact sharing in 3 areas: The status of the Hilltop Committee's work, how the Academy of Community Music is a community outreach group, and how the EEOG Committee sees this proposal fitting in with their short-term goals. The second ½ hour was given to questions and discussions. The remaining time was spent in worship sharing Arthur Larrabee, Clerk of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, volunteered his time to clerk the session. One friend commented that the worship sharing was encouraging and felt that the spirit was moving among us.

Since then, Neil Trueblood and Rol Henderson have been to Harrisburg to talk with the PA State Department of Labor & Industry to learn what would be required to make Avalon comply with fire and safety regulations. An examiner from the Department cited a number of code regulations required for the use of the Academy of Community Music, such as installing an insulated stairwell, were discussed. The plan of the committee is to examine these

regulations, decide what can be done to make the building safe for this use and apply for waivers where strict compliance with the regulations would not be structurally feasible, or would destroy historical and aesthetic qualities of the property. The committee will only proceed if it can insure the building will be safe with the waivers it might seek. We will probably need to install such items as a wheel chair ramp, a fire alarm system and appropriate bathrooms, but other items might be waived.

Going forward, the committee will seek the advice of Walter Wyckoff, architect, to interpret the codes that the L&I examiner has specified. A request will be submitted to Harrisburg for a hearing on waivers the committee decides to seek. This process will take 3 to 6 months.

Neil met with staff of the Academy of Community Music and reviewed the above information with them. They continue to have an interest but they understand the difficulty of the state review process. We have a group interested in renting on a residential basis for 18 months starting on Dec.15th. This might give us time for the process with L & I. A rental fee between \$2100 and \$2800 is being negotiated with the interested residential group. Nominal changes to the building might be made while the group was renting. Renting to this group would not interfere with the opening of a summer Peace Camp in 2004. If we can get through the review process in a timely fashion, the Academy of Community Music might rent it, following the rental to the residential group.

Temporary rental gives EEOG additional planning time, as well as time to consider what the relationship would be with the Academy... would they be merely renters, or would we want to partner with them in their mission to bring music to physically and financially disadvantaged (the Crescendo Program)? Could they be integrated into the Preschool program?

Russ Bishop is working on a fund drive for Hilltop but he was unable to be present today. Hilltop was given a \$50,000 contribution and members were urged to considering making a gift to Hilltop before the end of the year.

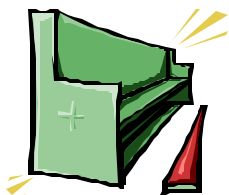
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The Covenant the Annual Fund and the PYM Budget

Sounds like the title of a children's story doesn't it? It's not that at all, it's how we Friends support our faith community. The covenant is the amount each Monthly Meeting agrees that they can corporately contribute with the participation of all members.

The covenant was never intended to provide the entire \$2,000,000 PYM operating budget. Presently, it provides half of the operating budget. The third quarter is derived from the income of undesignated endowment funds gifted to us by Friends in the past. The last quarter is provided by the Annual Fund. This is the instrument that permits those of us who can give more to do so. Who might that be?

The following is from a survey on the incomes of PYM Friends. Mark Cary, Swarthmore Meeting did this survey a year ago. Mark is a professional statistician: "Next to Jews, Quakers are the best educated of all religions. Ninety percent of PYM's membership is college educated. One half hold graduate degrees. One third of PYM's membership earns \$100,000 and up a year. Thirty six percent earn \$40,000 and up, and only eighteen percent earn under \$40,000 a year." In the last fiscal year, 1,744 donors (members and attenders) contributed to the Annual Fund. Looking at Mark's statistics it seems clear that many more of us could be making contributions in support the faith community we hold so dear. PYM faces painful cuts in programs, services, and staff over the next few years. In this financially difficult time, if we are to continue to grow in both spirit and in number, it will require more than 1,744 of us providing financial support to the Annual Fund. It will require contributions from those Friends who have not supported the Annual Fund. It is they who can make the difference!



ADDITIONAL QUERIES FOR MEETING FOR BUSINESS:

- In our meetings for business, am I able to listen “beyond the words,” to hear both what is said and what is not said, listening with both mind and heart?
- When expressing an opinion, am I able to state my thoughts clearly and succinctly—and then let them go?
- Do I listen to others with curiosity, not judgment?
- Am I ready to be surprised?
- Do I actively seek to stay connected to those who may view things differently than I do?
- Do I look for differences as opportunities for growth, even for revelation?
- Do we understand that when we speak of “Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business” that the challenge is for our worship to be even more intentional, more deeply rooted and actively practiced than during Meeting for Worship?
- Do we consider that when we are not able to discern God's will for us in a matter, we may not be asking the right question?
- Do we step back from time to time and ask, “What's happening here?” Do we step back from time to time and ask, “What's not happening here?”
- Do we truly know that we are being and will be led and cared for, even when we may not feel it?
- In those times when we experience unity and a clear sense of the meeting, do we clearly acknowledge to each other, “Look, see what is happening here!” and rejoice and give thanks?
- Do we learn from the past by reminding ourselves and others of what it has been like when we, as individuals, as a meeting and as a faith tradition, have experienced God working through our meetings for business... by reminding ourselves what that felt like and what we did (and what we did not do) that enabled us to transcend our limitations and differences and experience the true “unity” that is so much more complex than “agreement” or “consensus”?
- Do we come into our meeting for business with humility? With trust? With love? With hope?

—Cyndy Blumenthal

An Update from Stewardship



Stewardship is pleased to report that the budget which we presented to Meeting for Business was approved. This was able to happen because members of the Gwynedd Community have already increased their contributions to the Meeting, and we have received a very generous contribution to the General Fund. None the less we still must all remember to make our contributions as we can. In a few weeks you will be receiving, by mail, a copy of the budget, along with a pledge card, and we shall be asking you to let the Treasurer know how much you intend to contribute this year.

Contributions to the Meeting are deeply appreciated and can be made by check sent to: Treasurer, Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, P.O. Box 142, Gwynedd, PA 19436



Report From Abington Quarterly Meeting on October 5, 2003

Abington QM has decided to combine the oversight committees for the Junior Friends Conference and the Middle-School Friends Conference. They also decided to combine the dates and venue of both conferences: The George School in June of 2004. This way, costs will be lower, because the two programs can hire only one nurse to work for both, and the George School is much cheaper than Fellowship Farm, where the MSFC has been held until now.

The Oversight Committee is also looking for more people to become involved with the Young Friends' programs, especially from the larger monthly meetings. The programs cannot grow or continue without new adults becoming involved. This is a highly-valued ministry to our Quarter's young people; please help if you can.

There is interest among some AQM members in corporately supporting the American Friends Service Committee's efforts to build schools in Afghanistan. The AFSC has been building and equipping schools in several regions, and providing education and vocational training for war widows. There is a special emphasis on providing education for women and girls (the current literacy rate among women is 15%). Schools are often matched with sister schools in the U.S. The U.S. school (or other group) communicates through letter writing (an AFSC staffer translates) and supports the Afghan school with fundraising. For more information, talk to Vicki Hain Poorman, Deb Faulkner or Kathleen Geist, who attended the AQM session.

Gwynedd member Vicki Hain Poorman will be away for three weeks in January, from the 7th until the 27th, working as staff person for the Triennial conference of Friends World Committee for Consultation. In the tradition of early Friends women who left their families in the care of their meetings while traveling in the ministry, Vicki would appreciate support for her husband and 5-year-old son, James and Nathaniel, while she is away. The most likely need is for babysitting for Nathaniel, while James attends choir practices at his church two nights a week. Occasional meals would also be appreciated. Please contact James at 215-784-0533 or jt_vhpoorman@msn.com if you may be able to help. Thank you.

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Concern was expressed that fund raising reports have not been presented to meeting. The Hilltop Committee has felt launching a fund raising campaign without a vision within the Meeting for the property's use would be difficult. With the Academy of Community Music, the EEOG and the Peace Center initiatives the committee now is working hard to launch a campaign immediately. is weighing whether we should be waiting for a vision of purpose before beginning a fund raising drive or start without it.

Friends discussed the fact that information was presented at the worship-sharing session, and that love and worship were a part of that discussion. Out of that meeting a realization came that considering revelation and faithfulness need to be part of our consideration. There was an expression of thanks for the clerking of Arthur Larrabee. Friends liked the fact that we now have a transparency in our information flow, and that we are now operating with integrity. It now appears that we have openness for continuing revelation, and that we are operating within our belief system. This is putting members at greater ease.



Roger Sternfeld brought forward the proposal for a Peace Camp originally presented at the September Meeting for Business. The meeting approved that we move forward in the formation of a subcommittee, under the oversight of the Peace and Social Action Committee to begin the development of a Peace Camp for elementary age children to be offered at Gwynedd Monthly Meeting during the month of August.

The Peace Camp subcommittee will be responsible for establishing a detailed plan for the camp, which will include staffing requirements, program content and budgetary requirements. The committee will regularly report progress to Gwynedd Monthly Meeting for Business. Laurel Doran, Joan Mondress, Susan Lockwood, J. B. McAllister, and Jan

Henderson will serve on this committee. Jan would be willing to serve as liaison to Property Committee.

Nominating Committee Judy Flanigan reported by email that Nominating Committee recommends Regina Peasley for another 3 Year term on Trustees. The meeting approved. Nominating does not yet have a recommendation for AQM representative meeting or for Gwynedd Fiduciary Corporation. The Clerk of meeting recommended Mickey Edgerton and Gary Lapreziosa as a nominating committee for the Nominating Committee. The meeting approved.

Recorder June Hallowell reported that a daughter was born to Al Hubbs, Jr. and Larissa on Nov. 6, 2003. They have named the child Camille Madeleine Hubbs.

Property Neil Trueblood reported Mike Iacocca has reviewed the budget with Karen Russell. Property committee is working with Keystone to consolidate the alarm system and to coordinate other systems. This should lead to lower cost. The roof of the Meeting House is not at risk but is aesthetically displeasing. The cost for professional painting was exorbitant. The Committee is considering alternative ways to repaint. Workday was a success.

Jan Henderson reported for the adhoc committee on the "Facilities Use Policy and Procedure of Gwynedd Friends Meeting". She summarized the gist of several documents needed to address the outside use of the building. These documents are still drafts. Jan left copies and asked for any helpful comments people might have.

A Property Hospitality Committee to assist with the use of meeting property has been assembled from interested volunteers and Carolyn Moon will be the clerk. Members will be Judy Flanigan, Joan Meschter, Bill Pye, Cynthia Evans, Margot West, Joan Johnston, Janet Henderson and Cheryl

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Zabinski

Religious Education Pegene McPhaden reported that there are changes in the schedule, which will be reported in the newsletter. Immediate changes will be sent out to Friends via email. Property was asked to make a sign indicating the December Meeting for Business is the second Sunday and the times.

Peace and Social Action Joan Johnston reported Tom Allebach of Interfaith of Lansdale visited their committee and requested for a new representative from Gwynedd. Art D' Adamo was the previous representative. Bill Pye has subsequently offered his services.

Carol Shearon told Peace and Social Action Committee of a service mission to Honduras that she and nine others are making next May 22nd to the 30th. The group will travel through mountain villages to find and treat malnourished children. Mothers are educated in nutrition, basic water purification skills and some animal husbandry to sustain their family. They have room for four additional travelers, and they have extended an invitation to Gwynedd. The cost of the trip is \$1,000. A letter and an application are available in the meetinghouse. Judy Flanigan has stepped down from coordinating the Inter-Faith Hospitality Network. Peace and Social Action thanked her for her service and dedication to her leading. She will be sorely missed.

Fellowship and Outreach Carl Baron gave the clerk the following information, which she read: The Coffeehouse will continue for the 2003-2004 season. In October, after contributions to the charity of the month, they had an excess of \$110.90. In November, the coffee house lost \$35.92. The following announcement will appear in the December Newsletter:

Abington Quarterly Meeting Vicki Hain-Poorman reported on the October Abington Quarterly Meeting held at Norristown Meet-

ing. The afternoon program dealt with the need to support schools in Afghanistan. The minutes of ABQ are posted on the bulletin board.

PYM Interim Meeting Martin Trueblood reported on three interim meetings of PYM. The first meeting was their meeting as a corporate board to discuss the problem of withholding funds as a war protest. PYM is going to oppose the government suits including the \$20,000 in penalties requested by the government. Legal fees have been donated to PYM and monies have been set aside should the case be lost. Interim Meeting met to deal with the budget crunch. It looks like there might be a loss of three staff positions at yearly meeting. Decision was made to review donations by PYM to outside groups. Interim Meeting reviewed amounts to be spent on operations and donations. Budget shortfall is \$300,000 and this will have to be funded from monies that would, in the past, have been given out as drafts.

A team would like to come to Gwynedd on the second and third weekends in February to explain role of Yearly meeting at the end of First Day School. Our Religious Ed. Committee will be asked to consider having them come for an entire First Day School.



Property Committee is asking for help with energy conservation. Please remember to close all doors and windows and turn off the lights when you are finished in the building. Thank you



Winter Retreat: A time to rest.

Saturday December 13, 2003

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM at Gwynedd Friends

**Facilitator: Constance A. Lezenby, M.A. in holistic spirituality and spiritual direction
from Chestnut Hill College**

Come aside from the busy world for extended silent worship, exploration of spiritual disciplines and active silence of reading, drawing, needlework, walks and writing. At the day's end, we will share insights and reflections. Bring a journal, sketch book, crafts, spiritual readings. Also bring food to share during a quiet meal. Bring a bag lunch and snacks to share. Drinks will be provided.

Please register by December 8, 2003

PYM

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting March 25-28, 2004

The Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will be March 25-28, 2004, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. The Agenda and Registration Materials will be sent in February. At Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions, Friends gather in worship and song, and in sessions to discern God's leading for us. Coming together in community, we ready ourselves for the many miracles in our midst. Planning is in full swing for the 2004 Annual Sessions. Those involved in planning are committed to creating a community experience that is inviting and welcoming. There will be a few adjustments:

- 1) interspersing workshops, business sessions, and community activities;
- 2) increasing the amount of space available for community-building activities by using the Arch Street Meeting House grounds and the Holiday Inn;
- 3) creating more experiences in which we are together as a community of all ages;
- 4) providing a room in the meetinghouse for families to regroup.

Come to experience God's love as a Yearly Meeting community.

PYM Information Line 215-241-7230

When you need information from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and don't know whom to call, Mary Anne Crowley is the answer. She is prepared to receive general inquiries and respond or refer you. Her phone number is 215-241-7230 and her e-mail address is maryc@pym.org You may also call toll-free 1-800-220-0796, and press 7230 when the system answers.

GWYNEDD FRIENDS

December 2003

December 2003							January 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	December 1 7:30pm Pastoral Care	2	3 7:00pm Pray for Peace 8:00pm George Fox Study Group	4 10:00am Sort & Pack Clothes 10:00am Worship (Foulkeways)	5	6 7:30pm Coffeehouse
7 8:00am Spirit. Direction 8:00am Religious Education (Library) 8:30am FCIS Holiday Bazaar 9:00am Worship 9:45am FDS 11:00am Youth - Shopping Spree 11:15am Worship 7:00pm Dream Group	8 9:30am Worship Sharing (Tweddale) 7:30pm Peace & Social Action	9 7:30pm Preschool	10 7:00pm Pray for Peace 8:00pm George Fox Study Group	11 10:00am Worship (Foulkeways) 7:00pm Youth - Wrapping	12 7:00pm Gathering Garden	13 9:30am Gathering Garden Retreat
14 8:30am Worship 9:00am Business 11:15am Worship 1:00pm Babysitting 7:00pm Dream Group	15	16	17 7:00pm Pray for Peace 8:00pm George Fox Study Group	18 10:00am Worship (Foulkeways)	19 No School	20 10:00am Sort & Pack Clothes
21	22	23	24 No School	25	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 9:45am FDS 11:15am Worship 5:00pm Christmas Tea 7:00pm Dream Group	29 9:30am Worship Sharing (Tweddale) 7:30pm Worship & Ministry	30 7:30pm Property	31 7:30pm Worship	10:00am Worship (Foulkeways) 11:15am Worship		
9:00am Worship 9:45am FDS 11:15am Worship 7:00pm Dream Group	No School		9:00pm Party 11:15pm Worship			

Gwynedd Friends Meeting
PO Box 142
Gwynedd, PA 19436

CLOTHING DONATIONS for the AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Twice a month the Newsletter calendar lists times for "Sort and Pack". At those times a Gwynedd/Foulkeways group spends about 3 to 4 hours volunteering at the AFSC warehouse at Friends Center, 1515 Cherry St. in Phila. We take with us donations left at the meeting-house. **The AFSC welcomes:**

New and clean used clothing in good condition for men, women, and children. There is a critical need for children's clothing. Soft toys are welcome.

Clean durable shoes and boots that will last a year. Please, NO MUD!

Scarves, caps, gloves, towels, sheets and blankets (not electric)

The AFSC does not accept: evening dresses, high-heeled shoes, tablecloths, curtains, napkins, any clothing with religious or military symbols or the U.S. flag.

Clothing contributions may be left upstairs in the ping pong room under the long, narrow table. If you cannot deliver donations when the meetinghouse is open, leave them in the outside cabinet at the foot of the front porch steps. Please keep in mind that any bags left outside must be carried inside and up the steps, and the person responsible for doing this cannot manage bags weighing more than 20 pounds.

We welcome anyone who would like to join the group of volunteers who work at the warehouse. Please call Jeanetta Bicking, 215-283-7273 or e-mail at JMBICK@aol.com