

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 13, Issue 3 July 2016

Quaker Settlers in the Delaware Valley

On October 28, 1682, William Penn, along with another 100 Quakers of fortitude, sailing in the ship *Welcome* docked in Upland (now known as Chester), then the northernmost port on the west side of the Delaware River in the Colony of

Pennsylvania. A few Quakers, who had settled there as early as 1675 in the midst of several hundred Swedes, Dutch and Finns strung out along the Delaware River, greeted Penn and his fellow travelers. Most of the Friends who greeted or accompanied Penn had experienced

religious persecution in England and Wales. In fact, historians estimate that about 15,000 Quakers were imprisoned in England between 1661 and 1685, with up to 1,400 in English jails in 1685. Even for those steeled to persecution, emigration to the New World was not for the faint of heart.

The multi-week long trip across the Atlantic Ocean was perilous because of the threat of storms and disease. (One-third of the *Welcome's* passengers died of small pox.) Those intrepid Quakers who survived the trip entered an area that was primarily a virgin forest without roads or bridges. In 1682 they arrived just before the onset of winter. Thus, the Quakers who accompanied Penn did not have time to clear land, build homes, plant crops and harvest those crops in time to provide food during the winter months. To survive, many of them dug "pits" or "caves" to live in. Among them was Caleb Pusey, one of Penn's partners in a grist and saw mill business that began operations in 1683 on Chester Creek just north of Chester.

The Quakers settling in Chester County (which at that time included what is now Delaware County) were not deterred. They lived their lives with religious zeal, having held their first monthly meeting in Upland in September 1682, a month before Penn's arrival. As Samuel McPherson Janney explained, "The Friends, soon after their arrival, were careful to establish, in every neighborhood, meetings for divine worship, where they offered up grateful thanks to the Father of Spirits for the many blessings they enjoyed." *Religious Society of Friends from its Rise to the Year 1828*.

Their religious zeal was rooted in George Fox's revelation that Christ was a "voice" that existed in every human. These Quaker zealots initiated and nurtured cultural patterns in the new world that had far reaching effects, even as far as the constitutional underpinnings of the future state. Spurred on by the genius of William Penn, this community interacted with the indigenous people with respect and contract, established land grants that were small and numerous, produced schools that were open to non-Friends, instituted governing bodies which were responsive to the governed, and

readily accepted immigrants from other countries. Yes, they had their faults including accepting slavery far too long and becoming enticed by material wealth, but in comparison to other English migrations to the north and the south, the

Delaware Valley Friends brought a morally democratic (with a small "d") framework into their Pennsylvania and West Jersey communities.

By the end of 1683 the Quaker settlements in Chester County were anchored at four points: Chester, Chichester, Darby and Haverford. "From these points the new settlements rapidly developed and spread over the adjacent townships." Except for

Haverford, the Quaker immigrants "sat themselves down in the midst, or the vicinity, of a civilized people." But the Welsh Quakers settling around Haverford were "forced, at once, to plunge into the wilderness" while they spread to Radnor, Newtown, Goshen, Tredyffrin and Uwchlan townships.

By March 1684 there were enough Quakers in and around Chichester for a monthly meeting to be established there. Two years later, Quakers held monthly meetings in Quaker homes located in Concord, Bethel and Birmingham townships. That same year they built a meetinghouse in Chichester.

Quakers were expected to go to meeting for worship two times a week and to travel up to 10 miles to and from each meeting. Doing so was no mean feat given the absence of improved roads (or in some cases any roads) and bridges over streams and creeks. Wolves abounded in the woods. Their large numbers correlated to the increase in the number of livestock foraging in the forests. Fortunately, the Native Americans, with whom Penn had established an amicable relationship, were not a danger even though on at least one occasion rumors circulated that they were massing to attack. As it turned out, 500 were camping peacefully along the Brandywine Creek.

In 1684 the witch hysteria reached Chester County. Several women living "at the mouth of Crum Creek" were accused of being witches. They were tried before William Penn and his Council. What was the outcome?

If you come to Quarterly Meeting on July 24, 2016, you can hear Quaker historian Nancy Webster tell you all about that trial as well as describe the life and times of Quakers in Chester County in the late 17th century. Nancy will begin her talk while we are eating lunch at Concord Monthly Meeting, and then she will continue her talk at Chichester Meetinghouse in Chichester Township and then at the Caleb Pusey house in Upland Township. Nancy and we look forward to seeing you there.

Charles Spadoni and Rich Ailes



Workshop Helps Young Men (and Women) Consider the Draft



For most of us, the draft is a long-ago memory of the 1960s and 1970s. However, anyone with a high school age son intending to pursue education beyond graduation knows that registering for the draft is a real thing deserving thoughtful consideration. Recently, the US Senate passed a bill requiring young women to register for the draft as well. In all likelihood, now that women may serve in combat units, women will be required to register for the draft. Even without this requirement of registration, in the event of a draft, women could be included.

In 2002 it looked to many Friends and others as though the draft was about to be reinstated. Chester County Peace Movement worked with the Center on Conscience and War to train interested adults to be draft counselors. Several Westtown School teachers, including myself, spent a Saturday at Birmingham Friends learning how to counsel young men about the draft, registering for the draft, what it means to be a Conscientious Objector, and how to establish oneself as a CO. I have been offering an annual session for students at Westtown ever since. From a high of 30 students to a most recent low of five, three of whom were young women, interest and concern has tracked the number of young people needed to prosecute America's wars.

While there are many aspects of the draft and registration laws that we cover in the training, the two most important concepts for young people to come away with from these sessions are that failing to register with Selective Service System for the draft has serious and life-long consequences and that in the event of a draft, proving one's case as a CO falls on the shoulders of the person seeking this status. As I am a Friend, I always begin my

sessions with a period of Worship. I then review what the law says about the draft, draft registration, who is eligible to be drafted and who is exempt. I then review what conscientious objection means (and what it doesn't mean) as defined by the law. We also spend significant time discussing ways to build one's case as a CO and how to create a CO file, if this is what a person decides to do. Finally, I always end the session having participants do some self-reflective writing using prompts provided by the Center on Conscience and War. This first session isn't meant to be a final and complete conversation. Instead, it is an opening into more conversations with parents, members of faith communities and friends about what is right for each individual.

War	Years Active	Number of Wartime Draftees
World War I	Sept 1917 – Nov 1918	2,810,296
World War II	Nov 1940 – Oct 1946	10,110,104
Korea	June 1950 – June 1953	1,529,539
Vietnam	Aug 1964 – Feb 1973	1,857,304

As Friends, our Peace Testimony makes our decisions regarding draft registration and dealing with the US Selective Service System challenging. We need to provide young Friends (and their friends) with the information and religious grounding to make Spirit led, rightly ordered choices for themselves as they navigate their relationship to the Selective Service System. The Draft Registration / CO Status Workshop is a part of this work.

- Margaret Haviland – Westtown Meeting

A Workshop for Traveling Ministers

On March 18-20, Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting gathered Friends for a weekend workshop on **Hearing the Call, and Living in It: Travel in the Ministry** which was facilitated by Brian Drayton and Noah Baker Merrill of New England Yearly Meeting. There were approximately 20 participants. Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting generously provided hospitality.

Hearing the Call was billed as supporting traveling ministry among Friends. It was noted that

Traveling ministers helped maintain close contact among Quakers in widely separated areas. The beliefs of the Society of Friends were first spread by men and women journeying through the English countryside, and the custom continued as a missionary endeavor and as a means of perpetuating the Quaker community.

- J. William Frost

love bears us well and connects the invisible fellowship in all of our Monthly Meetings. Traveling is a way of "feeling" that fellowship.

The bedrock of Quakerism is the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is a gift we share with one another. When a Friend does travel, it might be considered a part of her or his spiritual formation because it nurtures a dependence on Spirit for content and direction. It was said, "My emptiness is an opportunity to be an epistle of God's love." This growth in Spirit strengthens the measure of my faithfulness in this "Apostolic relationship" with and among Friends. It was also said that messages sometimes were meant to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. It was pointed out that hospitality is a root of spirituality.

One of the unique aspects of this gathering was that all of us in attendance had experiences in traveling as ministers among

Friends. We were reminded that we need to keep up our own daily watch to be faithful and connected to the Source that lifts our messages and us. There are a variety of ministries we might be called to share. There might be a call to an individual or to a particular concern within a Meeting.

There are always new lessons to be learned even for experienced Friends and Meetings. It is helpful to have clearness from one's own Meeting and to have labored with local Friends about events

and leadings to proceed to visit. It is good to remember that our traveling is under discipline of the Monthly Meeting.

This notion is something that impressed me in a way I have not felt before. I have integrated this awareness in me to be fully accountable to myself and to Middletown Meeting Friends. I can uphold the highest good that I am capable of sharing when yielding to guidance from Christ. Can I live with the ministry that shows itself through me? Another query to ask oneself is whether I am grafted into the common life of my Meeting? Am I accountable to my Meeting community? It helps to be in regular contact with other traveling ministers.

We left with some sense of the importance of calling others into this stream of traveling ministers. (Middletown Meeting plans to present a program on Traveling Ministry at our October QM)

- Thomas Swain – Middletown Meeting

Getting to Know Youth – The Concord and Western Quarter Program

For many years prior to my becoming Coordinator in January 2014, Western and Concord Quarterly Meetings were collaborating to put on youth and intergenerational programs. To continue that collaboration, I contacted Western Quarter's Coordinator Zachary Dutton to see what we could do together. Our first joint undertaking was to offer to drive middle and high school students to and from PYM's annual retreat at Camp Swatara the first weekend in May 2014. Unfortunately, none took us up on the offer, but each of us drove a van filled with other interested Quaker children. Zachary and I then worked together to get as many people as possible to attend Quarter's annual tubing on the Brandywine event. Before we could collaborate more, Zachary assumed the position of PYM's Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life in August 2014.

Shortly after Zachary's departure, Sarah Kastriner replaced Zachary as Western Quarter's Coordinator. Sarah, a life-long member of Kennett MM, who as a youth was very active in PYM's youth programs, took over all of Zachary's duties other than those involving youth. A few months later Robin Harper, also of Kennett MM, became Western Quarter's Youth Coordinator. All three of us met, and we decided to establish a year-long calendar of intergenerational events and youth events that supplemented rather than replaced any program offered by PYM.

Our first undertaking was to include Western Quarter members in Concord's annual intergenerational hayride and bonfire at Wynoor Farm in October 2014. By doing so we doubled the number of people who participated. Our second was an all-day youth event held in April 2015 at Westtown School. In the morning the children (approximately 25 in number) negotiated a ropes course. In the afternoon, they orienteered around the School's north 300 acres answering Quaker history questions along the way. Our third was a "Parents' Drop-Off" held at Westtown School in December 2015. Fifteen children were placed in our care for four hours while their parents could do

whatever they wanted. The children played "frazzleram" outdoors and cooperative games indoors, made crafts and enjoyed lunch.

At the end of December 2015, Robin resigned as Western Quarter's Youth Coordinator, so Sarah took on Robin's responsibilities on an interim basis. Our fourth joint undertaking was intergenerational. We invited families to join us for worship at Kennett MM, followed by lunch at the meetinghouse, followed by roller skating at Christiana Skating Center in Newark, Delaware. No one from Concord Quarter participated. Western Quarter had a sell-out crowd at the skating rink, but hardly any families with children attended meeting for worship, and, as a result, lunch at Kennett MM was canceled.

Our fifth joint undertaking was to be another ropes course youth event to be held in April 2016 at Westtown School. Unfortunately, the School was unable to field a team of instructors, so that program had to be canceled. Our sixth was another trip to Camp Swatara at the end of April with my driving a van. Fortunately, we had three middle school children from Concord Quarter and three middle school children from Western Quarter take advantage of the free transportation.

Christian Garber has joined the staff at Western Quarterly Meeting as the part-time Youth Activities Coordinator. A recent graduate of Avon Grove Charter High School, Christian has grown up participating in Quaker youth activities. He and his family are members of Hockessin Meeting, where he has been an assistant First Day School teacher. Christian has been active in the Western Quarter youth programs for most of his life, enjoying a natural progression from participating as a student, then as a volunteer leader for youth during QM programs, and now as the overall youth coordinator. Christian will work closely with the Coordinators from both Western and Concord Quarters to develop programs that are both interesting and engaging for our youth. We are looking forward to it!

- Charles Spadoni, Coordinator

Returning Citizens Company Cleans Up

Many of us appreciated John Kornegay's presentation on "New Beginnings, Next Step" at our Quarterly Meeting the past January at Wilmington Meeting. At that presentation, John told us he did his support work for New Beginnings while running his own cleaning business. That perked up my ears because I knew one of the most difficult tasks for ex-offenders is finding employment. So few employers are open to hiring people who have this history. John's employees as well as himself, are all returning citizens. Here was a chance to help.

I knew our social room floor at Middletown was in bad shape, so I went to Monthly Meeting with a proposal that we hire John's company to strip and wax the floor. Meeting approved, and on a beautiful spring day I let John and his associate from NeNe's Cleaning Service have the run of our social room for a



few hours telling them to lock up when they were done. The next day I stopped by to see a floor transformed, looking brand new. An invoice came to me a few hours later, and the price matched the estimate.

On the following Sunday, Meeting members gave it two thumbs up. Almost two months later, the floor still looks new. So take this as an official reference from the Clerk of Middletown Meeting. NeNe's Floor Cleaning Service is worth a try. If you want to get in touch with John here is the company info: NeNe's Carpet & Flooring Cleaning Company - 21 Jennings Court - New Castle, DE 19720 - (302) 367-4532. His email is j.kornegaynutt77@gmail.com.

- Rich Ailes—Middletown Meeting



Concord Quarterly Meeting's July 2016 Announcements and Calendar of Events

Announcements

Minutes of the April 24, 2016, Quarterly Meeting have been posted on the Quarter's website (<http://concordquarter.org/documents>). If you have any comments on those minutes, please send them to David Leonard, Recording Clerk, at leonard@berkeley.edu.

Each Thursday The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester holds **mid-week meeting for worship** from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in The Hickman's Living Room. All are cordially invited to attend.

Calendar of Events

July 13 The Hickman Summer Concert Series (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m. at The Hickman. It features **Goodfoot**. There is no admission fee, and it is open to the community.
(Rain Date: July 14 at 6:30 p.m.)

July 24 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Concord Monthly Meeting. See accompanying flyer.

July 27-31 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions (Wednesday to Sunday) Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA

August 6 Birmingham's Annual Chicken Barbecue and Bluegrass Dinner (Saturday) 4:00 -7:00 p.m. For tickets and additional information contact Marcia Cole-Quigley at marcia.cq@gmail.com or phone Birmingham MM at 610-793-1734

August 10, (Rain Date: Aug 11, at 6:30 p.m.) The Hickman Summer Concert Series (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m. at The Hickman. It features the **West Chester Band**. There is no admission fee, and it is open to the community.

Oct. 2 Hayride and Bonfire (Sunday) 5:00-8:00 p.m. Details to follow.

October 16 Meeting for Worship at Chichester Meetinghouse, 611 Meetinghouse Rd., Boothwyn, PA 19061 (Sunday) 11:15 a.m.

October 23 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Middletown Monthly Meeting. Details to follow.

November 5 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Continuing Sessions at Westtown School. Details to follow.

Annual Sessions 2016

TRANSFORMS

Do not be conformed to this world, but
be transformed
by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern
what is the will of God—
what is good and acceptable
and perfect
Romans 12:2

July 27- 31, 2016
Muhlenberg College
Allentown, PA

PLEASE JOIN US!

at Birmingham Friends Meeting
1245 Birmingham Road, West Chester, PA 19382 610-793-1734

Annual Chicken Barbecue

featuring...**Bluegrass Music**



**Saturday, August 6, 2016
4:00-7:00 PM**

Concord Quarterly Meeting

July 24, 2016

Concord Monthly Meeting

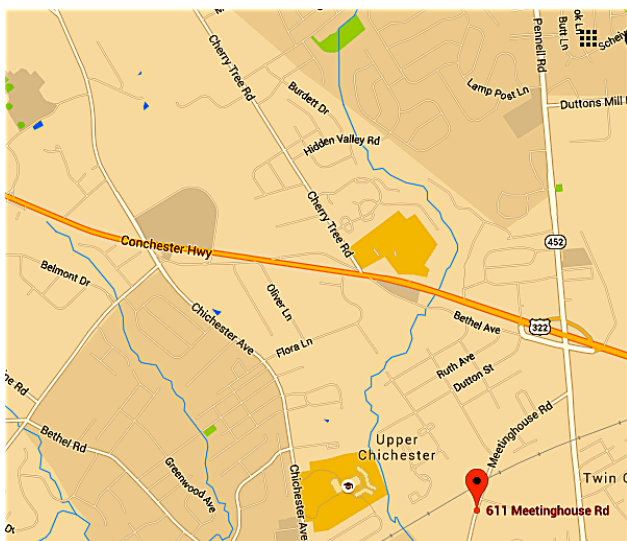
- 8:45** Sign-in
9:00-10:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
11:00-11:45 Meeting for Worship with Concord Meeting
12:00-12:30 Nancy Webster Lecture over light lunch
12:30-3:00 Visit to Chichester Meetinghouse and Caleb Pusey House

The Lives of Early Delaware Valley Friends



Using the historic sites of Chichester Meetinghouse and the Caleb Pusey Property, Nancy Webster, Curator for the Friends Historical Association and noted historian of the Chester and Delaware County scene, will take us through some of the experiences and challenges which early Quakers faced in the late 17th century. She will also share insights into how their unique Quaker theology informed their actions towards the indigenous people whom they met, the foreign strangers whom they accepted, and the democratic institutions they built. Nancy will give a brief overview over lunch at Concord Meeting, and then more in-depth presentations at Chichester Meetinghouse and the Caleb Pusey property.

Childcare will be provided during Meeting for Business and Meeting for Worship at Concord Meeting



Chichester Meetinghouse is at 601 Meetinghouse Rd, Boothwyn ,PA. Caleb Pusey is at 15 Race St, Upland, PA
For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://www.concordquarter.org> or email concordquarter@pym.org

Concord Quarterly Meeting - Birmingham Monthly Meeting - April 24, 2016

Opening Worship

The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:30 am.

Welcome -- Representatives were present from all meetings save Wilmington. We also welcomed Pastor Elie Nahimana from Burundi Yearly Meeting and coordinator there of the African Great Lakes Initiative.

Approval of Minutes -- Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on January 31, 2016 were approved.

Nomination of Recording Clerk -- Charles Spadoni (Clerk, Nominating Committee)

David Leonard was nominated and approved as Recording Clerk for an additional 3 year term beginning in July.

Treasurer's Report -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

The Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1. Our accounts continue to be in excellent condition. One Friend was concerned to understand why we are projected to not be able to meet our expected contribution to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). This contribution is a pass-through from what comes from individual monthly meetings and it is possible that some meetings have not yet made their full intended contributions. The payments from monthly meetings are irregular in their timing, so it is difficult to know what to expect.

Proposed Budget -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

The proposed budget for next years is attached as Appendix 2. The Coordinator line item represents two adjustments – a reduction in the over-budgeting that we did while trying to build up a cushion for this personnel commitment and a 5% increase in compensation for next year. This is a net reduction on the income side of 15% for the coordinator. On the other hand there is an increase in the Quarter program budget, which reallocates a portion of the salary savings. We hope to be able to provide PYM the amount we had originally budgeted for this year. Meeting contributions for the Tuition Endowment Fund have been well below budget this year, so a smaller amount is budgeted for next year. The total budget for next year is a reduction from this year. The approval of the budget will be considered at the next Quarterly Meeting session. One Friend asked the Planning Committee to develop a better understanding of where the irregular contributions of meetings are coming from. Another Friend suggested that meetings consider following a regular schedule for their contributions. And still another Friend felt that we should adopt a policy of making financial relations between monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting direct rather than through the Quarter.

National Bank of Malvern Minute -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

- Bruce Harrison (current Clerk) is hereby removed as an authorized signatory of the primary checking account at The National Bank of (rising Clerk) and Thomas Haviland of Westtown Meeting (Treasurer) are authorized signatories of such account.
- The minute adopted at the January 26, 2014, Quarterly Meeting authorizing the establishment of a Coordinator expense checking account at The National Bank of Malvern is hereby rescinded.

Coordinator's Report - Charles Spadoni (Coordinator)

The report was received with appreciation and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 3.

Refugee Resettlement Report -- Susan Brodesser (Birmingham)

A large number of congregations are involved in the project and are well prepared to receive refugees. Our receipt of a refugee family has been delayed because the Lutheran Children and Family Services was forced to shut-down its Pennsylvania offices because of financial problems (partly related to the state's budget impasse). We are seeking a relationship with another support agency, possibly Church World Service in Lancaster.

Joys and Challenges Reports

The report of Birmingham MM was presented by Chris McKenney and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4.

The report of West Chester MM was presented by Deb Lyons and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

Both reports were received with appreciation.

Count of those in Attendance: As the meeting ended 35 Friends were present.

Announcements and Events: Attached to these minutes as Appendix 6.

The meeting ended with a period of worship at 9:59 am.

Respectfully submitted, David Leonard (Recording Clerk) and Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

Appendix 1: TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 Q3 (Jan – Mar) April 24, 2016

Income and Expenses Report

- Total Income from Covenant checks for 3Q was \$32,780. Total Expenses were \$44,633 of which \$39,540 was a contribution made to PYM where the funds were accrued mostly from 2Q.
- Coordinator expense of \$4,525 represented the other large expenditure for the quarter. This line item expense was down \$1,400 from 2Q due to one fewer payroll cycles in 3Q and no Ailes Graphic Services submitted costs in 3Q.
- Income and Expenses for the first three quarters appear to be mostly in line with the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget. Projecting out year-to-date figures (a very rough estimate at best),
 - Operating/Program, TEF, and PYM receipts from Covenant checks will fall short of budget.
 - Operating/Program income and expenses will both fall short of budget by \$500-\$800.
 - TEF contributions from Coord Surplus funds offsets this shortfall (\$10,968 budget).
 - PYM contribution will most likely finish \$6K-\$10K below budget amount of \$98,997
 - Coordinator income will finish very close to budget. Coordinator expenses should fall below budgeted amount.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Income and Expenses (report date 4/20/2016) [Redacted]

Assets Report

- Covenant funds received 3Q outpaced spending increasing Coordinator Payroll, PYM, and TEF sub accounts.
- \$3,960 was sent to FF TEF accounts on April 11th. Consolidated Fund unit value increased from \$46.21 to \$46.40 per unit. Growing concerns over a slowing global economy the first half of the quarter was alleviated by US job growth and economic reports the second half allowing March end unit values to finish slightly higher.
- All PYM contributions currently being held and all new funds received will be sent to PYM by June 30, 2016. Contributions from the Quarter to PYM are made twice a year in January and June.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Assets (report date 4/20/2016) [Redacted]

Appendix 2 – PRELIMINARY BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 April 24, 2016

Discussion Notes

- At the end of February, a Budget Planning Working Group (BPWG) gathered and drafted a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. This budget was based on this year's actual year-to-date and budgeted income and expenses. Several years of historical performance was also considered.
- The following factored into the decisions.
 1. Reduce Coordinator contribution to true costs, provide 5% increase, and leave a small cushion.
 2. Increase Operating/Programs to account for more programs and rising costs. Keep in-line with this year's budget.
 3. Maintain current PYM budget. Giving this year will finish below budget around \$90,000 so Meetings giving less this year are encouraged to consider increased giving next year.
 4. In order to grow TEF and provide more tuition aid, it is important to maintain giving. The BPWG is decreasing the budget amount to \$7,000 encouraging a minimum contribution of \$800/year. Meetings who contributed above \$800 this past fiscal year are encouraged to continue to do so.
 5. FFC Consolidated Fund's annual distribution rate will decrease slightly from 4.25% to 4% in 2017. Given our modest budgeted contribution to the principal we can reasonably expect \$7,900 income from the account.
- Due to the variation in Monthly Meetings' fiscal years and the different timing of when Covenant funds are sent to the Quarter, and to differences in the amount of support Meetings are able to make from one contribution to the next, it is not possible under this current system to provide a precise budget amount that each Meeting should give for next fiscal year. Instead, the following guidelines can be used to provide direction in your Meeting's conversations around providing financial support to the Quarter.
 1. The Quarter's overall budget is being reduced by 5% from \$147k to \$139k.
 2. We are asking all Meetings to maintain contribution levels similar to this fiscal year and shift the designation of the funds as noted in the table below between Coordinator, Operating/Programs, and TEF line items.
 3. Meeting contributions for PYM and TEF support will not reach this year's budgeted amount. In order to reach this budget next year, it is important that all Meetings support each line item at some minimum level that is financially possible.

[Redacted]

4. Appendix 3: Coordinator's Report

Concord Quarterly Meeting is one of only four PYM quarterly meetings that have coordinators. The others are Bucks, Philadelphia and Western. The coordinators meet twice a year with PYM's youth program staff to discuss how we can help them deliver their program to PYM's youth. To that end, on April 29, 2016, I will be driving a van carrying middle school and high school students to Camp Swatara, Bethel, Pennsylvania (Berks County) where they will be enmeshed in a 2-day PYM-sponsored retreat. I am doing so to encourage more middle school and high school students from Concord and Western Quarters to attend that retreat. If your child has not been to Camp Swatara, I recommend that she or he go to make new friends and continue developing existing friendships in the context of a safe and welcoming Quaker community that focuses on Spirit-led activities.

We had a sell-out crowd at the fifth almost-annual square dance held at Willistown MM. The center of attention were several children who often followed the caller's instructions better than some of the adults (including me). Also, we collected a great deal of clothing for Wilmington MM's "Clothes Closet" for use by former prisoners who are transitioning back to their communities and food for the West Chester Food Cupboard.

For three consecutive First Days (February 28, March 6 and March 13) Tom Woodward led 15 or so intrepid soles (Quaker and non-Quaker) into the exploration of the Friends and the Gospel of Thomas. We tried to get Tom to return to his didactic role as a teacher, but he did not succumb. Instead, he led us in thoughtful discussions about the parallels between the synoptic gospels and the *Gospel of Thomas*, the meaning of several of the "sayings," and how they spoke to the condition of the Quakers and Presbyterians in the group. The experience was thought provoking and moving.

At the next Planning Committee meeting, we will be discussing future workshops. So if you have not already done so, please send any ideas for workshops to me, and I will place them on the agenda.

On March 6, 2016, Goshen MM held its open house for families of children attending Quaker schools (including Goshen Friends School, West Chester Friends School, Westtown School and Wilmington Friends School). No families attended, but a couple (one of whom coaches at Westtown School) came as a result of the invitation that Westtown School extended to its community. On April 10, 2016, Westtown MM held its open house. Several families new to Quakerism attended. At the next Planning Committee meeting we will be discussing the future of the Quarter's open-house program.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our planned ropes course youth event scheduled for April 23, 2016, at Westtown School because of an insufficient number of instructors. At the next Planning Committee meeting we will be discussing whether to reschedule that event in the fall of 2016.

We meet next at Concord MM on July 26, 2016. I hope to see you there. In Faith, Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, the Joys and Challenges reports of Birmingham and West Chester are not included in this newsletter. They are available on the web at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 13 Issue 3 July 2016

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Asst. Clerk: Bruce Harrison
Recording Clerk: David Leonard
Treasurer: Tom Haviland
Coordinator: Charles Spadoni

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Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham
Chichester
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington

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