



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Spring 2024

From our Clerk, Margaret Walton

I am looking forward to welcoming everyone to intergenerational worship at West Grove! I shared with Melinda Wenner Bradley, the PYM Director of Program and Religious Life, that Western Quarter was going to have an intergenerational worship. She shared that several monthly and quarterly meetings across PYM have started having regularly scheduled intergenerational worship and programming. Below is the introduction I will share to open our worship together. Page 4 features another resource Melinda shared.

Welcome! This morning is an experience of semi-programmed intergenerational worship for all ages, all together.

After worship begins, we'll hear a story and then waiting worship will continue. Friends of all ages are welcome to sit on the floor for the story and worship.

There will be quiet, creative materials that encourage inward listening and are available for all. Intergenerational means "everything is available for everyone" – sharing vocal ministry, using materials provided, making a choice about where to sit (or lie down), resting in the silence.

At the rise of worship there will be a time to discuss Friends' experience of the time together in worship this morning, and announcements.



A sculpture on the theme of Growing Up in the Meeting

In this Issue:

From our clerk
3rd Query
Transport Services
for Seniors
4th Month QM!
Intergenerational
Ministry
QAMAR
Events
QuakerSpeak—
timely piece from a
Quaker Jew
Minutes, including
Query Responses

4th Month Quarterly Meeting—21 April, 2024

West Grove Meeting—3rd Query

Western Quarterly Meeting Schedule

21 July, 2024—Kennett-6th Query — Joint Quarter at West Chester Meeting

19-20 October, 2024—Kendal-9th Query

19 January, 2025—Fallowfield, 10th query

***Support Committee typically meets 2nd Sunday in month prior to Western Quarterly Meeting**

****Historic Properties typically meets 3rd Sunday when there is not Western Quarterly Meeting**

3rd Query— Deepening Our Faith: Spiritual Nurture

For the Meeting:

- How does the meeting encourage the use of spiritual practices that deepen our faith, enhance the excitement of shared religious discovery and increase the possibility of spiritual transformation?
- What is the nature of our shared experience of the Divine and how do we nurture our collective spiritual growth and transformation?
 - In what ways do we support each other in our spiritual journeys, in our search for God's will and in our efforts to increase understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth?
 - How do we recognize, develop and nurture the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting?

For the Individual:

- *How do I incorporate into my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, including worship, reflection and engagement with writings that nurture the soul?*
- *How does my spiritual life integrate an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth and deepen my reverence for the interconnectedness of all life?*

General Queries are taken from the newest version of PYM's Faith and Practice, available online.

Transportation Resources for Seniors from the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns

Senior Transportation: Driving Alternatives for On-the-Go Seniors - Comprehensive web page on transport options. <https://seniorservicesofamerica.com/blog/what-are-the-options-for-senior-transportation/>

GoGo Grandparent: Rides, Groceries, Meals & More: Built Better For Older Adults And People With Disabilities. Screened & monitored services from Uber, DoorDash, Instacart and more, with or without a smartphone, 24/7. Monthly Fee required. <https://gogograndparent.com/ext15>

Pennsylvania

Find My Ride Apply allows you to apply directly to transportation providers across Pennsylvania that offer affordable transportation service for seniors, persons with disabilities, and people who need assistance to get to medical appointments. <https://www.apply.findmyride.penndot.pa.gov/tes-web/public/home>

Community Transit - Chesco Connect <https://www.chesco.org/5325/Community-Transit>

Chester County Ride Guide <https://www.chescorideguide.org/>

Delaware

SCAT – Senior Citizens Affordable Taxi <https://dartfirststate.com/Programs/scat/>

Your Own Home, LLC (Private Pay) <https://yourownhomecare.com/transportation-2/>

Direct Mobile Transit, Inc. (New Castle County-Private Pay) <https://www.directmobiletransit.com/non-emergency-transportation>



West Grove Friends Meeting

155 EAST HARMONY ROAD

WEST GROVE, PA

HOSTS

WESTERN QUARTERLY MEETING

21 APRIL, 2024

**10:00-10:45am - Meeting for worship,
intergenerational with story and quiet activities
11:00am - Meeting for worship with attention to
business*

11:00am outdoor play

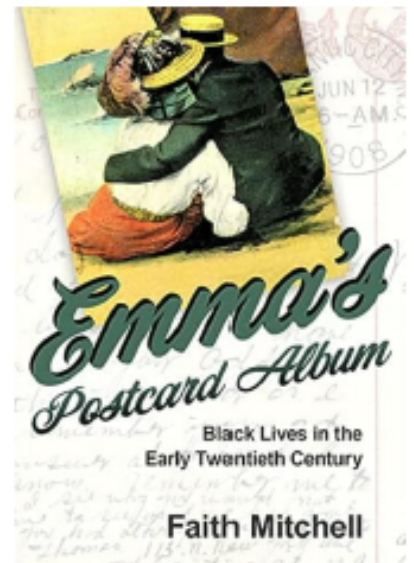
Noon - lunch

1:00pm - Dr. Faith Mitchell

**Learning from Photos and Postcards: Black
Women's Experiences Working for Chester
County Quaker Families**



Faith Mitchell is an Institute fellow at the Urban Institute working with the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy and the Health Policy Center.



WHAT IS INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY?

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY IS ABOUT BUILDING AND DEEPENING INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

Intergenerational ministry is characterized by people across the generations doing life together – sharing, learning, growing and serving in relationships. It is characterized by an emphasis on community and the building of deep, genuine relationships. Intergenerational connections can be with any generation of a different decade.

INTERGENERATIONALITY IS MARKED BY...

MUTUALITY

(we all participate and benefit)

RECIPROCITY

(we all give and receive)

EQUALITY

(we are all valued equally)

Being intergenerational is...

- Not just about children, it's about **people of all ages**
- Not just about what we do, it's about **who we are**
- Not something that just happens, it requires **intentionality**

Simply having multiple generations in the same space does not make the experience intergenerational. To be truly intergenerational requires the generations to be **genuinely interacting and engaging together**.

Intergenerational ministry seeks to **actively engage and equally value** the gifts and needs of every generation. We are most **fully** the people of God when we are gathered for worship, service, learning, and fellowship together with **all** ages. We learn, worship, serve, and build community best when we **honor the perspectives and gifts of all ages**.

WHY

INTERGENERATIONAL?

From John Roberto's article "Our Future is Intergenerational"

- Encourages greater faith in **all** generations
- Utilizes the strengths (wisdom, experience, and knowledge) of one generation to meet the needs of another generation
- Nurtures special relationships
- Fosters leadership regardless of age or stature
- Provides "up close and personal" formation in faith as **all** ages engage in sharing faith, teaching, learning, and praying for one another
- Provides role models
- Affirms each person's value in the total community (regardless of age)

AN INTENTIONALLY INTERGENERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS MORE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE AND SUSTAIN LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP FOR ALL AGES.

An invitation to follow QAMAR

Jean Warrington recently called Western Quarter on behalf of Quaker Action Mid-Atlantic Region or [QAMAR](#). On behalf of QAMAR she invites friends, Friends, and meetings to join in advocating on for climate action and reduction on gun violence. Here is information about the group from their website:

QAMAR is a 501(c)4 Non-Profit formed to advocate for public policy of concern to f/Friends at the state and local levels in the mid-Atlantic region. QAMAR follows Quaker tradition and values but it is not exclusively Quaker. All faiths are welcome to join us in this effort to effect policy change and advance us toward a just and



sustainable future in harmony with all of creation.

As Friends, we feel we have a deep responsibility to promote justice and to protect and restore God's creation.

Climate change is threatening all life on earth and is already bearing down on us all. We are working to achieve 100% clean energy by 2040, consistent with the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and with best practices among leading states and nations.

We are working for change primarily at the state level in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Here is a [link](#) to a June 2023 article in *Friends Journal* on QAMAR.



A selection of Quaker events in the area

June 30-July 6 at Haverford College!! [The Gathering](#) is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the USA and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. Beginning in 2024, in-person Gatherings will alternate years with online Gatherings and in-person Young Adult & Youth (YAY) gatherings.



FGC
FRIENDS
GENERAL CONFERENCE

Monday, April 22 7-8pm Let's [celebrate Earth Day 2024](#) across PYM with a commitment to impactful climate action work! A tool for Friends and meetings seeking to live out our yearly meeting-wide commitment to address climate change is now available! The booklet [Creating a Playbook for Climate Action](#) helps Friends develop personalized plans for how to address climate change – in their meetings and in their homes.

Young Friends (high school) and Middle School Friends from around PYM are invited to participate in Caln Quarter's annual gathering of [Friends at Camp Swatara](#) on **May 3 – 5! Registration closes on April 15th! **Registration and detailed information can be found here!** When registering, please select "Adult Registration Fee", cabin lodging, and "pay as led" for meals. Please contact Kristin Simmons, *Youth Engagement Coordinator*, ksimmons@pym.org, with any questions about scholarships.**

May 11 1pm – may 12 12pm We welcome families with children in 8th grade and younger to join us for a [Spring Family Overnight](#) at **Camp Dark Waters!** There will be activities for the whole family, community meals, free time to play, bedtime stories, multigenerational worship on Sunday morning, and a chance for adults to spend time with other parents. For more information, please contact Kristin Simmons, *Youth Engagement Coordinator*: ksimmons@pym.org **More information and registration available here!**

[A Quaker Jew Speaks on Pacifism--](#)



Western Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Minutes 21 January 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at Hockessin Monthly Meeting and [via Zoom](#)

We opened with a period of worship.

Responses to the 12th query:

London Grove -

Conflict by hatred is fear of having something taken away from us. It also comes from a lack of understanding between people. We can invite everyone to the table and include different people to engage in our world. We all have a purpose in life. Quakerism entreats us to have everyone join us at the table to promote understanding. A young person has lost friends because of the conflict in the Middle East. She is Lebanese and had all her friends pull away from her once the conflict started. This action is very hurtful as this young friend has no radical ideas nor does she harbor hatred for her friends because of their backgrounds and their beliefs. She is heartbroken and is struggling.

Newark-

The twelfth query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Lily Grosso, Diane Kesler, Maggie Ladd, Richard Ladd, Ariana Langford, Mike McDowell, Sally Milbury-Steen, Treba Thompson, Trebs Thompson, and Wayne Thompson. A Friend remarked, "I ask myself, very much, whether to jump to witness and civic responsibility action when these issues arise. But in the second half of the Covid pandemic, these things got quieter. I think there are things we can do to address these things now, though. I realize there is a lot of inaction. And I've been thinking about how I could tackle these things." Another Friend commented: "We all struggle with how to do this, while bogged down with day-to-day activities. I feel very restricted in what I can do now, but I try to do what I can helping people of color and other sexual orientations. A lot of us go out of our way to walk with other faiths too. We have an outsized involvement for our size."

These responses reminded another Friend of Dorothy Day's message that "we need to do that what we can with great love."

A Friend added that "Whenever I feel I haven't done enough, I remember how I interact with others. I never know what a stranger might need. I try to give something of my essence. I interact with my black, gay neighbor, telling him, when I grew up, I didn't know I was white, because of the restrictions against Jews. We've discussed the many injustices in history. My neighbor didn't know there were other, white, people like him. We know that one person can have a big effect."

We can do a pretty good job at staying on top of the issues. It's helpful to look at different news sources to

get all sides of a story. If you don't know what's going on, you can't act. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) gives us a lot of information. We do a good job staying on top of it as a meeting, and we hope we will continue to do so.

In a final response, a Friend said, "The spirit of caring has taken a huge personal blow, in recent years. A class of Friends at Crosslands, where I live, put on a 'Festival of Lights' recognizing other traditions. There have been many positive developments because a small door was opened. Love of others reminds us of the gift we are given. 'God of all people, we pray for peace today and every day.'"

West Grove -

The Twelfth Query on Witness and Civic Responsibility was read. We are fortunate that we do not see the amount of evil that is common elsewhere. We support organizations that help all rather than limiting their services to certain groups. The COVID pandemic changed many community activities that have not returned to their former level.

New Garden

The 12th Query was read on Witness & Civic Responsibility.

As a very small Meeting we can best address injustice with financial backing.

Our country is facing some serious threats to our democracy. We miss hearing from "The League of Women Voters" & we wonder why they aren't covered by the media & the press the way they used to be.

We search for politicians who possess honesty & integrity and also have the courage of their convictions.

We also need to remember to be kind to others & respect their opinions even when we disagree with them.

When we marvel at the beauty of nature we are reminded of our responsibility as good Stewart's of the earth & work to reduce climate change.

As Americans, it is our civic responsibility to VOTE.

Monthly Meeting updates -

Mill Creek - will hold a spring fair in late April 27 from 4-7pm; We are small but active and have a regular attendance.

Kennett - We have reactivated our childrens RE and free play times; we have a new website, new communications systems, and new welcoming brochures; We are renewing our connections and outreach with Fairville Friends School; starting to join in more social programs with the Kennett Square community. We are looking for a paid childcare person.

Fallowfield - we are meeting; we do a lot via Zoom; plan to meet regularly in person in April; lots of laughter when we meet, however we meet; we've put a new roof on the shed.

Newark - working with Naqeef Shrawari (sp?) in an interfaith effort to help with refugees

Hockessin - joining virtually is an option when requested; we have paid childcare and an active adult religious education; we just updated our website; we went through a long process to determine the disposition of former caretaker house; we work with Wilmington MM to provide some support for Family Promise; we also provide some support for La Comunidad Hispana and Friendship House.

West Grove - we hope to have a history talk in April, the date and topic to come

London Grove - we have a vibrant children's religious education program under Kim Brosnan Myers and Margaret Walton; Penn Oak memorial process has been a spiritual awakening and outreach opportunity for many;

New Garden - 20 people came for our Christmas Social and tree work is being done

Centre - we had a great Christmas program; arbor work needed on old trees; in February we are starting a Quakerism 101 series.

Treasurer's Report - given by Bob Frye for our treasurer Karen Conlan. The attached report was received with gratitude.

Addressing Racism Collaborative - Susanna Davison

As the WQ representative I was in touch with Monthly Meeting clerks for a survey on education and activities addressing racism; the next sessions theme is "call to healing" March 8-10; it will be a hybrid event; 3 levels of healing: personal, family or MM, and the broader community; what racial justice issues are in front of your meetings that you are working on? PYM has had sessions on race and ecojustice, we are familiar with the intersection of race, poverty, and environmental degradation; this is one spur for exploration of solar panels at London Grove; I ask that monthly meetings share news of their work towards racial justice to PYM and ARC; there is a list of resources at the ARC page - <https://www.pym.org/addressing-racism-collaborative/>

Contact Susanna via her e-mail – shrda-vison@me.com

Pennsgrove Annual Report

Bob Frye gave the attached report.

He added that they took advantage of interest rates for high yield CDs and moved some assets to help boost finances through higher interest earnings.

Historical Property Report

The committee met twice since Western Quarter's last meeting for business. We were joined at the end of November by Steve Balderston, a trustee for Colora Meetinghouse. Steve shared his love for, connection to, and care of the Colora meetinghouse property. Western Quarter would work with Steve if it takes on a care relationship of the property as West Grove Monthly Meeting has requested.

Steve and the Historic Property Committee assigned

several tasks such as verifying deeds, conducting a property survey, updating the insurance policy, and compiling a recent history and future budget for maintenance costs.

The likelihood of a civic group taking responsibility for the property is slim. Several have been approached over the years, and none have had the interest and/or ability to take on a property that is outside of the "town" and has no modern amenities.

Western Quarter now has copies of two deeds from Friends Fiduciary and keys to the meetinghouse.

The committee wants to explore with Steve his vision for the meetinghouse property.

At this time the Historic Property recommends to Western Quarterly Meeting that we continue to explore what spiritual and legal relationship we will have with the Colora Meetinghouse property.

The committee also encourages monthly meetings to locate property deeds and place a copy on file with Friends Historical Library. The coordinator will nudge meetings about this in the coming months.

In discussion Newark Friends shared that they are not in a position to buy or have sole responsibility for London Britain Meetinghouse.

DRAFT Minute of Appreciation for Friends Home in Kennett

Western Quarter minutes its appreciation for the hospitality Friends Home extended to us as we gathered there on 15 October, 2023. The support of staff in advance of the day and on the day ensured a warm welcome and smooth running of programs for Western Quarter Friends that met in-person and online for worship, business, and fellowship. We note especially the work of Christine McDonald, Brenten Megee, and Michael Nguyen and that this extra hospitality occurred in the midst of Friends Home's anniversary celebrations.

Friends approved.

DRAFT Minute of Appreciation for Newark Friends Meeting

Western Quarterly Minutes appreciation of Newark Friends Meeting's role in hosting Western Quarter at Friends Home in Kennett on 15 October, 2023. Hosting at Friends Home added an additional level of coordination, outreach, and work. Newark Friends were undaunted and the 40 plus people who gathered mostly in person enjoyed the spiritual and practical fruits of Newark's labors: the childrens and adult programs were engaging, and there was delicious homemade coffee cake, plenty of coffee and juice, a spread of sandwiches and snacks for lunch. Diane Kesler led the lively children's program and Kenyan Friend Jemimah Collins engaged the adults. Newark Meeting's efforts created a supportive atmosphere for Western Quarter's worship and work, as well as the opportunity to connect with Friends at Friends Home and for Western Quarter to get a glimpse of life there.

Friends Approved.

Coordinator Report

In addition to the usual duties of website, correspondence, newsletter, sorting through archival material, and supporting committee work, I attended the PYM gathering *Child Safety in Meetings: Best Practices*.

There were no new recommendations from sessions in recent years. Best practice continues to be to have more than one adult on hand, to have background checks for staff working with children, and to have clear policies and communication protocols if there are difficult conversations that need to be had or when information needs to be reported to social services or authorities. On 27 January I will attend the PYM Governance and Stewardship Thread at Arch Street Meetinghouse. The sessions will focus on burial ground, greening, and risk management. I encourage other WQ Friends to attend as I can not be in all of the simultaneous sessions.

In the coming months I also hope to coordinate with a small group from Support Committee an evaluation and review of the coordinator role. This will be both a job performance review, and an opportunity to consider how the job could or needs to change in light of the desire to minimize or zero out reserves spending from the budget in the coming years.

Nominating also needs to check on the clerk position, and to identify a recording clerk. Work has begun on program preparations for the next Western Quarterly Meeting to be hosted by West Grove Monthly Meeting. We will flip our usual schedule and will open with meeting for worship with attention to business in the morning and will have a program by historian and author [Dr. Faith Mitchell](#) following lunch fellowship. Dr. Mitchell will present on the African American community in the New Garden area at the turn of the 20th century and the connections the community had to area Friends. She will likely have copies of her recent work *Emma's Postcard Album, a Window of Black Life under Jim Crow available*. Several of Dr. Mitchell's ancestors were from the area.

New Business - Friends Home has raised over \$650,000 towards their goal of \$750,000 for the elevator fund!

Friends Home in Kennett's board is also looking for someone interested in serving on its finance committee. Please be in touch with Dave Park at Kennett Meeting if interested.

We closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator

The Support Committee of Western Quarterly

Meeting was held March 10, 2024 via Zoom. Present were Quarter Clerk Margaret Walton, Coordinator Deb Wood, Dick Logan (Hockessin), Mark Myers (London Grove), Shelley Hastings (Newark), Kathy Kirk (West Grove), Pownall Jones (New Garden), Dave Nuttall, and Mary Sproat (West Grove). Regrets were received from Nancy Pratt (New Garden), Dave Park (Kennett), Judy Hinds (Kendal), and Ariana Langford (Newark).

The meeting opened with a period of worship.

Nominating Committee: A Recording Clerk is still needed for Quarterly Meeting business sessions. Friends were asked to seek a nominee in their Meetings.

Education Grants: Applications have been received from three members of a London Grove family. The Committee consisting of Karen Halstead and Shelley Hastings will consider them.

April Quarterly Meeting: Margaret was asked to read a story during the ten o'clock Meeting for Worship, then ask some "I wonder..." questions to evoke artistic or vocal answers of the children and adults present.

For lunch, Friends will be asked to bring covered dishes as side dishes; the meat, dessert and beverages will be provided by West Grove. There will also be a vegetarian main dish. Paper products will be used to hasten cleanup. Someone from London Grove will be available to help with child care during the morning, and a West Grove member will do so during the afternoon program. Deb will make a flyer for Meetings giving the details of the day, and another for distribution to the public. West Grove will advertise the program to the public.

Performance Review for Deb: Margaret Walton and Karen Conlan will meet with Deb to do a performance review. As Deb now does more than the job description asks, it may be revised according to the question: Is the Coordinator doing what we want the Coordinator to do?

Deficit Budget: Because we run on a deficit budget, we need to view it more closely to determine how we can run on a balanced budget. Dick Logan offered to work with Margaret, Karen and Deb and any other volunteers to examine the issue. Dick suggested asking representatives of the Monthly Meetings for the amount they plan to budget for covenant to the Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for the next fiscal year beginning 7/1/2024.

The meeting ended with a period of worship.

Margaret I. Walton, Clerk

Mary M. Sproat, Recording Clerk

To read past Minutes of Western Quarter, and the Minutes from the WQM Support Committee Meetings, please visit our Business Resources page online: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/>