

In this issue: Sharing Stories with Friends



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Dear Friend,

Reflecting on 2015, as the staff of FGC, we'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued engagement and excitement for the work of Friends General Conference. This has been a busy year for FGC as an organization with many changes, some exciting and some challenging. We know that 2015 was a challenging year in many ways for Friends and for people all across this world. We are grateful in the knowledge that as we go forward, we have Friends to journey with as we all attempt to live into the measure of Light we are each given. As staff we are eagerly embarking upon another year of service to the Religious Society of Friends, and to all of you. Together we are Friends. With that in mind, you'll find a few tools below to help you and your meeting prepare for God's grace in this New Year.

In the Light,
The Staff of FGC

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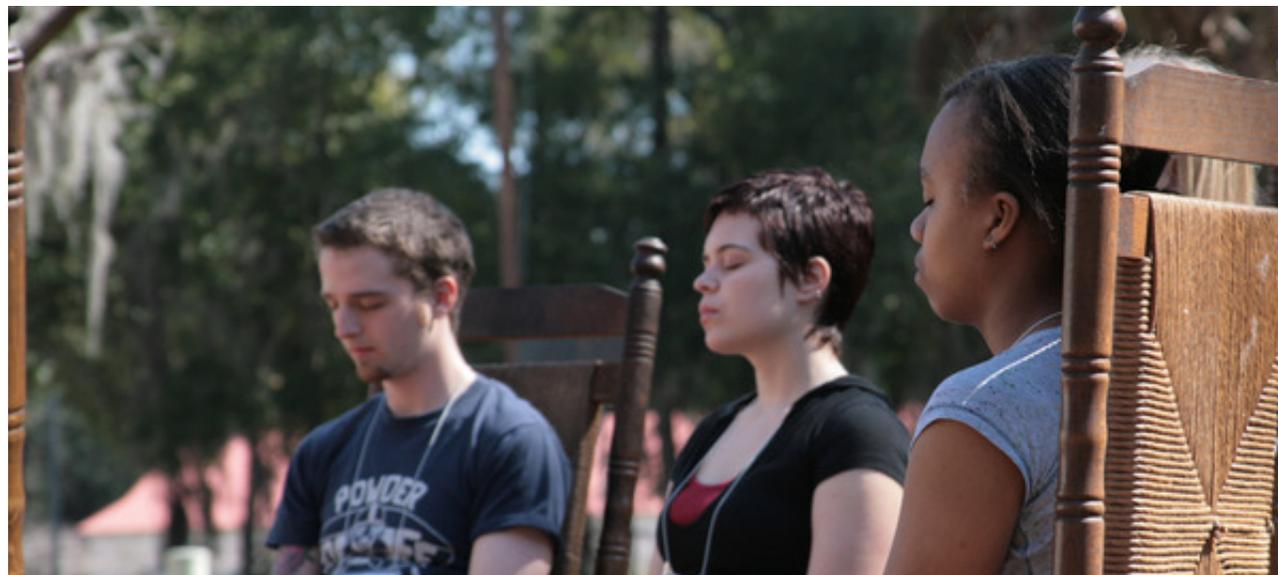


Image credit: Seth Barch

Friends of FGC

Friends of FGC is a feature of our monthly Vital Friends eNewsletter that highlights a Quaker meeting, organization, or individual Friends who work with FGC to nurture faith and Quaker practice. We're pleased to feature FGC-affiliated Yearly Meeting Canadian Yearly Meeting for the month of January.

[Read more about Canadian Yearly Meeting.](#)



Image credit: Canadian Yearly Meeting

Faith and Play

In the fall of 2015, 42 new storytellers from 20 monthly meeting and Friends school communities attended FGC-sponsored trainings of Faith & Play™ here in the US. Faith & Play™ is a Montessori-inspired storytelling resource that helps children find words and images for expressing their experiences of holy mystery and wonder in their lives.

[Learn more about this exciting program.](#)



Image credit: Melinda Werner Bradley

A New Year's Message from the General Secretary

Barry Crossno's New Year's reflections on the work of Friends General Conference and spirituality in Quaker life.

[Read Barry's Letter](#)



Image credit: Joanne Clapp Fullagar



Help deepen the spirit of your meeting, provide community outreach and social connection, and get together to dig down into the rich world of reading through Book Groups. Here are our suggestions for your reading together in 2016.

[Book Groups Book Promotion.](#)



Image credit: QuakerBooks

Program Spotlight: Gathering Workshops

The FGC Gathering Committee is excited to share their anticipation of all the awesome workshops coming up this year. Take a look how you can be strengthening, broadening, and rejuvenating your spiritual practice this summer. A few workshops to whet your appetite focus on Spiritual deepening such as [“Be still. And know. That I am. God. What next?”](#) (Gail Thomas), Music and writing such as [“Writing out of the Presence”](#) (Ellen Michaud), Movement and spirituality like [“Moving into Mindfulness”](#) (Amy Ward Brimmer), and issues and activism such as [“Transitioning to Beloved Community”](#) (Ruah Swennerfeld and Pamela). Intrigued already? Anxious to find out more? Read the full list of workshops [here!](#)



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