

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

December 2013

Query for Twelfth Month

12. Integrity and Simplicity

- What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?
- How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?
- As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?
- *How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives—in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?*
- *Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?*
- *Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?*
- *Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?*

Monthly Meeting Events

Adult Class: coming attractions

- **12/1:** Ellen Deacon will lead a discussion, "Sharing Quaker Perspectives on Jesus," at 9:15 AM. This class is for anyone; no prior reading or other preparation needed. There will be texts, but mostly time for sharing our own impressions, beliefs and questions.
- **12/8:** John Nordlof with "New Testament Music"
- **12/15:** Christmas carols (after Christmas breakfast)
- **12/22:** More Christmas carols, with Lynn Mather
- **12/29:** Hymns of praise
- **1/5, 1/12, 1/26:** Amey Hutchins leads discussion of [Letters to a Fellow Seeker](#).

Community Thanksgiving meal on Friday, 11/29

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting warmly invites you to the meeting house for either or both of two special occasions - our Day-After Thanksgiving shared meal on November 29, and/or our Christmas Day shared meal, to be on December 25, of course. If you already have plenty of family and friends' gatherings during these two holidays, then there's no need to consider coming to yet one more. However, should your family not be in this area and you haven't had your fill of festive foods, we'd love to have you think of us as part of your extended family. We don't expect these to be a large gatherings - probably more on the "intimate" side!

First Day School News

December will be a very busy month for our First Day School students. The Middle Schoolers have already embarked on providing enthusiastic and artistic support for the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry. People attending Meeting for Worship a week ago were able to admire the posters the students created. Now the Meeting, as a North West Philadelphia Hospitality Network (NPIHN) participating congregation, has been asked to take on an additional short-term project - that of "adopting" two families, each consisting of a mother and a young son, to assist them with holiday gifts.

Christmas Breakfast, December 15

You are invited to join our annual Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, December 15 from 8:45 to 10 am at the meetinghouse. A Chestnut Hill Meeting community tradition for over 40 years, the potluck breakfast brings together members, attenders, and visitors to enjoy an always amazing array of delicious, delectable food. Please bring a treat for the breakfast, but if you forget, do come anyway and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Friends are also invited to come to the meetinghouse on Saturday, December 14 from 2 to 4 pm to drop off food or to help decorate and to set up for the breakfast.

We also need the loan of cheerful tablecloths for our new round tables. The tables are 60" round, so the cloths need to be at least 70", larger (up to 90") is better. If your tablecloth is not distinctive, please mark it (a few stitches of colored thread or plastic tape is probably sufficient if you wash it yourself) to avoid confusion with others. Not sure what to bring to a breakfast potluck? Think brunch.

December Calendar

Wed., 27 November, 6:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service St Martin-in-the-Field
Fri., 29 November, 2:00pm - Thanksgiving Dinner with Friends - Social Room
Sun., 1 December - NO Community lunch - Nowhere!
Sun., 1 December 12:00 - Worship & Ministry Committee meeting - Gathering Room
Sun., 1 December 5:00pm - Monthly Potluck with Stapeley Friends - at Stapeley
Sat., 7 December 9:00am - Leaf raking at our Burial Ground Plymouth Friends Meeting
Sun., 8 December 9:45am - Adult Class : "New Testament music" with John Nordlof - Social Room
Mon., 9 December 7:00pm - RE Committee Meeting - FDS Area
Tue., 10 December 7:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support Group - FDS3
Wed., 11 December 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting - Committee Room
Thu., 12 December 7:00pm - Outreach Committee meeting - Committee Room
Thu., 12 December 9:00pm - Deadline for mid-month bulletin
Sat., 14 December 2:00pm - 4:00pm - Setup for Christmas Breakfast - Social Room
Sun., 15 December 8:45am - Christmas Breakfast - Social Room
Sun., 15 December - Food collection for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry - Coatroom
Mon., 16 December 7:00pm - Office & Administration Committee meeting - Committee Room
Sun., 22 December 9:45am - Carol Singing - Social Room
Sun., 22 December 10:00am - Coffee - Social Room
Wed., 25 December 2:00pm - Christmas with Friends - Social Room
Sun., 29 December 12:00pm - Blue Moon Potluck - Social Room
Wed., 1 January midnight - January newsletter deadline

Every Sunday

Adult Class, 9:15 am to 10:15 am; or hymn-singing 9:45 am to 10:15 am in Social Room

Meeting for Worship (childcare available) - 10:30 - 11:30 am

Children's First Day school - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Finance Committee needs your help

The Finance Committee has formed an Audit Committee to review the Meeting's finances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The Audit Committee will meet after the new year and would love to have a member from outside the Finance Committee to join them. If you're interested, please contact John Florence at john.florence3@gmail.com.

Looking for a few good men and women

Nominating committee will be hard at work in the next few months assembling our meeting committees to propose to the March Meeting for Business. As part of this effort we will be approaching all members and attenders to ask about your interest in continuing to serve on committees you may currently be on, as well as your interest in serving on other meeting committees. If you are new to the meeting we are especially interested in connecting you with committees you would like to serve on. Phil Anthony, Amey Hutchins, Jean Warrington, and Jon Landau make up the nominating committee, so if you have questions about committees you might be interested in serving on, or if you would like to let any of us know about particular interests that you have, please help make our work easier by approaching any one of us. *Jon Landau*

Donation Receipts sent out

The treasurer, Dan Evans, has emailed (or mailed) donation receipts for donations received by the operating fund for April through October. Donation receipts for January through March were sent out in April, and donation receipts for the building fund are sent out separately, shortly after gifts are received.

QVS Update

Quaker Voluntary Service project is thriving in Philadelphia. The volunteers visited Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting on November 18th, and gave a brief report in Business Meeting about their placements and thanked members of the meeting for their support. They have settled into their placements, are figuring out how to work together as an intentional community, and spending two days a month in study on Quaker themes. November's theme was Taking Away the Occasion of all Wars: Social Justice Strategy and Nonviolence and December's theme is Advent: Waiting for the Light. They will spend Friday December 6th at the meetinghouse for a day of discussion, lunching with members of Peace and Social Concerns Committee and end the day with a special opening of the Sky Space. It is a fitting contribution that we can offer them for their program.

For an in-depth look at the bios and field placements of the Philadelphia Volunteers go the QVS web site - <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/> .

News of Friends

Members' artwork on display: The Mount Airy Art Garage, 11 West Mt Airy Avenue, will show recent work by member Edward Sargent. The show goes up on December 5th and will come down a few days after the new year. The gallery is open afternoons and evenings, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

And on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00am to 7:00pm, John Bieniek is having an art show at Ambler Manor Community Room, 48 N Main Street Ambler PA 19002. He'll have hand painted wooden memory or personal treasure boxes paintings, prints, drawings and cards. You can reach him at 267-879-4318.

Susan Lee Barton wants to sing! When: Sunday, 8 December, 2013, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Where: 240 E. Evergreen Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118 What: There are songs (some Christmas songs, some loosely-related December songs) I am used to only singing with my brother, and want to teach them so that I can sing them with others. I would love to learn some lesser-known songs or chants from others as well. Provided : I will have lyric sheets and hot cider available. RSVP: Susan Lee Barton, 215-247-1477, susanleebk@juno.com. NO talent is necessary! All are welcome to participate. Come sing or listen as you wish. Don't feel obligated to bring anything; just come! Optional to bring: A song or chant you would like to teach others (Printed words are helpful, or you can e-mail lyrics to me if you want me to include them on the songsheets.); A vegetarian snack or beverage (No alcohol, please!); A friend.

Outside the Meeting

Interfaith Thanksgiving (Eve) Service

There is an Interfaith Thanksgiving meal and worship service at St. Martin in the Fields in ChestnutHill on Thanksgiving Eve. The meal begins at 6:00 and the worship service at 7:30pm.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day

The UN Association of Greater Philadelphia presents "65th Anniversary Celebration of Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day." Dec 9, 2013, 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia PA Food provided. Cash bar for drinks. Event is free. Donations encouraged.

Supporting EQAT

Some Friends have been following the work of Earth Quaker Action Team, which is 100% supported by contributions. To help EQAT meet its end of year goal, visit eqat.org/donate or mail a check to 4510 Kingessing Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. Checks over \$50 can be tax-deductible if made out to the Gandhian Foundation with "EQAT" on the memo line. Thanks for your support!

Greeters for December

12/1 Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Zach Duncan-Tessmer
12/8 Dan Evans, Storm Evans

12/15 Diane Fiske, Eileen Flanagan
12/22 John Florence, Hunter Flournoy
12/29 Roberta Foss, Terry Foss

Greeters for January

1/5 Dona and George Garrettson
1/12 Karen Goldberg, Katy Hawkins
1/19 Cyane Gresham, Betty Hartzell
1/26 Ann Jones, Phil Jones

Plymouth Meeting Burial Ground leaf-raking: Plymouth Meeting Burial Ground leaf raking and lunch sharing is Saturday, December 7th 9am to noon. Everyone is welcome. Fun for kids too!

FCNL Postcard-writing Update: A total of 39 postcards were sent to Senators Casey and Toomey in November on the topic of reducing Pentagon spending. This was a new record for our Meeting's FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) card-writing effort; thank you to everyone who participated! Due to the sequestration, defense spending is scheduled to be cut by \$1 trillion in the next decade, but defense lobbyists are pressing hard to reduce the cuts to defense, which would mean less money for urgently needed programs such as food stamps. Continued calls and letters through the next couple of weeks would also be helpful as the cuts will be considered in December; more info is at www.fcnl.org - <http://www.fcnl.org/> .

Apartment for rent: Apartment available near Chestnut Hill. On L and 94 bus lines. Living room/kitchen area, bedroom and private bath. Share laundry and screened-in porch. Reasonable rent. Please call 215-285-4086 or email babuon@msn.com.

Friend looking for 2BR apt: I am a Young Adult Friend and a longtime PYM member. I have a 2-year-old and am expecting another beautiful baby in the coming months. I've been enjoying a healthy and growing career. I am looking for apartments in the Chestnut Hill area that will be a suitable location for me to return to work. Friends, if you or anyone friends of Friends you know of have 2-bedroom apartments for rent please pass on my email. I was originally hoping to settle in a new place before the holiday season begins and before I give birth to my second child. It's seeming that may not happen. Together with the Spirit, Rebekah Rodriguez, rrodriquez@hushmail.com

Calendars for sale: Dona and George Garrettson have calendars for sale for \$15 to support the PYM Interpretation Program. The calendar features photographs of a 19th-century quilt which is displayed at Arch Street Meeting. The quilt was pieced together in honor of Ann Burns and her service to the House of Industry. If you would like to know more about the calendar or the quilt, please ask George or Dona.

Keeping Bob the Beagle Company: Diane Fiske would like to know if there is a Friend or attender who might like to sit in her Chestnut Hill apartment and do nothing except have coffee, read the paper or relax and just keep her beagle, Bob, company for two hours on an agreed Sunday, so that she can attend meeting for worship. Bob, a well mannered beagle, needs nothing except company so he won't bark while Diane goes to meeting. Please call Diane Fiske 215 248 7554.

Directory Distribution: The CHFM 2013 Directory was produced in September this year. Due to the high cost of postage, the initial distribution was in person at meeting on Sundays. If you have not received a copy and want one, please contact George Garrettson (gwgphila@aol.com) or Phil Jones (secretary@chestnuthillquakers.org) at meeting or email or write or call meeting the meetinghouse to have one mailed to you.

Community Lunch: Community Lunches occur on the first First Day (Sunday) of the month from 12:00 - 1:00pm and are provided by the Hospitality Committee (i.e., it's not a potluck). All are welcome. (We do have a potluck lunch on the fifth Sunday of the month, when there is one.)

Allergy Reminder: Please don't bring anything with strawberries in it to a potluck or community lunch; a member of our community is highly sensitive to strawberries.

Meeting for Worship: Children are welcome in meeting for worship from 10:30 to 10:45, when they leave to adult-supervised activity (summer) or First Day (Sunday) school class (school year).

What Is Divinity

What is divinity if it can come
Only in silent shadows and in dreams?
Shall she not find in comforts of the sun,
In pungent fruit and bright, green wings, or else
In any balm or beauty of the earth,
Things to be cherished like the thought of heaven?
Divinity must live within herself:
Passions of rain, or moods in falling snow;
Grievings in loneliness, or unsubdued
Elations when the forest blooms; gusty
Emotions on wet roads on autumn nights;
All pleasures and all pains, remembering
The bough of summer and the winter branch,
These are the measures destined for her soul.

by Wallace Stevens