

Hospitality Committee Annual Report
March 2021
Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

The Hospitality Committee has had a very quiet year, from March 2020 to March 2021, due to the pandemic closing the meetinghouse. In March 2020 the committee was about to hold its semi-annual meeting (held August/September and February/March, where members sign up for duties for the next six months), but since the meetinghouse was closing and duties were unclear, we cancelled our meeting.

Our activities during the pandemic have been limited to providing meals for meeting members and attenders who are in need due to illness, surgery, or new parent demands. We were notified by the Care and Counsel Committee when there was a need, and used the Meal Train website for signups. We hope this brought love, attention and sustenance to those of our community in need.

The Hospitality Committee met by Zoom in January 2021 to discuss how the work of the committee expresses or reflects how spirit is moving in our meeting. Among the thoughts about the ways the Hospitality Committee has expressed spirit were caring for one another, building community, welcoming visitors, creating a peaceful place in which people can be with others, and sharing food, stories, and recipes. We also believe the committee has a warm camaraderie that makes the kitchen and social room welcoming spaces. We discussed how the Quaker “S.P.I.C.E.S.” are embodied by the work of our committee. We saw that we embody “Equality” by welcoming newcomers and longtimers to help in the kitchen, and often people who visit Meeting even for the first time jump in and help with cleanup, which fosters belonging, goodwill, and friendship. “Integrity” could be found in our efforts to be sure to offer gluten free, vegetarian, and vegan options.

It is unfortunate that the difficult year makes the memories of past lunches and coffees seem quite distant, but we look forward to seeing what the future holds and to the joyful event of sharing a meal or a cup of coffee or tea together once again.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Rose, Clerk of Hospitality Committee