

## **Gwynedd Monthly Meeting 2023 Annual Report**

The Gwynedd Friends Meeting has had an eventful year. As a community, we were able to continue with hybrid Meetings for Worship, with many Friends still joining from home via Zoom.

Our Meeting sometimes feels like an island of tranquility in a chaotic world. But it's possible that chaos could intrude on us. We formed an Ad Hoc Safety Committee, to develop an active shooter policy, but also to enhance our responses to possible fire and medical emergencies. A Pennsylvania State Trooper presented a program to the AHSC in August. We're awaiting a visit from the Pennsylvania State Police Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Team in the spring.

The **communication committee** is proud to report that in 2023 our tech savvy members, including Art D'Adamo and Ranvir Bakshi, worked out a way for our Zoom members not only to see those in the Meetinghouse, but also to be seen and heard as full participants in our Sunday worship. The communication committee also continues to work hard keeping our website up to date, informative and easier to use by Friends at Gwynedd and the general public.

Using their God given resilience, the **Peace and Social Action Committee** continued many social justice projects.

In July this year Gwynedd Meeting hosted several families from the Interfaith Housing Network of Family Promise. A total of 4 women and 10 children between the ages of 1 and 19 were able to have a safe, comfortable place to stay while they worked on finding jobs, balancing their budgets, keeping their families together, and getting along with each other. We used three classrooms for their bedrooms, and they had use of the kitchen, community room, and bathrooms. Birthdays were celebrated with pizza and cake, and Saturday breakfasts were a big hit- especially Jim Hejl's letter pancakes.

The **American Friends Service Committee** flea market had very successful sales in March, June, September and the holiday sale in November. Chris Mrozinski took over as overseer of this activity—with help from many Friends.

The Peace and Justice Vigil continued alongside Route 202 on Saturdays.

The **Peace Camp and YQE** programs had another successful year.

The **Coffeehouse** events sponsored by our **Fellowship and Outreach Committee** continued with a schedule featuring Kj, Cosy Sheridan and Charlie, Whirl-Wind Quintet, Cornflower Jam, and The Pour Rabbits. The coffeehouse is an important community outreach program, bringing many non-Quaker visitors to our Meetinghouse.

The **Property Committee** again went above and beyond to deal with challenges, including damage to lateral sewer lines by two different PennDOT contractors. The Meeting retained an attorney to assist with the recovery of expenses related to this.

Our caretakers did much valuable work on our property, continuing to implement the Landscape Master Plan. We had two successful and well-attended Work Days in spring and fall, when everyone showed up to work on our property. I believe, even, that all of the windows were cleaned this year!

The Building Subcommittee for the Bus Shelter and Path project was started. The preliminary design by Daedelus Architects was approved by the meeting and a \$147,882.00 Multimodal Transportation Grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development submitted by Lower Gwynedd Township on behalf of Gwynedd Meeting for consultant and construction costs was awarded. The Gwynedd Fiduciary Corporation has committed an additional \$25,000 toward the project as required by the grant award. We are now ready to begin the construction document phase with the architect Alan Henderson.

Many other committees completed much valuable work, and they are too numerous to mention in this brief summary. We give thanks to all these Ad Hoc and standing committees who continued their work this year. Individuals on committees enabled us to share God's love, not only at Gwynedd but also in the wider community and, in the world. The Inner Light is expressing itself through us.

Submitted 01-21-2024 by Steve Kerr, Clerk.