



## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 13, Issue 1 January 2016

**Wilmington Meeting & New Beginnings** *The long-lived tradition of Quaker involvement with prisons and prisoners is very much alive in the Meeting.*

On Sunday afternoons in a meeting room in Wilmington's St. Francis Hospital, a group of men sit around tables put together to form a large "U." They're of differing ages and varying colors of skin. But what joins them in a closer community than most of us will ever know is a determination to stay free.

They've all been in prison, most of them recently, most of them in Wilmington's Gander Hill, and they have no intention of going back. There are volunteers there, too, some of them from Wilmington Friends Meeting's Peace and Social Justice committee. But they stay mainly on the sidelines, occasionally offering advice and practical information. But New Beginnings, Next Step belongs to the men.

It started inside Gander Hill. About ten years ago, Brother David from Wilmington's Franciscan Center asked folksinger/songwriter John Flynn to take over leadership of New Beginnings, a group of inmates coming together every week to help each other find ways of being free even while behind prison bars. It grew into a safe place where they could talk openly and confidentially about their fears, their plans, the parts of themselves they knew were good but they had a hard time getting to, the parts that were risky even to reach, much less reveal. New Beginnings gave them a place where they learned to trust other men's honesty, where they could learn to trust their own. There wasn't any other place like it in prison, and New Beginnings grew, became central to their lives.

When some of the men's sentences were almost done, they came to John and told him, if New Beginnings was important while they were in prison, they might need it even more to help them not to go back in. So a few started meeting with John in coffee shops. Word spread and the gathering grew, too large now for a coffee house. It happened that Flynn was on the board of Pacem in Terris, a Wilmington-based group dedicated to furthering peace, justice, and reconciliation. So was a stalwart member of Wilmington Friends Peace and Social Justice Committee who is also a long-time advocate for criminal justice reform. The results of such a juxtaposition became obvious. Soon, the coffee shop group became New

Beginnings, Next Step, sponsored now by Pacem in Terris, gathering every Sunday afternoon at Wilmington Friends Meeting. (New Beginnings Next Step had originated years earlier under the guidance of the Franciscan Center, but had long ago disbanded.) Other members of the Peace and Social Justice Committee came by to visit, and then stayed, joining volunteers who'd been with John inside the prison. When New Beginning, Next Step moved, to St. Francis Hospital—where some returning citizens now work—those Quakers moved along with it. Some Quakers now join the groups meeting inside both Gander Hill and a new program recently begun in the Plummer Center, a work-release facility. There's now a continuum from prison to work release to a return to the outside world.



New Beginnings, Next Step receives financial support from donations, including a gift from Wilmington Friends Meeting, and from John Flynn's occasional benefit concerts. It's able to provide bus passes to help newly-freed men look for work; it can offer supermarket gift cards while they're looking. But that's not why the men come. They make that clear, They're there to talk about what it's like to be out, about what they're facing going back to families, children they haven't seen maybe in years, the difficulty in finding jobs and sometimes in finding a place to stay. They share information and encouragement, advice and warnings. So far, by the way, everybody who's seriously wanted a job has gotten one. The recidivism rate is a small percentage of that for the general ex-offender population.

For those of us who participate, it's a remarkable experience. When you're in one of the meetings, whether inside the prison or without, you feel an almost palpable sense of the men's caring about one another's freedom, a sometimes desperate honesty about confronting not just their own, but also each other's fears and dreams. No one, whether returning citizen or volunteer, leaves without feeling stronger than when he or she went in. It's a gift. The Light in each of us glows just a bit brighter.

*Cruce Stark - Wilmington Friends Meeting*

If you want to find out more about New Beginnings, Next Step, come to Concord Quarterly Meeting on January 24. You can also go to these websites: <http://newbeginnings-nextstep.org/index.html> & <http://depaceminterris.org/new-beginnings-next-step/>

### Tuition Aid Announcement

Applications for tuition assistance from Concord Quarterly Meeting for children attending Quaker schools (grade school through high school) must be submitted by February 16, 2016. To be eligible, a student must have at least one parent who is a member of a constituent monthly meeting other than Wilmington MM. The application form is available on the Quarter's website <http://concordquarter.org/> or from the Coordinator (610-256-3572 or [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)).

## Friends Respond to Syrian Refugee Crisis

At our Quarterly Meeting in October, Susan Brodesser of Birmingham Meeting reported on the concern of Friends at Birmingham over the Syrian Refugee Crisis and their desire to work in the area of refugee resettlement. On Monday, December 14, 2015, the Yearly Meeting hosted a conference call under the direction of Zachary Dutton, the Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life, for all of those in the Yearly Meeting with a concern in this area. Twenty seven participants were on the call. Zachary produced a report on the call that includes the various activities that are starting up to support this work. Here is the excerpt from that report involving Concord Quarterly Meeting members:

*West Chester, Downingtown, Willistown, Westtown, and Birmingham are currently collaborating with the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester and the Islamic Center of Chester County to explore the possibility of co-sponsoring one or two refugee families through the Lutheran Children and Family Service. Peggy Pillard and Susan Brodesser are involved in this effort, if you would like to know more, zap me an email at zdutton@pym.org, and I will connect you.*

Go to <http://www.pym.org/2015/12/18/join-work-syrian-refugee-crisis/> for the full report. If you are interested in joining with other Quarterly Meeting members in this work contact Susan Brodesser at [be\\_still@verizon.net](mailto:be_still@verizon.net) or 610-399-0823.

## Willistown Meeting's Monthly Meals at Safe Harbor - Service in Both Directions

More than seven years ago, following a leading from our dear Friend Ceal Phelan, members of Willistown Friends Meeting began serving meals to the residents of the Safe Harbor shelter in West Chester. Although Ceal lost her long battle with cancer nearly three years ago, we continue to honor her spirit of caring and community outreach monthly by coming together as a Meeting to help those in need.

When this service project began, Ceal was the Clerk of the Peace and Social Action Committee and was looking for something that would engage many of Willistown's members. The Committee – which includes Ellen Millick, Laurie Dilzer, Cindy Dixon, Justin Hodge, Pam Costanzi, and current Clerk Kate Edmonds – continues to lead the Meeting in preparing and serving the meals. Each month we prepare a full meal for 20 residents that includes: a protein/main course; a vegetable; a starch; a salad; bread and butter; and dessert. Members sign up in advance and bring their dishes in to Meeting that Sunday, and after Meeting for Worship they are whisked away to West Chester, where up to five or six members serve the meal.

It has been exciting to see how Members have stepped

forward to participate in this project. The First Day School often prepares the desserts – baking cookies during Meeting for Worship is a treat! Willistown provides aluminum pans

that are the sizes of the warmers at Safe Harbor to make keeping hot parts of the meal warm during Meeting and upon arrival at the shelter.

Perhaps the most gratifying part of the project, though, is that many parents take their children with them to help serve, and the residents of Safe Harbor love seeing the children. At times, they make cards together, or the children serve the cookies they baked. We work with the Women's section of the shelter now, and you can see how meaningful it is to these women to be around youngsters, since many of them are currently separated

from their own children. Additionally, we appreciate the opportunity for our children to learn firsthand the benefits of helping others.

Safe Harbor is a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to provide shelter, food and access to support services in a structured environment for homeless single men and homeless single women in Chester County.

*Pam Costanzi - Willistown Meeting*



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## Concord Quarter Members Provide Support for PYM's First Continuing Sessions

On November 7, 2015, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting held its first Continuing Sessions on the campus of Westtown School. Concord Quarter started much earlier lending a helping hand.

On June 13, 2015, Westtown MM's Clerk Marc Dear reached out to PYM's Clerk Jada Jackson and Rising Clerk Penny Colgan-Davis to offer that meeting's support of the event. In late July during Annual Sessions, Concord Quarter Clerk Bruce Harrison spoke to PYM's General Secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer about the need for PYM to reconnect with Westtown School and George School. He invited Christie to attend Concord Quarterly Meeting held at Westtown MM in October so she could see the campus first hand.

In early August Bruce reached out to Christine Costa Henwood, Westtown School's Outdoor Education

Coordinator, to alert her to the possibility that PYM's programs for middle and high school students would want to use the school's ropes course and canoes under her supervision. His request was timely because in early October PYM did engage Chris in conducting a ropes course for both programs.

In October Christie Duncan-Tessmer attended Concord Quarterly Meeting, and afterwards she took one of Bruce's famous Cook's tour of the campus. Then Member's of Concord Quarter got in the hostelry business. Westtown MM provided overnight accommodation for children in PYM's middle school program and West Chester MM did the same for children in PYM's high school program. The following offered their homes to PYM members traveling long distances: Aaron and KerryLynn Resnik (Goshen); John Lavin (Birmingham); Bruce and Lisa Harrison (Westtown);

Chel Avery (Goshen); Serita Spadoni (Birmingham); and Marina Pavluk (West Chester), but only Serita got to host.

Friday night before Continuing Sessions began Westtown MM members Pete Lane, Elson and Cheryl Blunt and their daughter Karah, Bryan and Susan Waterhouse, Bruce Harrison and several Westtown School students worked assiduously in Westtown School's kitchen for three hours making, bagging and labeling three hundred sandwiches for the next day's lunch. It was a labor of love.

Also, on Friday night Bruce placed two large wooden signs at the Route 202 exits for Westtown Road to help guide visitors to the campus. He also recruited about ten members

who are familiar to the campus to wear "Ask Me" buttons and respond to inquiries of PYM members who had not been to the campus previously – close to a third of those in attendance.

The effort helped make everyone who attended Continuing Sessions feel welcome and connected to the members and meetings of Concord Quarterly Meeting. Now it's off to Arch Street Meeting for the second installment of Continuing Sessions on March 19, 2016, when Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting will be given the opportunity to return the favor. -  
*Charles Spadoni, Coordinator*

## What the Day Was Like – a Report from Continuing Sessions

The first Continuing Session since the restructuring of PYM was held on November 7, 2015 at the Westtown School campus. Some 300-400 PYM members and attenders from 80 meetings participated in this all-day gathering.

The day began around 9:00 am with a welcome from Penny Colgan-Davis, clerk, followed by worship in the Westtown School's theatre. As a way to introduce us to the day's session we were invited to touch one of several beach balls being bounced along the rows in the theatre, the objective being to have everyone included – we made it in less than a minute.

Afterwards there were two speakers in response to PYM's initiative on racism. Michelle Ewing, a Quaker from Virginia Beach and a member of the military, provided an overview of how the individual, group and society impact how we include or exclude others. The second, Deborah Panco, a member of Abington Meeting, spoke about her meeting's involvement in addressing racism.

We then broke into small worship sharing groups focusing on our own experiences with racism, what our meeting was doing in addressing this issue and what our path might be, individually and corporately, in the future. Worship and a general business meeting followed lunch during which we heard a number of reports including an overview from the newly formed Administrative Council. Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary, also shared her ongoing work and vision for our PYM.

Later we broke into small interest groups of our choosing, which included: Worship and Ministry; Pastoral Care; Religious Education; Stewardship/ Environment; Finance, etc. We were requested to note three topics/directions that might be of particular interest to PYM Friends on a wider scale, the intention being to match interested Friends from across PYM who could work together to address specific concerns. These were later posted and individuals, if interested, could sign up to participate in one of these groups. Since then an e-communication from PYM has provided an opportunity to sign up online.

Meanwhile the children and youth participated in their own program of activities. At the end the children of one Birmingham Meeting family told their mother they did not want to leave, having been at Westtown School all day.

Worship concluded the day's session which ended around 5:30 pm. PYM staff and volunteers coordinated and organized a multi-layered gathering, and we were grateful. Many more Friends of varying ages from across a greater geographic area participated in the day's activities, a noteworthy beginning to this new arrangement of worshipping, engaging concerns and conducting business between annual sessions.

If you did not attend the first session, and for those who did, there will be another opportunity on March 19, 2016 when Continuing Sessions will be held at Arch Street. See you there.

*Serita Spadoni, Birmingham Meeting*

## Letter of Appreciation from PYM Clerk

From: Penny Colgan-Davis, Clerk  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
1515 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To: Concord Quarterly Meeting  
c/o Bruce Harrison, Clerk  
238 W Barnard St  
West Chester, PA 19382

Dear Concord Quarterly Meeting,

I write with joy to express gratitude to your community of dedicated Friends on behalf of our yearly meeting. The service of your Clerk, Bruce Harrison, your Coordinator, Charlie Spadoni, and the many other Friends who supported the inaugural Continuing Sessions was imperative to its success.

Over 400 Friends attended, and, as a result of our success, many people are beginning to convene in new ways to forward work that is truly shared across the eleven thousand Friends who make up our yearly meeting community. We were especially heartened by all the volunteers from Westtown Meeting who gave time to field guiding on the Westtown School campus. It was a meaningful day, and you helped make it happen.

Sincerely, Penny Colgan-Davis

# Concord Quarterly Meeting's Calendar of Events

**Each Thursday** The Hickman holds **mid-week meeting for worship** from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in The Hickman Living Room. All are cordially invited to attend.

**Jan. 17** Concord Quarterly Meeting-Sponsored **Open House for Families of Children Attending Quaker Schools** (Sunday) 10:30 a.m. West Chester MM.

**Jan. 24** **Concord Quarterly Meeting** (Sunday) 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wilmington MM.

**Jan. 31** **Concord Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee** (Sunday) 7:30 p.m. in Concord Monthly Meeting (Concordville).

**Feb. 20** (snow date Feb. 27, 2016) **Concord Quarterly Meeting's Fifth Annual Square Dance** – (Saturday) 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Willistown Meeting. Please bring a non-perishable food item or check for the West Chester Food Cupboard.

**Feb. 28** **Intergenerational Roller Skating** (Sunday) 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bring your family to worship at Kennett MM (11:00 a.m.); enjoy a lunch sponsored by that meeting; and then go roller skating at the Christiana Skating Center, Newark, DE.

**Feb. 28, Mar. 6 & Mar. 13** (snow Mar.20) **Tom Woodward-led Workshop: Friends and the Gospel of Thomas** (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 p.m., The Hickman. **Christ has come to teach his people himself; the kingdom of God is within you and all about you.**

**Mar. 6** **Concord Quarterly Meeting-Sponsored Open House for Families of Children Attending Quaker Schools** (Sunday) 10:00 a.m. Goshen MM.

**Mar. 19** **PYM's Spring Continuing Sessions** (Saturday) Arch Street Meeting, Philadelphia

**Apr. 10** **Concord Quarterly Meeting-Sponsored Open House for Families of Children Attending Quaker Schools** (Sunday) 10:30 a.m. Westtown MM.

**Workshop Survey** **Concord Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee** would like input from the Quarter's members on the topics a workshop or other program conducted by the Quarter should address. Members or attenders may submit their responses to the Coordinator via email ([concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)) or first class mail (116 South New St., West Chester, PA 19382). They can also complete the questionnaire on the Quarter's website: <http://concordquarter.org/lets-try-this/>

**Collaborations** Any member or attender of a constituent monthly meeting who would like to collaborate with members or attenders of other monthly meetings in the Quarter on an issue of common concern may request the Coordinator to facilitate such an undertaking by identifying members or attenders in other meetings who are interested in collaborating and by creating a blog to link the interested parties. Members or attenders may submit their requests to the Coordinator via email ([concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)) or first class mail (116 South New St., West Chester, PA 19382). Also, they may complete a request form on the Quarter's website: <http://concordquarter.org/collaboration-requests/>.

## SQUARE DANCE

February 20, 2016 - 7 to 9 pm  
Willistown Meeting  
(February 27 - Snow Date)



Music by the Thornbury Ramblers • Caller: Alan Crosman

## Friends and the Gospel of Thomas

Christ has come to teach his people himself  
The kingdom of God is within you and all about you.

February 28, March 6 & March 13 - 2 to 4 pm  
(snow date March 20)

The Hickman in West Chester



Led by Thomas Woodward, former Westtown teacher and member of Goshen Meeting

# Concord Quarterly Meeting

at

## Wilmington Monthly Meeting

401 N. West St. Wilmington, DE 19801

January 24, 2016

### Transitioning to the Community

8:00-8:15	Sign in
8:15-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:00	Meeting For Worship with Wilmington Monthly Meeting
11:00-12:00	Program-New Beginnings/Next Steps Program
12:00-1:00	Shared Meal



#### *Program: New Beginnings, Next Step*

As an urban meeting, Wilmington Monthly Meeting feels called to address issues that are important in its community. The Meeting's Peace and Social Justice Committee has often taken the lead in focusing its attention on these issues. Some members of that committee have been instrumental in the New Beginnings, Next Step program. This is a thriving program that creates a network of support, reinforcement, and accountability for those seeking to move forward with their lives while still in prison. Additionally, the program helps men and women successfully make the transition from incarceration to freedom. We will hear from John Kornegay, one of the leaders of the group.

**Children's Program:** First Day School for children of all ages will be held. Childcare will be provided in the Nursery.

Directions: Wilmington Monthly Meeting is located at the intersection of 4th & West Streets in downtown Wilmington. Drive time from West Chester is 30 minutes. Follow US202 South to I-95 South, and take the Fourth Street / MLK Blvd exit. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left onto 4th St. Turn left at West Street (about 5 blocks from I-95); Meetinghouse is immediately on your left.

For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps/>  
You can also email Charlie Spadoni, Coordinator, at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org).

## Minutes of Concord Quarterly Meeting Held at Westtown Monthly Meeting October 25, 2015

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Clerk Bruce Harrison welcomed everyone. There were 30 Friends in attendance. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Chichester, Middletown, West Chester, and Westtown were present.

Friends approved John Lavin serving as recording clerk in David Leonard's absence. Agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** of Tom Haviland was received with appreciation and is attached as appendix one. The transition from old and new treasurers has almost been completed. During the transition, Tom performed housekeeping on the Quarter's electronic documents. The Treasurer has distributed sixteen scholarships from the Tuition Endowment Fund. Each recipient received \$444.

**Coordinator's Report** from Charlie Spadoni was received with appreciation and is attached as appendix two. Travel Minute for Thomas Swain was read by Bruce Harrison and is attached as appendix three. Friends approved endorsing Thomas' minute of travel from Middletown Monthly Meeting.

**A Syrian Refugee Crisis Announcement** by Susan Brodesser was received with appreciation and is attached as appendix four.

Clerk Bruce Harrison reported that he purchased three copies of the Biography of Bayard Rustin and has given them to the Bayard Rustin High School library.

**West Chester & Birmingham's Joys & Challenges** were reported and are attached to the minutes as appendix five. A Friend raised a concern that the Quarter only approves the action minutes, and not the entire body of the minutes. The response was that in the past, the Quarter approved reading only the action minutes but that the Quarter can change their decision at any time. Friends discussed the concern and requested that the Planning Committee make a suggestion and discuss the concern at a future business meeting.

Friends discussed putting a more formal process around the creation of the Joys and Challenges reports given to the Quarter, such as submitting the report to their Monthly Meeting's business meeting for approval. Friends also referred this concern to the Planning Committee to make a recommendation to the Quarter.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, John Lavin Acting Recording Clerk Bruce Harrison Clerk

### Appendix One - Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Q1 - October 25, 2015

#### Treasurer Transition Status

- Quickbooks Pro 2016 for PC purchased and installed and electronic files have been moved to and are now fully operational on Tom's computer.
- The active QB file has been updated to only show from Fiscal Year 2014 forward. All previous years have been archived.
- All hardcopy and electronic files are now in Tom's possession.
- All businesses and groups that we interact/do business with have been contacted and have updated contact information from Bruce to Tom (email, regular mail, phone numbers, online accounts).
- Tom was added as a signatory of CQM's business checking account and has been managing all financial transactions and the associated record keeping for activity from mid-August forward (check writing, depositing funds, recording activity, account reconciliations).
- Tom has continued Bruce's good work of documenting all Treasurer transition work to be given to future Treasurers.

#### Tuition Grants

- 16 students received tuition grants this year of \$444.00 each (\$7104 total).
- Students come from 5 Monthly Meetings (Birmingham, Goshen, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown)
- Students attend 5 schools (Friends Select, Goshen Friends, West Chester Friends, Westtown School, Wilmington Friends).

The Tuition Endowment Fund is down 7% at just shy of \$170k, a result of the concern over global growth and China's slowing economy. Projected weak 3rd quarter corporate earnings and continued market volatility with the possibility of a Federal Reserve rate hike looms over the 4th quarter.

#### Noteworthy Financial Activity

- Asset account balances as of Sep 30, 2015 are provided as information on the back side of this page.
- The balances do not reflect Covenant checks received in Q1 (a result of the changing of Treasurers and being delayed in the depositing/recording of this activity).
- 2 Friends Fiduciary TEF account deposits (one of which is the Coordinator Surplus Funds from FY 2014 2015) were moved from FY 2014-2015 4Q to this FY Q2 (when they actually occurred). Year ending reports for FY 2014-2015 have been replaced with updated versions. No adverse consequences arise from this bookkeeping adjustment.

•As Tom continues working towards taking over all Treasurer work, the record keeping will get caught up and 2nd quarter reports should accurately reflect qtr and ytd activity that is consistent with the same periods for the prior fiscal year. Additionally, we will see how are our finances are beginning to match up against the 2015-2016 Budget.  
Oct 25, 2015 NOTE: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REDACTED

### **Appendix Two Coordinator's Report**

Fortunately, the weather cooperated on August 23, 2015, and we had approximately 50 people (from both Concord and Western Quarters) who came and went (as least some did) down the Brandywine Creek on inner tubes during our annual, pot-luck lunch and tubing-on-the-Brandywine event that had to be rescheduled from June 28, 2015, when a storm caused the water to be at almost flood stage.

Approximately 50 members (adults and children) of Concord and Western Quarterly Meetings converged on Wynoor Farm, the Stratton family (Middletown MM) farm in Westtown Township, to tour their farm via a tractor-driven hay wagon, take a disorienting trip through a corn maze, eat a delicious potluck supper featuring hotdogs and hamburgers grilled to perfection by our culinarily talented Clerk Bruce Harrison (Westtown MM), and a sing-along led by Pete Lane (Westtown MM) playing sonorous notes on his banjo. The Stratton Family generously made their farm available to the two Quarters without charge.

On Saturday, October 17, 2015, nine Quakers from West Chester, Middletown, Concord, Westtown, Goshen and Centre Monthly Meetings were led by Thomas Swain (Middletown MM) in an all-day workshop conducted at West Chester MM in which they undertook to recognize and appreciate their Spirit-given gifts. Katie Senko (Birmingham MM), a 9th grader at Unionville High School, who was on standby to provide childcare, also participated in the workshop when she was not helping me prepare and serve lunch.

Here's hoping you all return to Westtown School on November 7, 2015, to attend the first-ever Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Session. The Yearly Meeting will be addressing the following query: "What is God calling PYM Quakers to do next to end racism and white supremacy in the Religious Society of Friends and beyond? This is a timely and compelling topic for all members of Concord Quarterly Meeting.

It is still not too late to offer accommodations and a light breakfast to Friends who are traveling long distances to attend Continuing Sessions. If you would like to host such a Friend, please register at <http://www.pym.org/continuing-sessions/hospitality/>.

Sarah Kastriner, Western Quarter's Coordinator; Robin Harper, Western Quarter's Youth Coordinator; and I are in the process of planning youth and intergenerational events for the next 12 months. Please check the schedule of those events that will be posted on Concord Quarter's website after the next Planning Committee Meeting to be held on November 1, 2015. *In Faith, Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator*

### **Appendix Three - Minute Of Travel Middletown Meeting and Endorsed by Concord Quarter**

Dear Friends,

Our member Thomas Swain has been called to travel in the ministry among Friends. He travels to you with the full support of Middletown Monthly Meeting. His leading is part of a longstanding concern for spiritual growth and renewal, carried by our whole Monthly Meeting. We are blessed to have Thomas as a part of our community. We have watched his vocal ministry grow over the past few years. He has helped us individually and as a Meeting to respond more deeply to the Voice of Christ within. Thomas has devoted many years of service among Friends and has generously shared his spiritual gifts of encouragement, leadership, and nurture. He has served as clerk of our Meeting and of our Yearly Meeting. Many of our lives have been changed by his faithful service.

We commend our dear friend to you and ask that all listen with open hearts to the message that he brings. He carries our love and prayers with him, and our hope that we may all wade deeper into the Living Water together.

On behalf of Middletown Monthly Meeting Lima, Pennsylvania Richard Ailes, Clerk

### **Appendix Four Syrian Refugee Report**

The members of Birmingham's Peace and Social Concerns Committee felt led to try to do something to help alleviate the suffering of refugee families. We are still in the exploratory, information gathering stage.

As most refugees coming to this area will be assisted by Lutheran Children and Family Services through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State I have attached two documents from LCFS that provide information about the resettlement process, for your information.

If you have an interest in helping, contact Susan Brodesser and the committee will keep you posted on what Peace and Social Concerns learns. Sturgis Poorman, of Lutheran Children and Family Service, will be speaking with us about refugee resettlement, co-sponsorship, and other ways we might help on Tuesday, November 10, at 7pm, at the Birmingham.

**Note: for Appendix 5 – Joys & Challenges Reports go to <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>**

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter  
**Volume 13 Issue 1 January 2016**

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Recording Clerk: David Leonard  
Treasurer: Tom Haviland  
Coordinator: Charles Spadoni

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Concord Quarter Meetings

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Chichester  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
Willistown  
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Published: January, April, July and October  
Submissions Due: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15