



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

Of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship

Friends are meeting for hybrid worship every 1st day at 10:30 A.M. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the Chickee on the Orange River in Buckingham. (aka Peace Acre). Friends who prefer to meet via Zoom instead may do so. Each Friday an invitation to Zoom worship is sent to our entire e-mail list, identifying the hyperlink and meeting number. People may join early either physically or via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. for conversation and fellowship.

Midweek worship

Midweek worship, in person only, is held at the Chickee on Peace Acre each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. For directions to Peace Acre, call 239-313-6201 or email:

ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

Meeting Mailing Address: 138 Pinebrook Dr.

Fort Myers FL 33907

Telephone: (239) 318-0538 ❖ Website: fortmyersquakers.org

E-mail: ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Deb White: debwhitenfl@gmail.com

SEYM Queries & Advices

Third Section:

To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker principles?

9. Witness

Queries:

- *Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies?*
- *Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it into our spiritual life?*
- *Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others?*
- *Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?*
- *Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we "walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone"?*

- *Do we as a meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?*
 - *Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil but also between the better and the best.*
 - *Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us.*
 - *Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us.*
 - *Be as good as people think you are. E. St. John (Jack) Catchpool*
- Advices:**
- *Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity.*
 - *Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them.*

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9th Month 10, 2023

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met for Business in hybrid format on 9th month, 10th day with 11 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Richard Frechette read from SEYM's Queries & Advices, 9th month:

- To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker Principles?
- Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others?
- Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?
- Do we as a Meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

Among the thoughts expressed in response were:

- As our community looks toward physically sharing grounds with the Unitarians and other groups we will become a community with other like-minded people, which will not only enrich ourselves, but allow us to share our witness in ways we haven't been able to in the past.
- I've been moved by the advice that the spirit moves through us: when we reach out to others, we are building ties, strengthening both ourselves and others. Our new Meetinghouse will not be just a new building, but a new opportunity for community.
- I live on a block with six or seven other churches, but I have never visited them. I should start with the first one, the Presbyterians, and find out what they're about.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Davis reported that most of our expenses this month are for the architect and engineers who are working on permitting and getting drawings ready for our contractor. The Meeting is in good shape this year; we have now met all our commitments to others. Friend Paul reminded us to send checks for the General Fund to Friend Denise Runyon and to himself for the Meetinghouse Fund.

Our total funds are kept in an interest-bearing account, but not in Friends Fiduciary, since they need to be fairly liquid. We're earning about \$1000 a month interest. The Meeting should be getting a gift from Friend Donna Anderson's will, which is not yet settled.

Friend Paul reminded us that we will receive a grant for our handicapped access ramp once the new building is being constructed.

General Funds

Checking	8,575
Gen Fund Savings	42,805
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	30,197

Total General Fund 81,577

Meeting House Funds

Savings	468,504
---------	---------

MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	14,052
Total Meeting House Funds	482,556

FMMM Total Funds 564,133

Ministry & Counsel Report

M&C Clerk Nancy Murvine reports that the committee continues to seek ways to deepen our connections to each other. Give the number of new and returning members and attenders, a new spiritual formation group is planned if there is interest. Please see the newsletter for details.

Meetinghouse Committee Report

Friend Helen Fox reported: At our last meeting, the committee laid out a timeline for the architect and engineers to follow this summer, including applying for permits, creating final architectural plans, and sharing them with our contractor and the Unitarians. In general, the work has been proceeding as planned and we are on track for groundbreaking in November 2023.

Construction has been going on next door at a "luxury storage condo facility." A large retention pond has been dug, and two elevated mounds have been placed where the buildings will be. The engineers are the same for our project and theirs, so we are confident that the drainage next door is being engineered properly and we will not suffer any damage.

Other Business: Since there seems to be a renewed interest in music before or after worship the Meeting asks Nominating Committee to consider establishing a music committee.

There being no other business, the Meeting ended with silence at 12:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Fox, Recording Clerk

For your Spiritual Life...

Ministry and Counsel is offering an opportunity to explore SEYM's Spiritual Formation Program to our newest attenders as well as to returning and long-time members and attenders who might be drawn to small groups of spiritual companions. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nancy Murvine (by phone/text: 239.293.6952 or by e-mail: nrmurvine@embargmail.com). Below is SEYM's introduction to the concept and format of Spiritual Formation Program.

The work of Spiritual Formation Programs is accomplished within a small group format. These groups have been referred to as "circles of trust," "circles of light," "friendship circles," "spiritual companion groups," etc. SEYM prefers to call the small groups "spiritual companion groups."

The primary goal of a spiritual formation program is to deepen one's relationship with the Divine, God, Spirit, or Inner Light through four major avenues: reading

devotionally, individual spiritual practice, deep listening and spiritual community. Walking the spiritual path along with others in the group tends to lead to the formation of meaningful and long-lasting relationships. The transformative work of spiritual formation inevitably contributes to the spiritual well-being of the individual, the monthly and yearly meetings.

Spiritual Formation Programs have a long and respected history among many religious groups, including the Religious Society of Friends. Both Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings have collaborated and published their entire programs on the web in order to serve as models for others. Many yearly meetings in the United States have adapted these models to meet the particular needs of their constituent meetings.

You can also type the following into your web browser for the full PDF of the program: Spiritual Formation program - Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

From Peace and Social Concerns:



1. We are still looking for a few more volunteers at the Quaker Booth at the annual SWFL Peace Day Block Party Sunday, September 24 10 AM - 6 PM. Call or email Christine McBride if you can help: (239) 849-2176

McBrideHouse@gmail.com Please stop by and visit and participate in our annual Bean Poll!

2. On September 26 at 6:30 PM on Zoom, we will begin the first step for the Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) organizations annual work for justice in Lee County. If you live in Lee County (part time or full time), join us on line to share stories about injustices you or someone you know has experienced or witnessed in Lee County. Carolyn will send out a link for the Zoom meeting soon. Then on October 24, we hope you will attend the LIFE Assembly to vote on an issue that LIFE will address this season. (Details later)

Here is the new address for Roxy Jacobs
who will soon be moving back to
Indiana:

**Oak Grove Christian Retirement Village
c/o Roxana Jacobs, apartment #202 221
West Division Rd
DeMotte, Indiana 46310**

ph.: (219) 789-5324

email: wisteriawalk1943@gmail.com

The Hedge Apple Grove

On an Autumn day you walk a soggy field.

It's hunting season, and the wind blows cold.

You take a moment —

The dog runs looking,

To flush a covey of quail,

The voice calling you makes you stop.

In the black-branched hedge apple grove

Walks one you recognize.

It is time.

Simon Peter heard that voice along the shore of
Gallilee,

Dropped his nets, and followed instantly.

You lie down to squelch the pain, and see above, the
endless azure sky.

Now, you feel peace, and follow.

The quail fly away.

Theron White October, 2022

**The Meeting's Directory has
been updated and is available.
If you wish to have one, please
text or e-mail Richard
Frechette
(239-313-6201;
Rich.Frechette@gmail.com)**

Fall Interim Business Meeting Oct. 14

Join Friends from Meetings and Worship
Groups throughout SEYM for Fall
Executive Committee Meeting on
Friday, October 13, and Fall Interim
Business Meeting on Saturday, October
14.

We will gather in person at Sarasota
Friends Meetinghouse. You can also join
us on Zoom; there will be hybrid
committee meetings and a Monthly
Meeting forum in the morning, lunch
provided by Sarasota Friends, and
business meeting in the afternoon.

You are also welcome to attend Fall
Executive Committee on Friday,
October 13, fellowship at 6:30 pm,
meeting begins at 7 pm. This meeting
will also be hybrid. There are numerous
hotels near Sarasota Friends
meetinghouse . . . have a weekend at the
beach! The Sarasota Meetinghouse is
located at 3139 57th Street, Sarasota,
FL. For more information:

[https://seymquakers.org/blog/
2023/09/03/fall-interim-business-
meeting-october-14/](https://seymquakers.org/blog/2023/09/03/fall-interim-business-meeting-october-14/)

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

https://pendlehill.org	Pendle Hill, Quaker Retreat and Resource Center
http://seymquakers.org	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
www.fcni.org	Friends Committee for National Legislation
www.fgcquaker.org	Friends General Conference
www.afsc.org	American Friends Service Committee
http://fwcc.world	Friends World Committee on Consultation
www.quakerspeak.com	QuakerSpeak: A Quaker YouTube Channel
www.quakerhouse.org	Quaker House, Fayetteville
www.quakervoluntaryservice.org	Quaker Voluntary Service
www.quno.org	Quaker United Nations

	MEETING CALENDAR	
Each First Day	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Peace Acre or via Zoom. An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am.	10:30 a.m.
Each Wednesday	Mid-week Meeting for Worship at Peace Acre. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
9/03/23	First Day potluck at Peace Acre	upon rise of meeting
9/10/23	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	upon rise of meeting
9/24/23	Peace Day Block Party <i>Casashanti House of Peace (see flyer above)</i>	10 a.m. - 6 pm.
9/26/23	LIFE House Meeting on Zoom (link will be sent out later)	6:30 p.m.

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:

FMMM,
Denise Runyon
125 Pinebrook Dr,
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette
138 Pinebrook Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988
Address Correction Requested