

Worship & Ministry Committee -- Annual Report -- October, 2018

The Worship & Ministry committee invited Marcelle Martin to speak at Adult First Day class on March 25th. Marcelle's talk was titled "Opening to Presence". She spoke to us about Friends' beliefs and spiritual practices. She offered thoughtful and practical advice on attending to the Holy Presence in our lives and she facilitated a safe environment for openness and communication with one another. It was a blessing to have Marcelle Martin with us. The committee drafted a letter of endorsement for Marcelle which was sent to the clerk of Swarthmore Monthly Meeting.

During the months of February and September, Worship & Ministry organized worship services at Chandler Hall. Members of the committee led five of the services, Sarah Buxton led one, and Bob Anderson led two. The services included readings from scripture, quaker journals, and poems, guided prayer, and, of course, music. The committee thanks those members of the meeting who have been willing to help with this important ministry of pastoral care.

Committee members helped to organize the memorial service for Madeline Ziesel. John Davison acted as announcer for the service. Madeline's family and members of the meeting worshipped together and shared memories of Madeline. The family and members of Worship & Ministry attended the burial in the meeting cemetery. Caroline Wilson and John Davison worked together to draft a memorial minute for Madeline which was approved by the meeting and posted to the meeting web site.

Betsy Crofts drafted a memorial minute for Millie Sparks which was also approved by the meeting and posted to the meeting web site. Copies of the minute were sent to Millie's surviving sons.

As is our annual custom, Worship & Ministry collaborated with Children's Religious Education to organize the semi-programmed Easter service. The committee chose the hymns to be sung, arranged for the musical accompaniment, and printed the program. Mark Ratliff was the announcer for the service. Owen Buxton read the Easter story from the Gospel of Mark. Susie Hoskins presented Bibles to the 4th graders in the meeting. Worship & Ministry also organized the semi-programmed Christmas Eve candlelight service.

On September 23, the committee led the Adult First Day class titled "Linking Quaker Faith with Quaker Action". After a discussion on what "Quaker Faith" means to us personally and watching a Quaker Speak video on "How Spirituality Makes Activism More Effective", attendees participated in a prayer exercise. The exercise involved personal reflection on how each of us think about and manage our money. Scriptures from both the old and new testaments were used to guide the reflection.

Members of the committee have lent their support for the planning and facilitation of the Meeting Retreat to be held in October. Marybeth Snyder has been a participating member of the planning committee. Committee members have agreed to help lead discussion and worship sharing sessions following talks that will be given by our guest speaker, Debbie Humphries.

Claire Staffieri approached Worship & Ministry with the idea of holding an entirely silent meeting for worship on a weekday evening. The committee discussed and approved the idea. John Davison and Claire worked together to schedule and announce the meetings which have been held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Debbie Watts attended a meeting with the Children's Religious Education committee to discuss how Worship & Ministry should support their efforts. Several areas of interest and concern were discussed. We view this meeting as just the beginning of an ongoing conversation between our two committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Ratliff
Clerk