

**Newtown Monthly Meeting  
Annual Report  
November 2019**

**Traditions:** Newtown Meeting has many traditions, including:

- The annual Leaf Rake was repeatedly delayed last fall and finally cancelled due to weather.
- Candle light Christmas Eve worship and homecoming. Hicks prints were given to those turning 21 years old
- Flowers to homebound and babies at Easter
- Bibles were given to four Fourth graders
- Faith & Practice was giving to four Eighth graders

**Membership grew**

	Dec 2018	2019
Total Members	336*	341
Full Members	324	329
Adult	281	292
Minor	43	37
Associate	12	12

\*339 in November 2018. 3 deaths occurred in December.

In 2019, we welcomed: 4 adults, 1 minor member, and 1 minor associate member as new members. In addition, two adults transferred their memberships to us from other meetings and one adult transferred out. Two members passed away. 7 minor members and 1 minor associate member turned 21.

**Children's Religious Education:**

Newtown has an active children's program.

- 15 children ages 3-14 attend
- This year the meeting developed and adopted a formal Child Safety Policy.
- The Children raised funds by hosting dinners in fall and spring. The children discerned and chose the service organizations to benefit from their fundraising efforts. The fall Simple Supper raised \$1078 for Honey Hollow and the spring Lasagna Dinner raised \$1655 for Mercer Street Friends.
- The many activities managed by this committee have caused significant stress on our dedicated teachers. The Committee and the Meeting are seeking ways to spread the responsibilities, provide continuity for the children, provide meaningful programming and ensure that the committee members and parents of young children are able to participate in the spiritual life of the community.

### **Worship & Ministry:**

W&M seeks to deepen the spiritual life of our community. It is responsible for:

- Leading several Adult First Day classes and worship sharing
- Coordinating Chandler Hall worship for two months of year
- Organizing memorial services. This year we lost several beloved long time members.

### **Care & Counsel**

- C&C is responsible for the pastoral care of our membership. The committee maintains contact with distant members and provides quilts to those who are ill. They visit with older members who are unable to join us for worship.

### **Adult Religious Education**

- Organized more than 20 programs
- Outside speakers included: Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of AFSC; Anisgul Stanikzai, a George School student from Afghanistan; Quaker Voluntary Service and Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Members spoke on a wide variety of topics from consumer awareness of products and media to spiritual journeys.

### **Ad hoc Emergency Preparedness**

- A committee was formed to research and make recommendations on how the Meeting can be prepared for emergencies. The committee's recommendations are to be implemented through our existing committee structure. We are in the process of following up on the recommendations to ensure that the committee's work will result in action.

### **Buildings & Grounds**

- As ever, the committee is busy managing sustainability initiatives, care for our trees, on-going regular maintenance and larger capital projects. This year, they oversaw having the wood floors refinished.
- The playground was relocated and re-built.
- A subcommittee of two did deep research into the history of our burial ground. They organized and rationalized the records and reached out to those with rights to plots who are no longer in the area or in touch with the meeting. This effort has "returned" 45 plots to the Meeting. The subcommittee gave an informative, surprising and often amusing presentation as part of Adult First Day. Their work lays the groundwork for the burial ground's bicentennial next year.

### **Ad hoc Parking**

An ad hoc committee was formed to follow the status of the adjacent lot, negotiate with the owner and develop alternative strategies. For years, the meeting has tried unsuccessfully to purchase the adjacent lot. This year the lot was sold to a developer. The committee has been meeting with the developer, following the approval process closely and developing alternate plans to meet our parking needs.

### **Peace & Service**

- This committee has been very active. It has continued its involvement with the Peace Fair, Bucks Food, Bucks 350, BCIRR (Syrian refugee family resettlement) and other concerns.
- Members attended FCNL's Lobby weekend and Annual Meeting. The committee has been active in the creation of an Advocacy Team in Bucks County and facilitates sending postcards to our elected representatives each month.
- The Meeting joined as co-petitioners in a suit urging the Governor to adopt Cap and Trade
- Bucks Habitat for Humanity presented to the Meeting in September. Members expect to participate in this year's "Faith Build", working on 4 houses in Morrisville.
- The committee organized book discussions on White Fragility and The Hate You Give and have conducted continuing discussions on racism.

### **Inreach/Outreach**

- The meeting has Nametags for all members and attenders. Greeters are at the door every week. Coffee and snacks are provided for fellowship after meeting for worship.
- The meeting participates in Newtown Borough activities/events such as Newtown's 5<sup>th</sup> grade walking tour and blood drives.
- Newcomers have been invited to small dinners with seasoned friends to learn more about our meeting and Quakerism.
- Our Summer Picnic was postponed until the fall due to the intense heat on the originally scheduled date.

### **Communications Committee**

- Our communications are efficient and effective. All notices are channeled through [communications@newtownfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:communications@newtownfriendsmeeting.org) and directed by the communications committee to the correct contact or communications format.
- Website, Bulletin Boards, Social media, newsletter
- Weekly press releases are regularly published in the local paper inviting the general public to our Adult First Day programs and to worship.
- E-blast messages are reserved for weather emergencies, deaths, and time-sensitive notices.

### **Newtown Friends School**

- NFS is under the care of the Meeting.
- This year the school enrolled 231 students; 10% Quaker; 37% diverse racial backgrounds, 50% receive financial aid