

Communications Committee 2018 Annual Report

The Communications Committee tends to the variety of communication pathways of Newtown Meeting, funneling information and announcements to various venues so that our community is informed and aware of the activities. We believe that shared information serves to connect us and strengthens us as a community.

The kinds of information we curate are upcoming events at Newtown Meeting, Bucks Quarter and PYM. We regularly gather information from Pendle Hill, AFSC, FCNL and the Peace Center. Our current communication pathways include the monthly Mailchimp email blast, the newsletter, the website, the private Facebook group “Newtown Monthly Meeting Updates and More”, the bulletin board and display table, the regular press releases to the Advance and use of the announcers at the rise of meeting. The benefit of having a variety of pathways is that messages are assured a broader reach.

When the Communications Committee was first established our goal was to regularly tend to and curate these pathways so that information conveyed is timely, fresh and accurate. We also identified the website as a way for committees to communicate information about their purpose, responsibilities and activities. This task is ongoing and we will be stepping up our outreach to the committee web contacts over the next year to make our website and committee pages an informative and educational tool.

As with any new committee, we are a work in progress. We welcome your feedback. We invite the community to contribute to the newsletter as well as the Facebook page. The newsletter reaches 223 people by email and 40 by hard copy. The newsletter is where you can find a draft of the minutes from the most recent Meeting for Worship with the Attention to Business. The draft provides a comprehensive glimpse of committee work and issues facing the meeting. In addition to a listing of upcoming first day school speakers and announcements, the newsletter has been sporting fun facts about Quakers, Quakerism and news of Friends from afar. Have a story? Send it in!

The Facebook page also encourages the posting of individual messages and announcements. We were delighted to see a post from Jim Whitmoyer while he was in India, sharing a photo and information about a peace pole he spotted at the Nobrulinga Institute. Veronica Wetherill shared a story heard on NPR about Quakers and the history of price tags. Susi Hoskins shared updates on Scott’s work in Puerto Rico. Bill Heinemann posted a photo from Kennedy Space Center where he ran into Wendy Kane at a rocket launch! This private group is made richer by sharing personal stories and photos.

The Communications Committee encourages everyone to use the email address communications@newtownfriends.org to promote your event or announcement.