

**Annual Report
Adult Religious Education Committee
June 6, 2021**

Due 5/30/21

Committee Members

Richmond Shreve, Marguerite Chandler, Kevin Connors, Peter Martin (Clerk); Norval Reece, Wayne Heacock, Elizabeth Hurst, Jennifer Wolf

Programs, 2020-2021

The Adult Religious Education Committee develops and promotes the Adult First Day School programs through the program year. Programs are intended to inform, inspire and educate all who attend. Presenters may be members or attenders of the Meeting, visiting Quaker leaders, educators, or other prominent speakers.

All first day programs were accomplished by the work of the ARE Committee and the active assistance of the Meeting. We would like to thank Norval Reece who ensured that all 21 of the adult programs this past year were promoted with news stories and photos prior to the events in the Bucks County Herald, the Newtown Advance, and Newtown Patch (online). In addition, thanks to Richmond Shreve who generously contributed his technical skills to the Committee.

Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic the Committee presented all 21 programs on Zoom. They consisted of 2 updates, 4 Spiritual Journeys, and 7 sessions that started with planning for a new parking lot to examining our values as Quakers and the stewardship of the meeting house grounds. There were 8 other programs that dealt with COVID, Membership, Economic Justice, Science, Worship, Immigration and war-resistors.

The first speaker on the Calendar was Dr. David Frasier, MD and epidemiologist, who explained aspects of how scientists understand COVID-19.

Spiritual journeys were given by Matt Chandler, Anesu Nyamupingidza, Terry Christenson and Nasser Otmani.

The remainder of the Class year was filled with the following talks:

- Care and Counsel informed us of a reexamination of how membership in the Society of Friends is being perceived by members and attenders.
- Pamela Haines challenged us to live our Quaker values in our economic lives.
- Jim McClellan spoke to us about Science and Religion in Historical Context.
- Norma Kaplis gave us practical tips on Creating a Deeper Silence in our Worship.
- Peter Vari related how he and his family escaped from Hungary.
- Danny Thomas gave an update on the activities of the Peace Center and the challenges it faces now.
- In a departure from our usual presentations we showed the film, "Sweet Home Monteverde," which chronicled the emigration of four Quaker War-Resistors from Alabama to Costa Rica during the Korean War.

- Sean Connolly discussed how Arch Street Meeting House has weathered the pandemic, updates and improvements made while the building has been closed, and Meetinghouse programs and activities planned for the future.
- Emmet Gowan gave us a chance to slow down and listen to him reflect on the beauty in the world that he captures in his photographs.
- Our last program was led by Arthur Larrabee who addressed the salient points of Quaker decision-making in order help us with the discernment on the future of the meeting house grounds.

Engaging speakers for the 2021-22 schedule has begun. As always, all members and attenders are encouraged to make suggestions for programs and/or topics for consideration by the committee for our next year.

A complete list of the 2020-2021 Adult Religious Education program of speakers and subjects is listed below.

Schedule of Speakers

Newtown Monthly Meeting 2020 – 2021		
Adult Religious Education Schedule		
Date	Program	
Sep 13	Opening Day	
Sep 20	ARE	<i>Covid-19: The Epidemiological Basis of Health Policy - Dr. David Fraser</i>
Sep 27	ARE	Membership – Care & Council
Oct 04	First Day, No ARE	
Oct 11	ARE	Quaker Sacred Space that Honors Creation and Strengthens Community – Jasmine Spence
Oct 18	ARE	Matt Chandler – Spiritual Journey
Oct 25	ARE	Anesu Nyamupingidza - From Harare, Zimbabwe to PA
Nov 01	First Day, No ARE	
Nov 08	ARE	Economic Justice – Pamela Haines
Nov 15	Bucks Quarterly Meeting, No ARE	
Nov 22	ARE	Terry Christenson – Spiritual Journey
Nov 29	Thanksgiving Weekend, No ARE	
Dec 06	First Day, No ARE	
Dec 13	ARE	Science and Religion in Historical Context – Jim McClellan
Dec 20	Christmas Weekend, No ARE	
Dec 27	New Year's Weekend, No ARE	
Jan 03	First Day, No ARE	
Jan 10	ARE	Norma Kaplis, “Creating a Deeper Silence in our Worship Together...”
Jan 17	ARE	From Hungary to the U.S.: The Immigrant Experience of 1981- Peter Vari
Jan 24	ARE	W & M – Searched by The Light: How We Are Called by the Spirit Into Authenticity and Action I
Jan 31	ARE	W & M – Searched by The Light: How We Are Called by the Spirit Into Authenticity and Action II
Feb 07	First Day, No ARE	
Feb 14	ARE	The Peace Center Update – Danny Thomas
Feb 21	Bucks Quarterly Meeting, No ARE	
Feb 28	ARE	Peace & Justice - Environmental Justice Sub-Committee Presentation LISTENING SESSION – Environmental, Social and Membership Concerns Occasioned by the Proposed Parking Plan
Mar 07	First Day, No ARE	
Mar 14	ARE	“Sweet Home Monteverde” A Film About Four Quaker War-Resisters From Alabama Who Led 40 People To Emigrate to Costa Rica During the Korean War
Mar 21	ARE	Sean Connolly – Arch Street Meeting House Update
Mar 28	ARE	P&J Environmental Justice Sub-Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee VISIONING SESSION – “Quaker Space That Honors Creation and Strengthens Community”
Apr 04	Easter, No ARE	Easter Program
Apr 11	First Day, No ARE	
Apr 18	ARE	Life Before and After the Central African Republic – Nasser Otmani

Apr 25	ARE	P&J Environmental Justice Sub-Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee – Summary of Survey Results and Discussion
May 02	First Day, No ARE	
May 09	ARE – Mother's Day	Emmet Gowin, "The One Hundred Circle Farm"
May 16	Bucks Quarterly Meeting, No ARE	
May 23	ARE	Arthur Larrabee, "Deepening our Quaker Decision-Making"