

Communications Committee Annual Report
2023-2024

The goal of the Communications Committee is to keep our meeting community informed about activities occurring at Newtown Meeting. We hope the ways in which we communicate pique an interest in other Quaker entities, such as Bucks Quarter, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting or FCNL. We hope the content of our weekly updates and announcements from the facing bench cultivate a close relationship with our meeting and deepen our knowledge of and connection with each other.

We communicate across three venues: 1) The announcements read from the facing bench, 2) the website and 3) the weekly email. We have three announcers: Rebecca Bancroft, Mary Kokesh and Angie Ratliff. We know folks like the Sunday morning announcements short and sweet but this is an opportunity for us to inform those who are not receiving the weekly update about the wonderful things happening at Newtown Meeting.

The home page of the website serves as an electronic bulletin board for the most pressing information: The schedule for the upcoming Sunday, the First Day Speakers and links to any Norval Reece articles. You can find out who is hosting Friendly First and be reminded to bring a dish to share. You'll see information about upcoming events (Lasagna Supper, Simple Supper, Yearly Picnic, etc) and reminders to complete financial aid forms for those attending Quaker schools as well as a nudge to complete Agency Grants Nomination Forms. The homepage is where you'll find information about childcare and links to the CRE page. A link to the overflow parking map and a link to the most recent weekly update is also included. The most important link on the homepage, however, is the Zoom link to attend Meeting for Worship. Beyond the homepage, the **Calendar of Events** and **In The News** Section of the website is regularly updated. Tim Mammel, who built this website, continues to oversee the behind the scenes and inner workings of the website.

The weekly update named **This Week at Newtown Meeting** continues to be warmly received and the numbers of how many are receiving it and opening it are growing. Three hundred & fifty-six people are sent it and our open rate remains high. Last year our open rate was in the high 50%'s. This year we are averaging in the mid to high 60%'s and occasionally reaching 70%.

We keep it colorful, current and are happy when we capture good photos. New this year is the inclusion of a monthly birthday list of our members and attenders. We are hoping this information will add a talking point to our conversations with each other. We are also featuring famous Quaker birthdays. Expanding our knowledge of our Quaker roots and fun facts about well-known Quakers is, well, fun and entertaining. Inspiring quotes and news about workshops, events or advocacy opportunities are featured every week. Including news and photos of the new babies and weddings bring us all joy and we mourn together when we read about lives passing. If you have a message to share, submit it to the communications@newtownfriendsmeeting.org email address by Thursday 6pm. Our community is strengthened by good communication and, while not perfect, we work hard to deliver prompt and accurate information.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hulihan, Clerk