



## Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

### Meetings for Worship

First Day Meeting: 11:15 am  
Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm  
still happening via Zoom & in  
person (wear a mask)

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

### September 2021

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clerk</b> Rebecca Cratin 1223 Forsythe Drive Ft Washington, PA 19034 215-542-8738 <a href="mailto:rhcratin@cratin.com">rhcratin@cratin.com</a> Asst. Clerk: Fran Blackstone <a href="mailto:fblackstone03@gmail.com">fblackstone03@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Care &amp; Concern</b> Bonnie Miller 153 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Conshohocken, PA 19428 610-828-4970 <a href="mailto:Bonndave.miller@verizon.net">Bonndave.miller@verizon.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer</b> Linda L. White 519 Ft. Washington Ave. Ft. Washington, PA 19034 215-641-4564 <a href="mailto:llfw2160@comcast.net">llfw2160@comcast.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Pattie O'Donnell 1620 Aidenn Lair Road Dresher, PA 19025 215-704-1666 <a href="mailto:pattieod@gmail.com">pattieod@gmail.com</a></p>
--	---	---	--

### Sept 2021

Sun	Sept 12	All day	Agnes Blackstone's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday!!!
Sun	Sept 19	9:00 pm	Meeting for Business via Zoom
Sat	Sept 25	9am – 1pm	AFSC Fall Sale at Gwynedd Friends Meeting
Sun	Sept 26	6:00 pm	Virtual Friendly Fourth – TBD – see the website

### Oct 2021

Sun	Oct 3	9:00 am	Quarterly Meeting at Abington and on Zoom
Tues	Oct 5	7:00 pm	Care and Concern via Zoom
Sun	Oct 10	9:30 am	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
Sun	Oct 17	9:00 am	Meeting for Business via Zoom
Sun	Oct 24	6:00 pm	Virtual Friendly Fourth – TBD – see the website

- All meetings unless noted will be conducted via Zoom
- All First Day Meetings for Worship will begin at 11:15 am. You may join us on Zoom or *in Meetinghouse* any time after 11am and settle in. If joining in person, wear a mask (**see attachments for safe practices for meeting**) Masks must be worn on campus for in-person Meeting for worship. **Check the website for updates**
- Wednesday evening Meeting for Worship begins at 7:00pm and will also be held via Zoom as well as *in person on the Meetinghouse*.

PMM Zoom information always available at [plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com) or contact Dave Miller

## Queries for September

### Grounding for Transformed Lives: Equality and Justice

How does our meeting benefit from established patterns of prejudice, exploitation and economic convenience? What are we doing to change this?

How and how often does our meeting engage in a self-examination of its attitudes and actions regarding race, ability, gender, sexual orientation or class?

What steps are we taking as a meeting to inform ourselves about social injustice and ecological violence embedded in our political and economic systems?

What steps are we taking as a meeting to assure that our meeting and the committees and institutions under our care are respectful of the earth and its people?

*Do I regularly examine myself for attitudes and behavior that indicate any hidden prejudice regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or class?*

*How do my lifestyle choices affect—positively or negatively—the causes of justice and peace in our nation, the community of nations and the whole of creation?*

*How do I demonstrate in my way of living, and in what I teach my children, that love of God entails acknowledging “that of God in every person”?*

## Letter from the Clerk

Dear Friends,

After serving for 7 years as Clerk of Plymouth Monthly Meeting, I shall be stepping aside at our Meeting for Business next First Day, 9/19/21, at 9:00 a.m., in person and on Zoom.

Michael Mrozinski has graciously agreed to become Clerk, with the approval of the Monthly Meeting at that time. I am sure his deep caring for our Meeting community will be important to us all as we continue to transition into the challenges facing us.

At this meeting, we shall also be discussing our experiences of the blended worship this summer. There are still many technical issues to resolve in order to achieve a smooth hybrid Meeting for Worship. We are all very grateful to those who have taken on the responsibility of making this technology available to our Meeting in order to keep our community united.

It is so important that we all share our feelings about the changes we are facing as we try to meet the limitations placed upon us by Covid-19. Please try to attend this Meeting for Business, in person or on Zoom, as we discuss how we move forward as a loving, worshipping community. I hope to see you on First Day.

Thank you all for your support and active participation in Plymouth Monthly Meeting during these years while I have served as Clerk. Each member and attender fills a special role in our community of Faith and Friendship. I'm sure we will continue to grow together moving forward.

# Questions for Agnes Blackstone on her 100th Birthday

September 12, 2021

## **What are your secrets for a long, healthy life?**

*I don't have any secrets. In general, don't overdo...including eating and working.*

## **Did you ever smoke?**

*Oh, I smoked for 60 years and quit when I was 80.*

## **What would be the most important invention in your lifetime?**

*Every now and then I think of an ordinary thing we do that we didn't have. Off the top of my head, I think the automobile.*

## **What is your best advice for a young person?**

*I try not to spout off any advice. Be cheerful.*

## **What is your typical day?**

*Keeping house. I live by myself. I was going grocery shopping. Fran does that for me now and takes me to Meeting. I drove for a good many years. Listening to the TV news at noon and 6:00 with my lunch and dinner. Reading is always a favorite. I listen to recorded books. And sometimes I listen to KWKY radio news.*

## **What do you have for breakfast?**

*Cold cereal – Rice Chex, orange juice, maybe a piece of toast and hot tea.*

## **What is your favorite, treasured memory?**

*When my husband proposed to me and when my children were born.*

## **What do you do to stay young?**

*Keep active, read a lot, and keep up with the times whether physically or mentally.*

## **When did you first learn about the Quaker faith?**

*When I was a young girl in Florida, we lived in a rural area and there was just one church nearby. My mother, born in England, was a Quaker and heard of a woman who was holding Meeting in her large living room. On Sunday mornings, we got dressed and my*



*father drove us twenty-five miles south of Tampa to Mrs. McGill's home. Mrs. McGill was from Connecticut and came to Florida for the winters.*

**What was the best decade for you?**

*That's hard to answer...high school years I enjoyed. My children, but they were born in different decades. And I thoroughly enjoyed working at the Jeanes Hospital.*

**Is there anything you wanted to do and never got around to?**

*I must have said I wish I'd done that, but nothing stands out.*

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you like to live?**

*I used to adore Germantown very much. I like to go to the shore, but not live there year around. Where I live is where I made friends that I enjoy.*

**What advice would you have for your younger self?**

*Maybe I would have more friends.*

**What gift do you want for your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday?**

*Oh, I don't want any gifts. A main gift is I can still walk around – physical activity.*

In talking with Agnes, I learned that her parents both came to Canada and the US from Yorkshire in Northern England. They moved to Florida for warmer weather and then to the Philadelphia area for better employment. In Pennsylvania, Agnes lived in Newtown and her family joined Newtown Meeting. Her mother was thrilled. Agnes attended 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Newtown public school and George School for high school. She then attended business school in Trenton, NJ and her first and favorite job was at Jeanes Hospital in the radiology department. From there she worked at Temple Hospital's radiology department where she met her husband. Agnes, Fran and her husband moved from Germantown to Plymouth Meeting where they began attending Plymouth Meeting Friends. Agnes' other daughter, Amy, was born in Plymouth Meeting. Agnes has remained in her Plymouth Meeting home and has enjoyed raising the girls, good friends and neighbors.

What an honor to talk with Agnes about her thoughts and memories. She is a dear friend to many, and we celebrate her very special birthday.

Sally Bishop

## Calling all Cooks and Bakers



Quakers are some of the worlds' best cooks and bakers, and with Covid-19 we missed breaking bread together, so let share food again. If you have recipes that you love to make for any Quaker gathering please feel free to send it for the Abington Quarterly Meeting Cookbook. Please sent your typed up recipes to Chris Mrozinski at christophermrozinski@gmail.com



## **Update From Dave Miller on Bashir's journey from Afghanistan**

Those of us who have been helping Bashir to make his way out of Afghanistan are in awe of his courage and endurance. The events of the last few days in Kabul have all the twists and turns of a novel but it was not fiction. It was one person's journey among many fleeing violence. His successful departure from Afghanistan was achieved by the aid of all our elected officials (did not matter the party), tireless work of their staff, the personal dedication of retired military members to Bashir and to each other, their connections to active military staff in Kabul from all branches of the military, other nations military personnel and the UN staff and the steady interest and quick writing of the local press and their writing being picked up by the national press. To all of them Bashir and we express our thanks and appreciation for their time, skill and persistence.

Bashir is currently in Ramstad air base in Germany. It is much cooler there when compared to the camp in Qatar and less crowded. He is expected to come to the USA soon. The staff at Rep Dean's and Senator Casey's office continue to shepherd his paperwork through each of the immigration reviews. We are currently working with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) to provide him sponsorship so we can bring him to the Philadelphia area. Slowly we are learning how the procedure works. As we do, we will provide information to our Meeting and others who wish to help support Bashir as he begins his life here in Pennsylvania. Information will be posted on our website in the Peace and Social Concerns section. We hope shortly to know more about monetary needs. A Go Fund Me page will be created for online donations and donations will be accepted directly by the Monthly Meeting earmarked for Bashir. We will know more about other needs when we know where he will be resettled. In the meantime, continue to hold him and all who have had to flee their homes from around the world in your prayers.

## **Blended Meetings for Worship**

Worship and Ministry will be scheduling a follow up meeting about our experience of blending Meeting for Worship this summer. Please take some time reflecting on your experience of worship over the past three months. We have the double challenge of the virus keeping us seated at a distance to one another and that some who are attending are in the Meeting House and some online. We have been adjusting the technology to try to address observations people have made. Take some time to reflect on the blended worship meetings and the meetings that were not blended. How was your experience of worship on these weeks? It is important that we share our thoughts. You can hold them till we have our next called meeting or send them to the Meeting email box at [plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com)

Over the summer we have spoken with other Meetings about their worship in this Covid era and where what they think will occur after it ends. The variety of thought is similar to our own Meeting. The attached link below to a Quaker national webinar this summer provides some of that variety from around the country. The webinar is called best practice but also includes those who are not blending worship. There is a spectrum from no technology to a cyber world. All Meetings are challenged to determine how to worship together with such

diversity. This is not an intellectual discussion but one at the heart of the faith community. One without an easy answer. Plymouth has for over 300 years found ways to live in the differences of understanding. We sometime forget how difficult our history was for those who lived it.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/5xBGgAduIVnp7NkkmQ-ZZKo8Ly9oNGiwM3X-QMCNi5PLr2rY-YgbP6yq6GUd\\_yjHlbDI67p-XhuEAK\\_f.6cXsBxCVHoKSP\\_uP?continueMode=true](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/5xBGgAduIVnp7NkkmQ-ZZKo8Ly9oNGiwM3X-QMCNi5PLr2rY-YgbP6yq6GUd_yjHlbDI67p-XhuEAK_f.6cXsBxCVHoKSP_uP?continueMode=true)

Password: W+FSg1Fg

There is a sweetness in our fellowship as we pray together, work together, and live the next life event together. May that sweetness be at the heart of our discussions of how to proceed with worship in a post Covid era. Take the time to share your experience of this summer's meetings for worship.

## Update on the Monthly Meeting Website

### **Making donations online**

There have been a few new additions to our Website over the summer. You can now make donations to the Monthly Meeting online using a credit card. As with all credit card transactions a small percentage is subtracted by your credit card vendor for its use so the donation acknowledgement will be slightly less than the donation inputted when placed online. However, the ease of transaction that makes credit cards so useful for many people makes this donation a useful addition to our website for our members and attenders. To donate online look for the donation tab at the top of the webpage. Click on the tab and go to the bottom of the page. There will be input boxes to fill out with your information just like when you are ordering an item online. You can use this link to see the page: <https://plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Groups/365689/Donations.aspx>

### **New section for Peace and Social Concerns**

A new section has been added to our website to post items of Peace and Social Concerns. There is a section that will be like the News and Events section that announces events, suggests items for writing our representatives, provides access to recent articles of interest. There is also a table of social concern topics which will link to resource information. This table is just beginning to be developed. Currently there is some information posted as to how to help refugees. If you have items to contribute, please forward them to Mike Mrozinski or David Miller. You can use this link to see the page: [https://plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Groups/355109/Peace\\_Social\\_Concerns.aspx](https://plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Groups/355109/Peace_Social_Concerns.aspx)

### **Jobs opportunities**

At this time some needs for the care of our Meeting are not being met because there are not enough people helping. Our Monthly Meeting and its property require hours of care and work each month. There is committee work being done and then there is the other items that need to be done. As our Meeting ages we have lost members who did these chores. In addition, some have been doing work for many years now and need a rest or are called to a different part of the community care. Our Monthly Meeting has no paid staff. All the

functions of the Meeting are attended to by its members and attenders. What part of the care of the community are you called to this year? Below are opportunities for those who would like to help.

### **Housekeeping**

People are needed for the regular cleaning of the Meeting house and kitchen. Takes 2 -3 hours for one person, less for two or more. The house committee is looking for members

### **Gardening**

The gardens on both sides of the Annie H Wilson room provide beauty and a setting of peace for our community. They are however a fertile place for weeds to grow and the small shrubs to outgrow their portion of the gardens. Help is needed two or three times a year to weed and prune our gardens

### **Annie H Wilson room users committee – Calendar committee**

Help needed to be

- a primary contact with a user group
- to learn how to input user information into the Website Event Calendar
- to update user files

### **Meeting Mail**

- Collect Meeting mail from mailbox once or twice a week
- Sort mail for what is junk mail and what needs to be passed on to appropriate person(s) in the Meeting
- Scan appropriate mail for the website mailbox
- Post mail to bulletin boards in the Meeting house / take down out of date mail

### **Graveyard**

- Person to help digitalize the handwritten records

# Immigrant and Refugee Concerns

“Refugees are the human face of international injustice. They are the place – in this country – where we see the real impact of inequality: armed conflict, the inability of failed states to provide a secure home for their citizens, and abusive governments. The impact of climate change adds a further dimension in increasing pressure on land and resources.” -- Michael Bartlet, the parliamentary liaison officer for Quakers in Britain

Today, Quakers in Britain, Canada, the US, Australia and New Zealand are lobbying their governments to ensure that policies towards immigrants and refugees are based on a respect for human rights - Quakers in the World

Plymouth Monthly Meeting has with each generation sought to find ways to address Immigration and Refugee issues as they change over time from activity to support the Underground Railroad to the housing of German families to the Vietnam Boat peoples.

Click [here](https://www.plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Groups/360425/Immigrant_Refugee_Concerns.aspx) for ways to help Afghan immigrants and refugees (available at [https://www.plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Groups/360425/Immigrant\\_Refugee\\_Concerns.aspx](https://www.plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Groups/360425/Immigrant_Refugee_Concerns.aspx))

## Meeting Together Safely

The Risk Assessment committee has been checking with CDC and other reputable health authorities to see when and how to best re-open Plymouth. Please see the attachment with this email for the procedure as of the beginning of May, 2021. The chart below summarizes current recommendations.

### Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
Safest		<b>Outdoor</b>	
		Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
Less Safe		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	