

Morningside Matters

*The Newsletter for Morningside Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

www.morningsidemeeting.org

January 2019

Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T)	11:00 am
Monthly	First Sunday	Moving with the Spirit	room 12T	10:00 – 10:30 am
	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	room 12T	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible study	room 12T	9:30 am
	Second Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting: Everyone welcome	room 12T	1:00 pm
	Fourth Sunday	Welcome Breakfast: An easy way of getting to know other members and attenders. Just tell the cashier you're with the Quakers. The tab is picked up by our hosts, the Ministry & Counsel Committee	Riverside Café	9:30 am
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	January 12	NYQM Conversation about Housing	Brooklyn Meeting	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
	January 13	Presentation on RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) by José Saldaña. Info: rappcampaign.com	room 12T	1:00 pm
	January 16	NYQM Conversation about Housing	15 th St. Meeting	6:30 – 8:30 pm
	Every Wednesday through January 16	Quarterly Meeting Called Meeting for Worship	15 th St. Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 pm
	January 20	Quarterly Business Meeting	Brooklyn Meeting	6:30 – 8:30 pm
	January 27	Racial Justice Study Group: <i>Deep Denial</i>	room 12T	1:00 pm
	March 2	Memorial Meeting for Robert Leuze	15 th St. Meeting	2:30 pm
	April 5 – April 7, 2019	NYYM Spring sessions	Nine Partners Region	
	April 21	Quarterly Business Meeting	15 th St. Meeting	
	July 13	Quarterly Business Meeting	Prospect Park	
	July 21 – July 27	NYYM Summer sessions	Silver Bay	
	September 13 - 15	Morningside Meeting Fall Retreat	Stony Point	
November 1 – November 3	NYYM Fall sessions	TBD		
Events of interest	First Sundays	Monthly Vigil for Peace	Washington Square Arch	1:00 – 2:00 pm
	Saturdays	Vigil for Yemen	Union Square	11:00 am – 1:00 pm

January 13	Poetry Coffee House	Pendle Hill	
January 18 – 20	Alternatives to Violence, Basic Workshop	Pendle Hill	
January 18 – 21	Dwelling Deep: A Contemplative Retreat	Powell House	
February 1 – 3	Friends' Decision Making and Clerking	Powell House	
February 10 – 14	Aiming for Justice: Race, Reparation and Right Paths	Pendle Hill	
February 15 – 16	Annual winter wonderland	Powell House	
February 22 – 24	Power of Enough	Powell House	
February 22 – 24	Strengthening Your Inner Wisdom & Silencing Your Inner Critic	Pendle Hill	
March 1 – 3	Hygee... A Parent's Retreat	Powell House	
March 2 – 3	Compassionate Communication: Life in Relationship	Pendle Hill	
March 8 – 10	Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker	Powell House	
March 15 – 17	Couple Enrichment Retreat,	Pendle Hill	
March 15 – 17	Resurrection, Before and After	Pendle Hill	
March 20	Bursting Forth: Celebrating New Life	Powell House	
March 22 – 24	Creativity and Spirituality	Powell House	
March 22 – 24	Upping your Change Game: Building Skills in Non-Violent Direct Action	Pendle Hill	
March 23 – 26	FCNL Spring lobby weekend: Join young people to lobby for immigration reform	Washington, DC	
March 29 – 31	The Work that Reconnects	Pendle Hill	
June 30 – July 6	FGC Gathering	Grinnell, Iowa	

Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at www.morningsidemeeting.org

Newsletter Submission Guidelines: The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members, attenders and other interested people of Meeting news, including member interviews, news of Friends, other Quaker-related subjects, news of Quaker organizations, upcoming events, Meeting-sponsored projects, book reviews, etc. Articles and pictures are welcome. The deadline for the newsletter is the Sunday of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Please e-mail your material in Word or text format to morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com by the end of that day. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at www.morningsidemeeting.org.

Reflection

*A child more than all other gifts
That earth can offer to declining man
Brings hope with it, and forward-looking thoughts.*

William Wordsworth

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business January 6, 2019

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Pamela Wood read the query:

“Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our Meeting?”

Query 14 from the Faith and Practice of New York Yearly Meeting, 2015, p.86

2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Wednesday, January 2nd at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Monday, January 28th at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to the first

part. Please RSVP. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.

3. Friends approve the Marriage Committee of Jason McGill and Bertram Johnson to consist of: Ed Elder, Helen Garay Toppins, Ernie Buscemi, and Jerry Reisig.
4. Robert Leuze's Memorial Meeting will be held on March 2nd at 2 p.m. at 15th Street Meeting with fellowship to follow. Ernie Buscemi, Richard Schmidt, Sally Campbell and Charlene Ray will serve on the committee to organize the memorial and fellowship. Robert Renwick and Jerry Reisig will work on a Memorial Minute for Robert, to be approved by Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and the Clerk will send the minute to FGC's FLGBTQC to distribute.
5. Friends approve the transfer of membership for Ron Rieder from Scarsdale Monthly Meeting to Morningside Monthly Meeting. Pamela Wood, Jane Alexandre, Tom Goodridge and David Fletcher will serve on the welcoming committee for Ron.
6. Friends approved organizing a fall retreat at Stony Point Center September 13-15, which will necessitate planning in the summer, and perhaps commitments to attend before vacations start.
7. For our one-day spring retreat Friends offered the potential topics of Forbearance and more discussion of the role of messages in Meeting. Brooklyn Meeting house was suggested as a place to hold the retreat.
8. Sally Campbell gave the Meeting with Children Report. Friends expressed acceptance of our practice of children joining us for a few minutes of worship. Friends accept the report, and a written copy of the report is attached.
9. Dave Britton gave the Nominating Report. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
10. Friends approved the nominations in the Nominating Committee report with some changes and edits. A plea for people to consider if they were led to volunteer for the open positions was made; in particular: Correspondent to the Clerk of the prison worship group. The Nominating Committee needs an additional two members to function well, and we need a new Treasurer.
11. David Fletcher gave the Peace and Social Concerns Report. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.

12. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer's Report. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
13. Jerry Reisig read the draft of our State of the Meeting Report. Suggestions were offered for edits. Friends approve the report. The written report is attached.
14. Kathy Stackhouse gave a Communications Committee Report. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
15. Pamela Wood gave the Clerk's Report:

Because of the new policy of Pay as Led, registration for New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions will begin in January and end in May. Registrants will decide what they can pay, some more than what they would owe, some less, some the exact amount. Everyone will pay something either from a Monthly Meeting scholarship or from their own resources. This is an experiment, first undertaken by New England Yearly Meeting, to encourage people to participate in Yearly Meeting. If expenses are covered through a mix of donations, registrations and Monthly Meeting scholarship contributions, the Yearly Meeting will continue to do this. If there is a shortfall, the Yearly Meeting is committed to covering the shortfall for this year, but will not continue pay as lead next year. Registrations will be available shortly, both on line and on paper. I encourage you to think about whether you might like to attend if you have not done so before. Plan ahead!

Friends accept the report.

16. Friends made Announcements.
17. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Jane Alexandre, Mason Jenkins, Sally Campbell, June Tano, Dorothy Savage, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Dave Britton, Nancy Britton, Charlene Ray, Joyce Richardson, Jerry Reisig, Katherine Alford, Ernie Buscemi, Robert Renwick, Peter Beck, Kathy Stackhouse, Ronald Rieder, David Fletcher, Mike Gilbert (visiting from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting/ Arch Street), Richard Schmidt, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

1. M&C met on Monday January 2nd at the home of Pam Wood.
 2. The next meeting will be Monday January 28th at Pam Wood's at 7:15. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.
 3. Our next welcome breakfasts will be on January 27th at 9:30 in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
 4. The next Racial Justice Study Group will be held on January 27th at 1 pm.
 5. Bible Study will not be held in January.
 6. Moving with Spirit met this morning at 10 am and will meet on Feb 3rd at 10 am.
 7. M&C currently has 6 support committees.
 8. Jason McGill and Bertram Johnson will be married under the care of the meeting. Ed Elder, Helen Garay Toppins, Ernie Buscemi, and Jerry Reisig have all agreed to serve on the Marriage Committee. Does the meeting approve?
 9. Ministry and Council is considering a one-day spring retreat. We would like input from the meeting about their interest in a retreat and potential topics and structure.
 10. Ministry and Council plans to organize a fall retreat at Stony Point Center. However, our traditional date of Columbus Day Weekend is not available. The following dates are open for consideration:
September 13-15, October 18-20 with the Art space instead of meditation hall, and November 1-3. What would the meeting like to do?
11. Friends are reminded during this season of illness to practice good hand hygiene, to not prepare food for fellowship if you are sick, and please don't sneeze on the snacks.
 12. Recently a bag which had been setting by the door went missing from the meeting room. It did show up some days later in one of our side rooms, but friends are reminded that our space is not entirely secure and that if you bring valuables to meeting you should keep them with you or at least on the far side of the meeting room from the door.
 13. Robert Leuze Memorial Meeting will be held on March 2nd at 2 PM at 15th Street with fellowship to follow. Three or four friends are needed to serve on the committee to organize the memorial and fellowship. Friends are also needed to work on a Memorial Minute for Robert.
 14. Scarsdale Meeting has approved a request from Ron Rieder to transfer membership to Morningside Meeting. Does the meeting approve this request for transfer?

Respectfully submitted,

Mason Jenkins, clerk
Charlene Ray, co-clerk

Meeting with Children

At the beginning of the year we began the experiment of having children come into the meeting at about five or ten minutes before the end of worship (before Afterwords). They sometimes went into the library to play quietly but sometimes stayed with their parents. We would like to know what the meeting feels about this new routine.

Altogether the year's attendance was 56, averaging over just one child a week. There were, however, 23 weeks when no children came. Emerson and Eliza, Max and Ben, and Sheza were our most regular attenders. Seven other children did come one or more times but not recently. We will follow up to see if they might want to come again.

We are sadly missing Naomi with all her liveliness and innovation. Her death left us with only three Morningsider caregivers (Ernie, Tom and Sally). Thankfully June Tano

has agreed to join the team. We would welcome one or two more if anyone in the meeting would like to consider joining us.

Shiksha Modi has been our steady, excellent paid childcare provider for a few years now. The few times she was away she found a fellow teacher, Beverly Johnson, to take her place. Shiksha has just informed us that at the end of the school year she will be leaving us to travel to India and beyond. Shiksha will be looking for someone to replace her. We would have been glad if it could have been Beverly, but she feels she lives too far away to come every week. She is willing to continue as a substitute. If anyone knows of someone who might fill this job, please let us know.

Sally Campbell, clerk
Meeting with Children Committee

Morningside Monthly Meeting Committee Members for 2019

Morningside committees and positions

All positions are for one year, renewable except for the Nominating Committee terms which are for two years, staggered terms, renewable once, and Ministry & Counsel terms for 3 years, renewable once, staggered terms. Underlined names do not need to be approved.

CLERK: Jane Alexandre

RECORDING CLERK: Stephen McDonnell

ASSISTANT RECORDING CLERK: Bernard Winter

MINISTRY & COUNSEL: Terms end in January

2020: Ed Elder, Karen Taborn, Tom Goodrich (all first term)

2021: David Fletcher, Charlene Ray (second term) Jerry Reisig (partial term)

2022: Ron Rieder, Jason McGill, Pamela Wood (all first term)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

2020: David Britton, Ernie Buscemi (partial term)

2021: **2 open positions**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood

TREASURER: **An open position**

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Bryan Oettel

COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Bryan Oettel, convenor, Emily Bishop, Corona Macheimer, Kathy Stackhouse

FIRST DAY CAREGIVERS: Ernie Buscemi, Sally Campbell, Tom Goodridge, June Tano

FIRST DAY COORDINATORS: Richard Schmidt and Sally Campbell

LIBRARIAN: Sally Campbell

LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Jane Alexandre, Corona Macheimer, Richard Schmidt

RIVERSIDE SPACE COMMITTEE: Charlotte Ehrman and Sally Campbell

FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE: Tom Goodridge

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS: David Fletcher and Corona Macheimer (Convenors), (A committee of the whole)

HOSPITALITY: Joyce Richardson, Charlene Ray, Richard Schmidt, Bryan Wigfall

ARCH VISITORS: Sally Campbell, Kathy Hinton, Dot Savage, John Tweddle, Convener: Charlene Ray. AGING CONCERNS is a committee of the whole.

COMMITTEE FOR PRISON MINISTRY: Ernie Buscemi, David Fletcher, Helen Garay Toppins, Pamela Wood, **Someone needed for correspondence**

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS: Currently Ministry & Counsel is in charge.

RECORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP: Helen Garay Toppins

Representatives to Friends groups

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Kathy Stackhouse

NY YEARLY MEETING: Pamela Wood

NY YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT: Peter Beck

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES OF NYYM: Sally Campbell

Sources of information for the following organizations

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE: Pamela Wood

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE: Sally Campbell

PENDLE HILL: Stephen McDonnell

POWELL HOUSE: Charlene Ray

QUARTERLY MEETING LIAISON: Ed Elder

New York Quarterly Meeting appointments

(Filled by Joint Nominating, except for Morningside's Appointment to the Joint Nominating Committee)

CLERK: Nancy Britton (1st term of a possible 5, ends 2019)

TRUSTEES: Katharine Alford (2nd term ends 2021), Barton Dominus (term ends 2019)

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Barton Dominus

AUDIT & BUDGET: Kathy Stackhouse (term ends 2021)

CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

COMMITTEE FOR THE DOWNTOWN ALLOWED MEETING:

Sally Campbell (term ends 2020) and Richard Schmitt (term ends 2019)

EDUCATION FUND: Bryan Wigfall (term ends 2021)

RELIEF COMMITTEE: John Slater (term ends 2020)

NYQM MINISTRY & COUNSEL: Karen Taborn (partial term ends 2019)

NYQM NOMINATING: David Britton (partial term ends 2020)

THE GREAT LAKES (Africa) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Corona Machermer

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

1. Peace & Social Concerns did not have a regular meeting in December. Instead, on Sunday, December 9, Morningsiders participated in Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights campaign. The event was organized by David Fletcher. Altogether, we sent over 100 letters. This year the emphasis was on women activists and indigenous groups who are being persecuted for speaking out in Venezuela, Brazil, Egypt, Iran, Ukraine, India, South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, and Kyrgyzstan. To find out more about these people (in case you've forgotten), go to www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights. If you weren't able to participate in December, you can still get involved through this website by signing petitions.
2. On Sunday, January 13, there will be a Peace & Social Concerns presentation by José Saldaña about the RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) campaign. To learn more about this organization before the event go to rappcampaign.com.
3. Because of the presentation on the 13th, and Quarterly Meeting on the 20th, there will be no regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns in January. The committee will meet on February 10 and, if necessary, to finalize the 2019 P&SC budget and complete other business, on February 17 as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Machermer, clerk

2018 State of the Meeting Report Morningside Monthly Meeting

On December 16, 2018 Morningside Friends met to review the spiritual state of the meeting over the last year. The meeting was convened by the recording clerk, who stated that the tradition of discerning the spiritual state of the meeting began with George Fox, when he asked meetings to share news of how the spirit has been moving among us.

2018 was a year of endings and new beginnings for Morningside. We were saddened at the death of two long-time attenders, while we welcomed a new Member to Meeting. Friends stated that they missed not only the personal friendship of the departed Friends, but also their contributions to Meeting. We continue to delight in beginnings

with Meeting for Children, as the children appreciate coming down to the adult Meeting for Worship at the end of the hour, and they "brighten us up." The community worships in Riverside Church the 1st day of each month with an average of 30-40. The community is nurtured through Spiritual Nurturance Groups, monthly movement with the Spirit, and monthly Bible Study. Even Friends who cannot attend Bible Study appreciate the readings that are sent out beforehand. The meeting provides spiritual nurturance and welcomes people wherever they are in their spiritual journey. As one Friend said "Whatever my truth, whatever I'm struggling with, is accepted, is a gift given even to newcomers."

Hospitality has enriched our lives this past year. The excellent food that Friends bring encourages people to linger after Meeting for Worship. “Somehow the miracle of the loaves and the fishes usually occurs. Most weeks we seem to have developed a mini form of Babette’s Feast, where enmities decrease and friendship increases.” Newcomers seldom leave without being greeted and welcomed. This welcoming is the work of the entire meeting and its committees, including Hospitality and Ministry & Counsel, as well as committees such as the Library Committee and the Finance Committee.

Hospitality requires self-care to prevent individual and committee burnout. Although we continue to struggle, the problem with burnout was not expressed this year. We still experience “some struggles” in fine tuning committees, but the problems of work overload have been greatly alleviated. Within the year members and attenders have both been willing to “step into the unknown,” with the assurance that they do not have to do it alone. For instance, this year a beautiful Memorial service was organized by Friends who had never done anything like it before.

Morningside provides hospitality both inside and outside of the Meeting. It is deeply involved in New York Quarterly committees and two members regularly worship at the Downtown Meeting under care of NYQM. Communications between committees and through the Morningside website are improving, although they are not yet where they can be. The establishment of a Facebook page linked to the website reflects the desire of the meeting to be hospitable outside of the box. While some Friends are particularly enthusiastic about the Facebook page, others express serious concerns about Facebook in general. Meeting continually asks, “Are we reaching out to new people, younger people, or relying too much on “golden oldies”?”

Radical Hospitality is the inclusion of those whom society has excluded and who have no rights. Morningside holds Woodbourne Prison under care and several members and attenders worship with incarcerated men there. The men feel connected to us and we feel connected to them. We customarily send birthday cards and they express great pleasure upon receiving these cards signed by members and attenders of Meeting. They feel that there are people outside who care about them. In addition to Woodbourne, Morningsiders continue their prison justice leadings by traveling to Albany to witness on prison issues to legislators.

Members of Morningside have long had leadings concerning racism, and continue to address that issue. During the past year the Racial Justice Study Group was formed, and has been meeting on fourth Sundays to explore issues raised by David Billings in his book *Deep Denial*. Meeting values the work of Ministry & Counsel and the Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

Morningside has three major methods for outreach: worship, business meeting, and peace and social concerns. The challenge is to make all three places where Friends and visitors are welcomed to engage.

Friends expressed gratitude for the “deep quality of silence,” while expressing thanks when Friends speak. The difference between communal and individual silence is that communal silence is “a spiritual place one cannot reach alone.” Someone commented that messages did not always seem well seasoned. This may be because new Friends and visitors do not understand the nature of Friends’ worship. It was suggested that we find better ways to inform newcomers—and remind ourselves—what Meeting for Worship is, and what a message is or should be. The Friend who greets people before Meeting for Worship would welcome a handout for newcomers who are unfamiliar with Quakerism. It was also suggested that we add an explanation on the website, with perhaps a link to the video “What to Expect in Quaker Meeting for Worship,” the most recent in the series from QuakerSpeak, a video project by Friends Journal.

After initiating Meeting for Business directly after Meeting for Worship last year, we have done a lot of tweaking to get the timing right this year. The move from worship to business is now smoother and more organic. The 15-minute interval between the two Meetings provides space for announcements, the greeting of visitors, and additional time for the clerk to prepare for Business Meeting. The new format has resulted in a larger number of Friends who stay after worship in order to conduct business together and assures that newcomers and visitors are greeted before Business Meeting starts. One Friend suggests that we should use Business Meeting as part of our outreach—to encourage newcomers and seekers to stay for it. Quaker business meeting is “counter cultural—so valuable and shocking,” and is “one of the most valuable” things we can offer people. How, the person asked, can we bring this “beautiful creation” to others?

Morningside Friends believe that they are led into the practice of such Testimonies as Peace, Equality, and Stewardship. Meeting’s engagement in social concerns/activism is primarily through the Peace & Social Concerns Committee, which involves contributions, personal connections, and engagement in occasional collective action. Unfortunately, most attenders of Worship do not “hang around” for Peace & Social Concerns Meetings, except for special events. Meeting needs to find ways to encourage more participation in the “nuts and bolts” of our social justice efforts. One suggestion was to find more ways to let people know about the activities we are engaged in, the “valuable little things” that we do or that happen.

In all three forms of outreach, a common concern was that the great majority of Friends who regularly attend and do

committee work are “golden oldies,” including those sitting for the state of the meeting report. How do we welcome young adults and give them the chance to become involved in the administration of the community while remaining aware that many students and young Friends with children have neither the time nor the finances to regularly attend Meeting? One Friend suggested that we increase efforts to involve Friends in more intimate activities, such as Spiritual Nurturance groups, retreats, and committee work. While these may not be less time-consuming overall, they do not usually involve the commitment of such long stretches of time. Rather than bemoan the older age of Friends, it might be better to think of older Friends as holding space open for the young people until they are able to come. “We are bringing each other up,” says one Friend. “We are all models to each other.”

According to Fox, as we are models to each other, so are we also models to the world. “Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come.”

Treasurer’s Report

Today, January 6, 2019, is too soon after the close of the fiscal year six days ago, on December 31, 2018, for me to present a final report on the Meeting’s financial experience in 2018. But any further adjustments which need to be made will not materially affect the overall results. A few donations intended to be included in 2018 have yet to be recorded, and some relatively minor details regarding expenditures have yet to be incorporated into the figures. Nevertheless, the tables attached can be regarded as a very accurate sketch from which the final report will not depart significantly.

The first table attached presents the income and expenditures of the Meeting for the twelve months of 2018 on a month-to-month basis. What we will be most interested in is the final result, shown in the last column on the right labeled “Overall Total.” Surprisingly, total income exceeded total expenditures by the very significant amount of over \$8,000.00 — shown in the last figure in the lower right corner of the page. I say “surprisingly” because income had been lagging behind previous years up through November. The Spring appeal could not be gotten out until summer was upon us, and the results fell short of expectations, probably because the middle of summer is a poor time for an appeal to land in people’s mailboxes. While we hoped people would make up the shortfall with their year-end donations, the result has exceeded these hopes.

There is an important aspect to the structure of the surplus which I will discuss later in this report.

The second table compares our actual experience in 2018 with the budget of income and expenditures as we planned them at the beginning of the year. The second sheet also shows how the year’s financial activities impacted the

Living a pattern that is in the Spirit was exemplified by one of the longtime attenders who died this year and who was an inspiration to us all even as the body failed. As a community, we practice simplicity by not purchasing a meeting house, but instead worshiping in rented space. This year Morningside friends have been practicing saying “no” to what we are not truly led. The patterns that we present to the world are especially important in the present political climate and Friends note a feeling of sadness because of the current state of the country. While this climate may lead some to give up, one Friend reminded us how beautiful the earth is and how we must appreciate it while we have it. Welcoming patterns challenge the Morningside community to live together in all of our vulnerabilities, and support one another in our relationship with God even when we do not have the strength to pray.

In Friendship,
Pamela Wood, Clerk

Meeting’s net assets, or its reserves — the “nest egg” we keep to address unexpected contingencies.

So, on the second sheet, the last column on the right shows the 2018 income and expenses, as is also shown in the last column on the previous table. But on the second sheet the top section of the page shows the balances at the beginning of the year, and the bottom section of the page shows the balances at the end of the year as these balances have been altered by the actual experience of donations and expenses during 2018.

The second sheet also allows a comparison between actual income and expenditures in 2018 and the budget, or plan, we approved at the beginning of the year. This comparison is very important to the process of developing the budget for 2019, which will be presented for discussion at the meeting for business in Second Month. It allows us to learn from our mistakes, if we have made any. Finally, the second sheet allows us to compare the actual experience in 2018 with the actual experience in 2017 and 2016. This allows us to spot any trends that may be significant. As a Meeting we should always expect periodic reports which allow comparison of current actual experience both with what was budgeted and with the actual experience in previous years. Ordinarily these will be “ho-hum” figures and will not disclose anything significant because things are operating normally, but it is important that they be presented routinely and scrutinized closely so that anything abnormal can be spotted at an early stage.

The excess of income over expenditures in 2018 allows a significant enlargement of the Meeting’s reserves. One of the things we should be thinking about as a community between now and the meeting for business in Second

Month is how to budget responsibly in the light of this increase in reserves. On the one hand, members and attendees make contributions so that the Meeting can carry out its various ministries; they do not expect us to hoard the money, as Harvard University does. On the other hand, they also do not expect us to spend any surplus funds recklessly.

In the year just elapsed, not only was income higher than expected, but expenditures were lower than budgeted in several categories. When we paid Vonn New for website work on a monthly basis, she earned \$2,100 per year. Now that the arrangement is to pay her on a fee-for-service basis in response to invoices, she has earned only \$380 (Line 37). I do not know if work on the website has changed materially, or if we were overpaying in the past or are underpaying her now simply because Vonn New does not get around to submitting bills. We also drew on the scholarship fund to a lesser extent than we had planned, and to a lesser extent than we did in the year 2017 (Line 35). Other expense items were more or less in line with expectations, although small downward trends spread out over a number of items resulted in total expenditures of roughly \$37,000 rather than the expected \$42,000.

In thinking about the implications of all this for future budgeting, it is important for members to realize that of the \$40,000 in general contributions the Meeting received in 2018, \$13,000, or just about 32% of this income, comes from just two individuals. This is not an unusual pattern for not-for-profit organizations. Another very small handful of individuals also give significant amounts way above average. If any one of these very few people becomes Episcopalian, or moves to California, or departs the scene in some other way, or if circumstances cause them to re-juggle their priorities, it could have a very serious impact on the Meeting's fiscal life, which is why a healthy reserve, but not an excessive reserve, is wise policy.

At our next meeting for business you will receive this same second page again, but it will have an additional column on the right, which will be a proposed budget for fiscal year 2019.

The Finance Committee's next job is to prepare and mail individual letters to the Meeting's contributors acknowledging the amount of their 2018 donations for IRS purposes. We had planned to do this on January 13, 2019, but circumstances once again seem to be making it impossible for Finance Committee members to convene. However, please be assured that these letters will be gotten out in a

timely fashion. But the situation does make clear the importance of having a Treasurer and a Finance Committee who can meet at the same time. Current Finance Committee members simply are unavailable to meet on weekends when the current Treasurer is in town.

Therefore, I have let the Nominating Committee know of my desire to be relieved of the Treasurer job and they are in the process of seeking a replacement. There are able candidates in view, so I anticipate a seamless transition.

There are two longer-range issues which the new Treasurer and the Finance Committee should address in the future.

The Meeting needs to develop an easy way to receive stock gifts. We received one gift of stock in 2018, and it was extremely arduous to get it transferred from the donor to the Meeting. I myself am not quite sure what the nature of the problem is, and whether it can be solved easily or only with difficulty. But it is clear that we need to be able to process stock gifts with much more agility.

The Meeting also ought to find a way to receive gifts from institutional sources without getting these gifts tangled up in the Quarterly Meeting. Again, I do not know the history here, or why problems arise. But in cases where people wish to contribute through suggestion funds or foundations (there are approximately two of these sorts of gifts per year), these seemingly unnecessary Quarterly Meeting entanglements complicate the situation.

I have served on the Boards of many not-for-profit organizations, and typically, when finance agenda items are under consideration, 95% of the people present allow their eyes to glaze over, and decisions end up being made by the one or two people who assume the mantle of experts and who monopolize the organization's fiscal life, often over an extended period of years. This is both poor Quakerism and very unhealthy management. There is nothing about the Meeting's finances which cannot be understood by a person who can run their family checkbook. The number of expenditures and the number of income items is larger than a family's ordinarily is; but all the governing principles remain the same. I appreciate this community's willingness to attend to financial matters conscientiously. Many thanks for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Income/Expense by Category - 2018
1/1/2018 through 12/31/2018 (cash basis)

Category	1/1 - 1/31	2/1 - 2/28	3/1 - 3/31	4/1 - 4/30	5/1 - 5/31	6/1 - 6/30	7/1 - 7/31	8/1 - 8/31	9/1 - 9/30	10/1 - 10/31	11/1 - 11/30	12/1 - 12/31	OVER-ALL TOTAL
INCOME													
General Fund Contribution	793.40	455.00	5,154.29	710.12	395.35	1,155.00	1,165.18	4,152.24	3,972.11	2,347.10	4,470.71	15,678.16	40,448.66
Interest and Dividends	1.68	1.57	1.85	1.76	1.78	1.62	1.60	1.59	1.83	3.80	1.50	1.70	22.28
Reintegration Grant	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	1,000.00
Retreat Fee Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,540.00	1,030.00	460.00	0.00	4,030.00
TOTAL INCOME	795.08	456.57	5,656.14	711.88	397.13	1,156.62	1,166.78	4,153.83	6,513.94	3,380.90	4,932.21	16,179.86	45,500.94
EXPENSES													
Huntington House	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
MMM Oper. - Hospitality	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	500.00
NYYM Allocation	0.00	0.00	4,125.00	0.00	0.00	4,125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,250.00	0.00	0.00	16,500.00
Operations - Breakfast	0.00	36.00	40.00	0.00	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	122.50
Operations - Finance	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	176.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.21	0.00	262.56
Operations - First Day Child Care	0.00	290.00	185.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	690.00	0.00	555.00	2,090.00
Operations - Literature	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-235.33	248.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.47
Operations - Ministry and Counsel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	45.00
Operations, Comm. - Advert., Listings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.00	55.00
Operations, Comm. - Website	0.00	0.00	160.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	380.00
Outreach - Peace, Social Concerns	100.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	1,900.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	3,450.00	2,800.00	1,614.97	11,764.97
Outreach - Scholarships, Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	460.00	0.00	810.00
Retreat Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,975.00	0.00	4,075.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	100.00	546.00	4,510.00	910.00	356.17	6,450.15	1,100.00	100.00	1,400.00	12,390.00	6,346.21	2,609.97	36,818.50
OVERALL TOTAL	695.08	-89.43	1,146.14	198.12	40.96	-5,293.53	66.78	4,053.83	5,113.94	-9,009.10	-1,414.00	13,569.89	8,682.44

	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual
1 Balances at the Beginning of the Year				
2 Unrestricted Reserves		37,438	36,972	36,972
3 Funds Restricted as to Use				
4 Huntington House		782	663	663
5 Crumlish Bequest		500	500	500
6 Reintegration Fund			500	500
7 SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:		38,720	38,634	38,634
8 Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits		(1,858)	615	615
9 Unrestricted funds in Schwab		500	500	500
10 Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality)		144	132	132
11 TOTAL:		37,506	39,881	39,881
12				
13 Income				
14 Contributions — General	31,254	37,301	38,300	40,449

	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual
15 Contributions - Restricted as to Use:				
16 Reintegration Fund		500		1,000
17 Huntington House		400		
18 Interest and Dividends	18	19	20	22
19 Contributions earmarked for other organizations	(780.00)			
20 Retreat Fees		3,060	3,200	4,030
21 Transfers from Reserves — General	1,665			
22 Transfers from Reserves — Restricted				
23 Huntington House		119		
24 Crumlish Bequest				
25 Reintegration Fund				
26 TOTAL:	32,157	41,281	41,520	45,501
27				
28 Expenses				
29 New York Yearly Meeting allocation	15,397	15,976	16,500	16,500
30 Outreach:				
31 Peace and Social Concerns/FUN	11,568	11,850	12,800	11,765
32 Miscellaneous Outreach	0	300	300	
33 Huntington House		519		200
34 Reintegration Allocations				
35 Scholarships/Relief	660	1,520	2,000	810
36 Operations				
37 Communications: Website	2,100	2,100	2,100	380
38 Communications: Member Directory		567	600	
39 Communications: Newsletter				
40 Communications: Advertising/Listings			20	55
41 First Day: Child Care	1,460	2,000	2,400	2,090
42 First Day: Literature, etc.	0			
43 Hospitality	373	362	400	500
44 Breakfast	101	166	200	123
45 Clerk/Ministry and Counsel	25	393	400	45
46 Retreat		3,060	3,200	4,075
47 Finance	177	144	300	263
48 Literature	297	108	300	13
49 SUBTOTAL:	32,157	39,065	41,520	36,818
50 Transfers to General Reserves		1,716		7,443
51 Transfers to Restricted Reserves				
52 Reintegration Fund		500		1,000
53 Transfer to petty cash for Hospitality				241
54 Transfer to petty cash other than Hospitality				
55 TOTAL EXPENSES:	32,157	41,281	41,520	45,502
56				
57 Balances at the End of the Year:				
58 Unrestricted Reserves	37,438	36,972	36,972	40,565
59 Funds Restricted as to Use				
60 Huntington House	782	663	663	463
61 Crumlish Bequest	500	500	500	500
62 Reintegration Fund		500	500	1,500
63 SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:	38,720	38,634	38,635	43,028
64 Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits	(2,218)	615		
65 Unrestricted funds in Schwab	500	500	500	

	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual
66 Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality)	144	132	132	241
67 TOTAL ENDING BALANCE:	37,146	39,881	39,267	43,269

Communications Committee Report

The committee did not meet in December, but there have been some developments:

1. Thanks to Emily Bishop, two sets of Facebook ads, devised by a New York Yearly Meeting advancement project, and incorporating queries, have been running since January 1 in Harlem zip codes. The first, from January 1 through January 7, focuses on the query, "How do we work to make our ideals a reality?" The second, running from January 8 through January 14 asks, "Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?" Images of what the ads look like (within users' broader Facebook feeds) are attached to this report. (The photos were taken by Emily in the area; she felt they were more fitting than the stock images the Yearly Meeting provided.)
2. Emily has created a rondel of one of "our" windows for our Facebook page. How to use the image

is still a work in progress, but go to the Facebook page and check it out.

3. Invitations to join MorningsideQuakers2@googlegroups.com will go out in the next couple of weeks. (The holidays interfered with accomplishing this in December, as originally planned.)
4. Friends are reminded to check out the Calendar and Bulletin Board on the website www.morningsidemeeting.org. Note that you can also find there back issues of the newsletter, the names of committee members, the budget, State of the Meeting Reports, and much more.

The next meeting of the committee will be in the latter part of January.

Respectfully submitted,

Corona Macheimer
Acting Clerk

Faith and Practice Now Available as a Talking Book!

The Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* announces the release of the 2018 edition of *Faith and Practice* in two new formats through the Talking Books program of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. For participants in the Talking Books program, there is both a downloadable version and a cartridge version that's played on a machine. The Talking Books program is a free service for people with low vision, blindness or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding a book. Certification by a physician, healthcare professional or librarian is required. Applications can be obtained through local libraries or online [here](#).

As for yet another format of *Faith and Practice*: the NYYM website is working on hosting an **audiobook version** soon. Stay tuned!

Friends Mobilize to Repeal the AUMF

Three days after 9/11 Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), empowering the President to take military action against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. In 2002 it passed another authorization, for the war in Iraq. Since then three Presidents, with no oversight, have used the AUMF 41 times in 19 countries (that we know of) against groups that didn't even exist when the bills were passed. This "war on terrorism" has cost the United States alone \$5.6 trillion; that figure doesn't account for the damage to countries where we are waging this war or the lives of innocent civilians.

Nationwide, the Advocacy Teams organized by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (fcnl.org) will be urging

Congress to pass a bill, soon to be reintroduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), to repeal the 2001 AUMF and reclaim Congress's authority to decide when and where we commit our troops. We'll be visiting congressional offices and writing letters to members of Congress and local newspapers to build support for the bill.

Join the New York City Advocacy Team in this work. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the 15th Street Meeting. For more information, look [here](#) and talk to Sally Campbell, Soo-bok Kim, or Kathy Stackhouse.