

Buckingham

(215) 794-7299



MONTHLY MEETING

P.O. BOX 76

LAHASKA • PENNSYLVANIA 18931

1st Month 2010 Calendar

3rd Singing 10:15 AM
Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

10th Singing 10:15 AM
Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM
12 noon Meeting for Business

17th Singing 10:15 AM
Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

24th Singing 10:15 AM
Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

31st Singing 10:15 AM
Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM

Committee meeting schedule:

Overseers and Worship and Ministry 1st first day 9:15 am.

Trustees and finance 3rd first day Noon

Property Committee 4th first day noon

Social Concerns Working Group will meet on the 5th Sunday of every month that has five Sundays after meeting for worship.

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. [Anne Bradstreet](#) (1612 - 1672), 'Meditations Divine and Moral,' 1655



First Day School Christmas Play

At rise of Meeting on 12-27 the Meeting was treated to a delayed production of the "second" Christmas. Great job and lots of fun.

Buckingham Friends Meeting

Welcomes all

Worship is at 10:30 am every Sunday

Clerk:

Pam Caprio
215-862-9312

pamcsa@ctr4financialstrategies.com

Assistant Clerk:

Keila Gilbert
215 348 8586

kgilbert@alpharesourcecenter.com

Treasurer:

Tim Cunningham
76 Woodland Ave Elkins Park PA 19027

tcunning@comcast.net

(Submissions for the web site should go to Tim)

www.buckinghamfriendsmeeting.org

Newsletter Editor:

John Bailey
86 Rocktown Rd. Ringoes NJ 08551

John.Bailey50@gmail.com

Suggestions are welcome.



Buckingham Friends Meeting
Presents:

Peace & Social Justice Film Series

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Rethink Afghanistan

This 2009 documentary is about the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Experts from Afghanistan, the U.S., and Russia discuss critical issues like military escalation, casualties, and the rights of Afghan women. Members of Afghanistan's parliament, bloggers, women's rights organizations, and groups committed to the peace movement were interviewed. 70 min.

Upcoming:

February 10, 2010

Flow for the Love of Water

March 10, 2010

God Grew Tired of Us

April 14, 2010

The Garden

May 12, 2010

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Free Admission Starting Time: 7:30 p.m.

*Refreshments and Discussion After Each
Film*

Buckingham Friends Meeting House

For more information, go to
www.buckinghamfriendsmeeting.org or call 215-
794-581

Rug needed

Nadia (family from Iraq) asked if anyone would have a rug for them to use in their kitchen. Could you put this notice in our newsletter?

"The Alazawee family, our friends from Iraq, would like to have a rug to use in their kitchen. Their tradition is to sometimes eat on a rug on the floor. It wouldn't be too large, about 5 x 7. Please call Elaine Fettig

215-297-5799 if you can give them something that might be suitable." Thanks, Elaine

Reprinted from the Intelligencer Oct. 29, 09

How much will more war cost?

To the Editor: In all the questions the president has to answer about sending more troops to Afghanistan, why are we not asking, "How much will it cost?" That is the first question we ask about any new proposed domestic program. And we should, but why is it "unpatriotic" to even question the cost of war? The war in Afghanistan is currently costing \$90 billion to \$100 billion a year. Fifty-seven cents of every dollar spent by the federal government this year goes to current wars and the cost of past wars.

Britain had to get out of Afghanistan because it couldn't afford it, and the former Soviet Union kept fighting there until its economy collapsed. Our finest generals keep saying that the military cannot "win" (whatever that means now) without billions of dollars being poured into "building the nation's infrastructure, schools, hospitals and energy grids." Sounds like 10 years of very expensive "nation-building" to me.

As for denying the "terrorists" a breeding ground, how about Pakistan, Yemen, Germany, Denver Colo., and all the Arab countries? Every military person we send over there becomes a "poster child" for recruiting "terrorists."

Meanwhile, if bin Laden is still alive he is probably saying, "See, I told you we don't have to defeat the U.S. militarily. All we have to do is bring down their economy." Joan MacLatchie Buckingham Township

**For more info on the up-to-the -minute cost of the wars nationally and locally go to

<http://www.unknownnews.net/casualties.htm> (At least **753,399** people have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.) And the National Priorities Project's web site www.costofwar.com

Monetary Cost of War in Afghanistan
\$235,010,116,786 as of 12-28-09

Bucks Quarterly Meeting

[Bucks Quarterly Meeting - Sun Feb 21, 2010](#)

Quarterly Meeting hosted by Doylestown Meeting.

Location to be announced.



ANNUAL BUCKS QUARTER SKATING PARTY

NEW YEARS DAY ~ NOON TO 2PM

Don't be left out in the cold or inside with nothing to do, come inside! Join Bucks and Abington Quarter Friends and our Friendly school children and parents as we skate, smile and stumble. Come enjoy the decade's long tradition of the Annual Skating Party, the fellowship and great fun for the entire family.

Since many Friends will be up late welcoming the New Year, we will not begin until noon, so you'll have plenty of time to sleep in and still get to the party!

\$8 Adults, \$5 Children 14 and under

Includes Skate Rentals

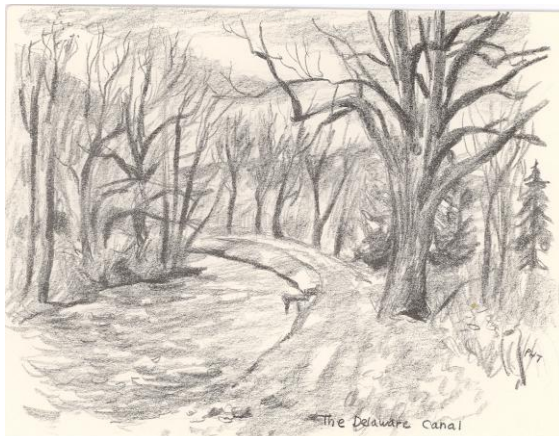
1185 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974.

Telephone 215-674-1345.

Call or email Holly Olson for more info:

215-860-9747 ~ hollybqc@verizon.net

Also Bethann Morgan will be having an open house after the ice skating. Light beverages will be served.



Philadelphia Yearly News



PYM Middle School Friends Winter Gathering -
Fri-Sun Jan 22-24, 2010

at Burlington Meeting House Conference
Center

[Visit MSF webpage](#)

<http://www.pym.org/youngfriends/MiddleSchool/index.htm>

BFS NEWS

Buckingham Friends School Annual Report by the Head of School to Buckingham Monthly Meeting Academic Year 2008 – 2009

Established in 1794 by the Buckingham Monthly Meeting, Buckingham Friends School has served students in its current location for 215 years. The school's mission is to "Inspire a lifelong love of learning, nurture a respect for the light in every person, and foster a sense of spiritual community." The Board of Buckingham Friends School is composed of members from Buckingham, Solebury, Wrightstown, and Doylestown Monthly Meetings, members of the Bucks Quarter, parents of current students, and members at large. The school is accredited through the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and the Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS). In the 2008-2009 school year, Buckingham Friends School served 153 students in grades Kindergarten through eight.

After a successful school year, 17 well prepared graduates went on to excellent private and public secondary schools. Throughout the year our students took part in numerous experiential learning opportunities, traveled abroad through the JEM program, engaged in stimulating and challenging classes, and were enriched by a supportive and nurturing community that encourages self-confidence, independence, introspection, and critical thinking.

A key focus of our efforts in 2008-2009 was the completion of the school's self study for accreditation with the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS). After submitting to the association a comprehensive report reviewing

all aspects of our school operations, a visiting team composed of independent school professionals from eastern Pennsylvania spent three days observing our school's operations and interviewing members of the school community. Their efforts resulted in a report identifying commendations and recommendations for our school. Concerns regarding outdoor supervision and fire drill procedures were addressed immediately, and, after reviewing the report, the accrediting board of PAIS awarded the school accreditation for the next ten-year period. In five years, there will be an interim evaluation, and in ten years the school will need to apply for re-accreditation again.

The School hosted its fourth Earth Summit as part of the Joint Environmental Mission program. Nearly 50 participants from partner schools around the world joined our community for two weeks to discuss climate change and other environmental issues, share in the life of the school, and build relationships that foster cultural understanding. Visitors stayed with host families from the school community, participated in classes, took part in special workshops on environmental issues, and visited sites of historical and cultural interest, including New York, Washington, D.C., and the Philadelphia. State representative Steven Santarsiero visited the summit and was presented with a proclamation, created by the students, calling for action on issues of peace and environmental stewardship.

In the summer following the 2008-2009 school year, a group of 14 students and 3 teachers traveled to Ecuador to visit our JEM partners there and two teachers traveled to Kenya to visit a Maasai community with whom we are developing an additional J.E.M. partnership. J.E.M. continues to be a flagship program for the school and was identified by our accreditors as a key strength.

Low enrollment stemming from an unusual level of attrition between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 was a primary concern for the school. In particular an unusually large number of families left after the fourth grade. Reasons given for leaving were varied and idiosyncratic; however, while there was no single reason for the departure of so many students, a difficult social environment in that class contributed to unrest. One student from that class

had been dismissed during the 2007-2008 school year for behavior that was deemed deleterious to the well-being of the class. In the 2008-2009 school year the small, 10-student class bonded and established a much stronger classroom community. Another small class stemmed from a decision made two years earlier to limit enrollment in the kindergarten due to a gender imbalance in the class (10 girls and 3 boys). These two small classes, combined with other "normal" attrition, left the school with only 153 students in 2008-2009 school year. Throughout this time, Kindergarten and first grade admissions have been strong and both grades have been full. Since then the school has begun rebuilding enrollment, which currently stands at 163.

Of course the global financial crisis was a serious concern for the school, especially considering the low enrollment. Fortunately, the school has maintained reserves and has been able to weather the crisis with no cuts in program or teaching staff. During 2008-2009, the school did make the decision to freeze salaries for the 2009-2010 school year. We continue to seek ways to reduce expenses and increase non-tuition revenue, so that we can balance the budget without tapping reserves and endowment or increasing tuition inordinately. Revenue from facility use has increased, and we have realized savings in maintenance and energy costs. Expenses for health care and financial aid have increased significantly.

The school was notified in the summer prior to the 2008-2009 school year that a complaint had been filed against it with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission charging that race discrimination had played a role in the dismissal of a fourth grade student during the 2007-2008 school year. The school has been engaged in a vigorous defense against this charge, as race did not play any role in the decision to dismiss the student. We opened the 2008-2009 school years with our newly renovated upper field complete. Students are playing on the field and the grass is holding.

The master plan was also completed, and discussions have ensued regarding priorities and next steps. Service continues to be a centerpiece of the school experience. In addition to regular activities with A Woman's Place, Habitat for Humanity, the SPCA,

UNICEF, Pennsbury Manor, and the Bucks County Housing Group, a number of students participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of service, helping to clean up a school in Philadelphia.

The School secured funding to publish our new Quaker Spiritual Life brochure, which has been distributed widely to the community. The Quaker Spiritual Life Committee of the Board has focused its efforts on finding ways to nurture and strengthen the relationships between the School and meetings and has focused on service as one means to accomplish that goal. To that end, the committee began planning an Oxfam Hunger Banquet, which was presented this fall. We continue to encourage our school families to attend Meeting for Worship and we include information about the Quaker community and related events in our school newsletters.

The school continues to offer a vigorous academic program enriched by programs that encourage reflection, critical thinking, hands-on learning, and engagement with the world. Students graduate from Buckingham Friends School confident, aware of their strengths and weaknesses, well-prepared to handle the challenges they will face as they continue their schooling, and mindful of their place in the world and their ability to contribute to its improvement.

We are working to strengthen curriculum coordination, improve enrollment, establish a plan for long-range financial sustainability, and develop a strategic plan for the long-term health of the school. We are also focusing our efforts on student recruitment and marketing to ensure that the school continues to attract a diverse pool of qualified applicants.

The school remains grateful for the presence and support of Buckingham Monthly Meeting and we look forward to future opportunities to bring the school and meeting communities together in meaningful and effective ways.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Baytosh
Head of School
December 13, 2009

Martin Luther King Day
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH - SAVE THE DATE!!

Mark your calendars for the evening of Friday,

January 15th to join us for a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The St. Thomas Gospel Choir will once again join us for an inspiring evening of song that will rock the rafters. Families who attended last year are still talking about it, and those who missed it really missed a wonderful evening! Be sure to save the date. Mark your calendars NOW

QUAKER HISTORY

ON THE BACK OF A WOODEN BENCH IN A QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE

For Lucy

Just three letters: "CNR". It seems to me that Mr. or Ms. CNR could not have carved them during Quaker meeting; even a quiet chisel would sing out like a lark at dawn.

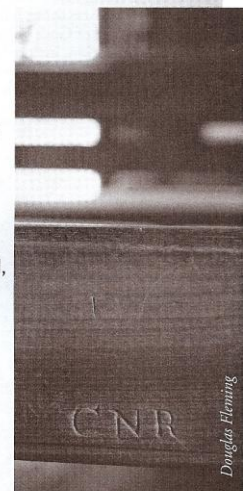
I imagine CNR with a chisel discreet in grey folds of Quaker cloth, on some supposed errand, perhaps to bank the fire some wintry day, slipping in the wide main door, whistling.

Then out with the chisel. Working quietly in slantways light through window panes that then were new, CNR curved gently round the C, relaxed a bit on the masculine lines of N, then swerved round the neck-twisting loop of R. Simple, but with attention to flourish and serif.

Just three letters. CNR banked that fire, then exited whistling out into a life full of pleasures or difficulties, loves made known or kept secret, passing on that day by the east wall of the broad graveyard where I might find today, some hundreds of years later, the whole enigmatic name spelled out for me.

Douglas Fleming lives in Princeton, N.J.

Douglas Fleming



Meeting of the Corporation (Meeting for the School)

Buckingham Monthly Meeting of Friends

December 13, 2009

Draft

Meeting began at 12:26 pm with a period of silent worship. There were 12 members and 1 attender present.

Report from the school: Scott Baytosh. Scott summarized the report which he also distributed to Friends present and encouraged members to visit the school's website for background information not included in his report for the sake of brevity.

A Friend asked how the idea of a sign for announcements as has been discussed by the meeting before, would fit with regard to master plan. Scott will take the issue back to the school board.

The Meeting expressed appreciation for the participation of the school in the Peace Fair, and is hoping to work more closely in the future. Scott was positive about further developing our involvement.

There was a discussion of the cost of tuition at BFS. There is a high proportion of financial aid awarded by the school, and the tuition is average for schools of this size and type.

The meeting thanked Scott for his report and his efforts for the school.

Report from the School Board: Joyce Rivas. Prior to giving her report, Joyce spoke about options other than moving the carriage shed that may be possible.

Joyce's report consisted of a financial review and review of the program and included the most recent PAIS report recommendations and commendations.

Scott raised the topic of admission to the school and explained that while there is a preference for Quaker applicants, the primary consideration for admission is for readiness for the school, so occasionally Quaker children are not admitted. For teachers as well, being a Quaker is a factor but not the primary one. It is stated as a preference in hiring.

There was a question for Scott about gender imbalances in a class.

School Board representatives from other meetings have become more active in encouraging Quakers to apply for admission and financial aid. A Friend suggested a personal approach was called for to reach Quaker parents who might find the tuition daunting.

Bylaws: Grace Scott.

The Committee of Trustees reviews our bylaws every 10 years. This review involves primarily technical changes, not substantive, and Grace will bring them before the meeting in 2010.

Nominating: Carla Davis Cunningham.

The Nominating Committee sought the Meeting's approval for Bethann Morgan to continue as co-clerk until the end of June 2010. The position was approved. The committee was asked to find another member for the School Board.

The next Corporate Meeting for the School Corporation is planned for November, 14 2010. Other non-corporate business: Bethann Morgan. The clerk of Doylestown Monthly Meeting has asked to host Quarterly Meeting using our facilities on February 21, 2010. The request was approved. The band "Diamond Earth" (featuring Jim Kelly) has offered to do a benefit concert here for us. Outreach will organize with the band and the school.

Peace Fair: In response to the Peace Fair Committee's report at the last Quarterly Meeting, the Quarter not interested in laying the fair down at this time.

A concern was raised about smoking on campus during special events. The Meeting felt that it would be best to explicitly inform people using the Meeting's facilities that this is a nonsmoking campus and ask them to inform wedding guests, etc. of the policy. Trustees & Finance was asked to follow up with any necessary changes to the facilities rental contract and Peter Ray. Meeting closed at 1:45 with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted by Carla Davis
Cunningham, Recording Clerk

**Buckingham Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends
Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business
Twelfth Month, Thirteenth Day, 2009
Draft**

Meeting began at 12:10 pm with a reading from the works of William Penn, followed by a period of silent worship. There were 11 members and 1 attender present.

Minutes from November's meeting for business were approved.

Worship and Ministry: Tim Cunningham.

The committee met to discuss plans for upcoming Quaker Conversations and the Christmas Candlelight Service as well as Meeting for Worship. Overseers: Grace Scott.

Members of the committee visited Elaine Fettig.

Overseers recommends the meeting to approve her for membership. The Meeting approved and welcomed Elaine.

Quarterly Meeting Report: Pam Caprio.

Quarterly Meeting was hosted here at Buckingham and was well attended. The adult program, with David Mook, was wonderful. Feedback has been very positive.

Other business:

Lucy Dubas requested clarification on the Meeting's practice of asking for donations at events other than worship, such as the pancake breakfast and the film series, which raised the question of who would be the recipient of money collected at this year's breakfast. Hospitality will be asked to put out a sign or label this year so people know where the money in the jars is going. Outreach is asked to make decisions in the future about the issue of asking for donations.

Meeting closed at 12:25 pm with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted by Carla Davis
Cunningham, Recording Clerk

2008 – 2009 Annual Report of the Buckingham Friends School Board to Buckingham Monthly Meeting

The 2008 – 2009 school year was financially challenging for Buckingham Friends School. Fortunately, the school was prepared to weather a major economic storm.

The world – including Buckingham Friends School -- experienced major investment losses during 2008 – 2009. The Buckingham Friends School endowment, which provides protection when operating expenses exceed income from tuition and giving, is invested conservatively as are all of the school's investments. Nevertheless, value of our marketable securities, which have a cost basis of \$2.4 million, dropped by \$238,741 in the school year ending June 2009. Our endowment portfolio has recovered fully as we share this message.

The board and administration of the school recognize the need to increase our endowment so we have the resources to provide an outstanding educational elementary school experience that remains true to the Quaker values and mission of Buckingham Friends School.

Enrollment declined during the 2008 – 2009 school year. In September of 2008 enrollment was 153 compared to 168 the year prior. Enrollment rebounded to 163 at the start of the 2009 school year; however, targeted enrollment for Buckingham Friends is 176. Under-

enrollment creates a major financial challenge for our small school.

Total revenue from tuition and donations amounted to \$2.5 million in 2008 - 2009, a decrease of nearly \$300,000 from the year prior due primarily to the enrollment decline.

Tuition was increased by 6.5% to \$15,382 for the 2008 – 2009 school year to address increased operating costs and to help secure the financial future of the school.

Expenses during the 2008 – 2009 school year increased by approximately \$74,000 reflecting notable cost increases to maintain employee healthcare coverage and to provide additional financial aid. Our school remains committed to the Quaker testimony of equality and sees financial aid as necessary to living that testimony through a diverse socio-economic school community. Challenges to the lives of school families inspired the school and school community to provide increased financial aid extended in 2008 – 2009 to \$311,572.

Steps were taken to cut costs; however, there were no cuts in the academic program. Our teachers remained focused on the needs of our children, continued to model Quaker values, and provided a remarkable experience for our students during a year that required faculty and staff to plan and implement the Joint Environment Mission summit [involving nearly 50 international visitors] as well as participate in the accreditation review by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools.

Reserves from the bus fund together with a planned transfer of endowment fund income enabled the school to balance its budget for the 2008 – 2009 school year. While other schools sold land and cut program and staff, Buckingham Friends School was able to draw on the wisdom and generosity of prior generations of donors, administrative leaders, and trustees as well as our current giving, dedicated community.

Our generous community contributed \$144,828 to the Buckingham Friends School annual fund in 2008 – 2009, an increase of 9% over the year prior as well as an additional \$68,053 in non-restricted giving via efforts such as the clothing sale and the auction.

Kindly refer to the audited financial statements and supplemental information prepared by the independent accounting firm, Pressman Ciocca Smith for the years ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 for detailed financial information on the 2008 – 2009 school year.

We are grateful to the 35 employees who served the Buckingham Friends School community during the 2008 – 2009 school year. Children learn far more than academics because of the way our teachers and administrators approach education and life.

The active involvement of our school families, volunteering time to serve soup, rake leaves, and help the school in myriad ways helped to balance the budget while demonstrating to our children the importance of service and community. We were pleased to welcome 17 new families and seven siblings into the Buckingham Friends community during the past school year.

Members of the school board are to be commended for the innumerable ways they support the school with their time, financial resources, and professional experience, and passion for Buckingham Friends School.

As of June 30, 2009 there were **TBD** members of Buckingham Monthly Meeting – **xx** adult members and **xx** children, compared to 110 members on June 30 of 2008. (***) Please note that the missing numbers will be announced soon) A list of member names and addresses is maintained by the caretaker of Buckingham Monthly Meeting.

The entire school community is grateful to the membership of Buckingham Monthly Meeting and other area meetings, present and past, who made it possible to provide Quaker education to the children who attended Buckingham Friends School during its 215th year.

Respectfully Submitted on
December 13, 2009
by the Buckingham Friends School Board

Joyce Rivas
Neal Sigety
Clerk
Treasurer

2008 – 2009 Evaluation of Buckingham Friends School & Its Program

We are proud that the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools [PAIS] accredited Buckingham Friends School during the 2008 – 2009 school year. The accompanying PAIS Report of the Visiting Accreditation Committee provides an evaluation of Buckingham Friends School and its program. The major overall commendations of PAIS were:

1. “The sense of community created by the school, the shared sense of mission/vision and who they best serve.
2. “The rich history of the Joint Environmental Mission program. The school is ahead of the curve in terms of best practices recommended by NAIS for global awareness and sustainability.
3. “The number and variety of activities available to children.”

PAIS identified three key issues for Buckingham Friends School to consider prior to the next accreditation review in 2018 - 2019:

1. The school was asked to “take action to create and articulate a comprehensive safety and security plan” and that was completed to the satisfaction of PAIS during the 2008 – 2009 school year.
2. In addition, PAIS encouraged Buckingham Friends to “take steps to better sequence and coordinate its curriculum and materials using the newly created curriculum maps.” That substantial, important effort will be actively pursued by the school in the coming years.
3. Finally, PAIS noted the wisdom of “recognizing the value of increasing the diversity of the faculty and student body and examine the meaning of diversity.” Diversity is at the core of the Quaker testimony of equality and, therefore, the head of school and the school board will work together to encourage diversity consciousness, procedures, and behaviors within the Buckingham Friends School community.

Respectfully Submitted on
December 13, 2009
by the Buckingham Friends School Board

Joyce Rivas, Clerk



Buckingham Friends Newsletter
c/o John Bailey
86 Rocktown Rd
Ringoes NJ 08551