

# Marlborough Friends Meeting Newsletter

Open for worship every Sunday at 11:00 AM. 361 Marlborough Road, Kennett Square PA 19348

## New Roof for Historic Barn

Behind the Meetinghouse is a famously beautiful view overlooking the Wickersham farm. If you were to visit this farm in September of 2017, you would have noticed the bright new shingles on the centuries old barn. Today, the shingles have faded, but they continue their work protecting the historic structure. The barn was originally built in 1769 and enlarged in 1809 to accommodate a mechanical horse-powered thresher.



Most historic barns in Chester county are retired or converted to other uses. But the Wickersham farm is a working dairy farm. This barn is home to farm equipment, fodder and young cows.



The Wickersham brothers are hardworking farmers, yet still diligent in preserving the roots of their homestead. Although members of London Grove, their mother Phyllis was a loyal attender at Marlborough. They are neighborly and will halt any task when you stop by for chat. So, if you need to purchase a dozen eggs, knock on the back door of their farmhouse (circa 1726) for a transaction that also includes a friendly visit.

## Christmas Harmony

Ever year Marlborough hosts a community Christmas Carol sing. This year's event was well attended and notable for outstanding harmonizing.

Geri Smith (our newest member) led us with her guitar. Geri was accompanied by her friend Mary Kay Mann on harp.



We were happy that most stayed to share in refreshments and fellowship.



A columnist from *The Kennett Paper* was at the sing. She goes by the name "Tilda Tallyho" and she printed the following article in her column:

*"The benches were filled for the annual carol sing at Marlborough Friends Meeting the evening of Dec. 17. After a short period of*

*silent worship in the Quaker style and two Bible readings, the singing part of the program started, led by a guitarist and a harp player.*

*We sang a nice mixture of traditional hymns like "Joy to the World" and "The First Noel" and secular songs like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells." "The 12 Days of Christmas" had us all out of breath by the time we finished with all those lords and maids and drummers.*

*It's funny to hear the different ways that people pronounce words like "Deity" (Day-ity? Dee-ity?) and "Alleluia" (Is there an initial H or not?).*

*Several of the songs took me back sharply to elementary-school Christmas programs. Thanks to our martinet of a chorus teacher, I still make a point of enunciating the "gel" in "angel" very distinctly, and I pronounce the second syllable of "comfort" like it's a military fort, not "fert."*

*The evening closed with a beautiful, reverent version of "Silent Night," followed by cookies, cider (fitting; the Barnard family of Barnard's Orchards were among the founders of Marlborough Meeting) and good fellowship."*



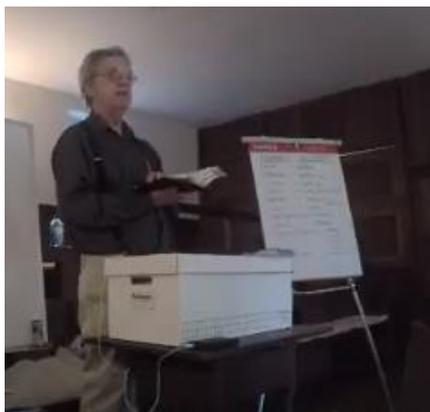
## Meeting Email Contacts:

Clerk: [MarlboroughMMClerk@gmail.com](mailto:MarlboroughMMClerk@gmail.com)

Website: [Charles.C.Thomas.Jr@gmail.com](mailto:Charles.C.Thomas.Jr@gmail.com)

## Talk by Henry Jason

Henry Jason has a knowledge of biblical Greek and has insights into many different translations of scripture. Henry stands out with his engaging speaking style and his piercing interpretations that support a Quaker understanding of the Bible. For this reason, Henry is a popular speaker at Yearly Meeting. Unfortunately, he lives in California and arranging for one of his lectures is not easy. So, when we heard that he was coming east to speak at Salem Meeting's open house (in Ohio) we arranged for him to "pop over" to eastern Pennsylvania and speak at Marlborough too.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of Tenth Month, Henry spoke for almost two hours on *Principles and Beliefs of Early Friends* at the Marlborough Meetinghouse.

We have both audio and video of the talk available on our website (the video is of questionable quality, so we advise the audio version). Go to [www.marlboroughmeeting.org](http://www.marlboroughmeeting.org), from the menu, select IMAGES AND VIDEO > VIDEO > PRINCIPLES AND BELIEFS OF EARLY FRIENDS.

Even when he can't be physically present Henry is always ready to share his knowledge. We will be including some of his interpretations of scripture verses in this and other newsletters. Of particular interest are verses that are mistranslated. Henry's understandings invariably support a traditional Quaker view of scripture.

## Advice #10

Carefully maintain truthfulness and sincerity in your conduct, and encourage the same in your families. In your style of living, in your dress, and in the furniture of your houses, choose what is simple, useful, and good.

## Within or Among? by Chip Thomas

***Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.***

Luke 17:21

When I was young, we frequently used this verse to reinforce a Quaker understanding of Jesus's message. Some Friends referred to the Inner Christ, others the Inner Light. But they all agreed that seeking and finding was an inward experience. That is where the Kingdom of God was to be found.

However, when I was in college, I found some committed Christians who assured me that this was a mistranslation. They said that the proper translation was "... the Kingdom of God is **among** you". I took this in stride and it did not really affect my seeking or my understanding of God.

Fast forward some 40 years later. I was sitting in my dining room with Henry Jason. Henry is quite comfortable in several languages including New Testament Greek. He had a paper on which he had a list of Bible verses. They were his pet peeve mistranslations. On the very top of the list was Luke:17:20-21. Henry marveled how anyone could translate the Greek original as "among".

When searching online for this article, I came across *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*. Ellicott bolstered Henry's position with this argument...

*"The marginal reading, "among you." has been adopted, somewhat hastily, by most commentators. So taken. the words emphatically assert the actual presence of the Kingdom. It was already in the midst of them at the very time when they were asking when it would appear. The use of the Greek preposition is, however, all but decisive against this interpretation. It is employed for that which is "within," as contrasted with that which is "without," ..."*

One of the points Henry often makes in his lectures is to distinguish between "inward and outward understandings". His urging to focus on the inward is consistent with the Quaker approach and Jesus's teachings.

There were other verses on Henry's list that we plan to share in other issues of this newsletter.

## Scripture Reading

Our business meetings always begin with a reading from Scripture. Here is a sample.

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the LORD is God.*

*It is he who made us, and not we ourselves  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;*

*his faithfulness continues through all generations*

*Psalm 100*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Interested in a Spiritual Challenge? On Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 AM Quakers will gather from around the Delaware Valley to attend an *Extended Worship* event. Silent Worship should run for around three hours. Lunch and discussion are also planned for the afternoon.

Our annual picnic will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We hope to have guest speakers in the spring and fall. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for such events.

## Affiliate Membership

Our yearly meeting offers the possibility of *Affiliate Membership*. It is a small step from full membership and is often used for those who live at a distance. Another common use is for Quakers who hold full membership in another meeting, but feel drawn to the spiritual path that a Christocentric meeting like Marlborough provides.

Marlborough has recently added three affiliate members and is always open to considering new ones.

## MARLBOROUGH ONLINE

There are several ways to find us online...

- Do a Google Search for "Marlborough Friends Meeting". Since we are registered as a "business" with Google, you should immediately see information about our Meeting without the need to click on a link.
- Search for "Marlborough Friends Meeting" on Facebook. This will bring up our Facebook Page.
- Bring up our website directly using [www.marlboroughmeeting.org](http://www.marlboroughmeeting.org).

Consider writing a review of Marlborough on either Google or Facebook.