

## Who Are Quakers?

The Religious Society of Friends is a worldwide fellowship of Christians, commonly called Quakers. They were called Quakers in derision because they trembled at the word of God. The nickname came into popular use and is employed by Friends when speaking about themselves to others. Friends are known for their traditional opposition to war, silent worship and humanitarianism.

It was the sizable presence and influence of the Delaware Valley Quakers, America's first organization, to speak out against the evils of black bondage that enabled this region to be the pacesetter regarding African-American emancipation.

The religion began in the mid-1600s amid the tumultuous years of England's Civil War. The first Friends were drawn to George Fox, who believed that God dwells in each of us, rather than in holy books or buildings. He told a judge that he should tremble before the Lord and the judge replied, "You are the Quaker, not I."

Friends believe that there is "that of God in every one," and that God speaks to each person through an "Inner Light." Group worship is a fellowship of the spirit and is based on silent communion. Sometimes the silence is broken as individuals feel moved by the spirit to speak or lead in singing. Quakers do not have a creed that members must accept. Since Quakers believe that all of life is sacramental, they have no sacraments, no baptism and no ritual. Friends try to live the testimonies of simplicity, equality, integrity and peace.

Many of today's Friends originally came from other religious backgrounds and have found a new spiritual home in Quakerism.

Friends maintain a busy network of schools, retirement communities and nursing homes. They continue to work with local social issues, while contributing to national ecological and relief efforts, as well as to the peaceful resolution of conflicts worldwide.

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Joe Laufer, Burlington County Historian  
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Adams and Leeds/Buzby Families

SIPALA is Hawaiian for peace.

Historical facts reviewed by the clerks  
of Burlington and Haddonfield Quarters.

**Burlington County**  
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Visit our Website at  
[www.ExploreBurlingtonCounty.com](http://www.ExploreBurlingtonCounty.com)



2005





### Moorestown Monthly Meeting

Located at 118 East Main Street, the original meetinghouse built in 1700 was located across Main Street, now site of the Friends burial grounds. It was the first building for worship in Moorestown. Built of logs, it burned to the ground in 1720. Rebuilt of stone, it was used until the current brick meetinghouse was built in 1802.

Moorestown Friends School is the only Friends school in Burlington County offering studies from pre-K through 12.

**Meeting For Worship:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

**Adults & Children's First Day School:** 9 a.m.

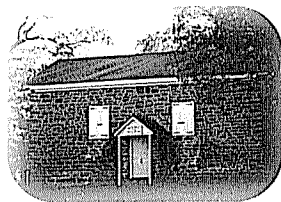
**Meeting Telephone:** 865-235-1561

**School Telephone:** 856-235-2900

### Arney's Mount Meeting

Located at the intersection of Juliustown Road and Pemberton-Arney's Mount Road in Springfield, the original building was built in 1775; it survived fires in 1800 and 1809. Because this building is in the exact condition as when it was built, there is no water, heat or gas. Arney's Mount is under the care of Mount Holly Monthly Meeting.

**Meeting For Worship:**  
2nd & 4th Sundays, 10 a.m.  
**Telephone:** 609-894-8347

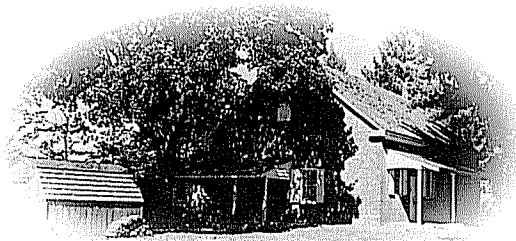
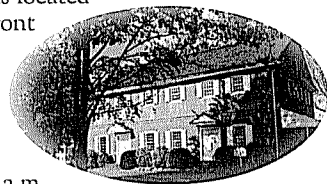


### Crosswicks Monthly Meeting

Built in 1773, this meetinghouse is used by the Crosswicks Friends. It is located at the intersection of Front and Church Streets in the Crosswicks section of Chesterfield.

**Meeting For Worship:**  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

**First Day School:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Telephone:** 609-298-4362



Meetinghouse sign has  
attracted visitors



### Cropwell Monthly Meeting

Located at the corner of Cropwell Road and Old Marlton Pike in Evesham, this one-story brick house was built in 1809. Meetings are currently held there.

**Meeting For Worship:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

**Adult Religious Education:** Sunday, 11 a.m.

**Telephone:** 856-424-1403



### Westfield Monthly Meeting

Located at 2201 Riverton Road in Cinnaminson, the first meetinghouse burned down and another was constructed in 1859 to replace it. The existing meetinghouse was built in 1963 and is still in use.

Westfield Friends School is under the care of the Monthly Meeting and offers studies from pre-K through grade 8.

**Meeting For Worship:** Sunday, 11 a.m.

**Adult and Children's First Day School:** 10 a.m.

**Meeting Telephone:** 865-829-7569

**School Telephone:** 865-829-0895



First Day  
School  
students

## Former Meetinghouses

**Bordentown Friends:** Located at 302 Farnsworth Avenue in Bordentown. Constructed in 1813, now serves as a Grange building next to the Friends' burial ground. It is also the office for the Bordentown Historical Society.

**Coopertown Monthly Meeting:** Located on Cooper Street off Route 130 in Edgewater Park. The meetinghouse was founded in 1806 and today serves as a historic site. Tours may be arranged by calling 609-871-3892.

**Copany Meetinghouse:** Located at 1834 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road in Springfield. Built in the late 1700s, was once used as a Hessian hospital during the Revolutionary War's Battle of Petticoat Bridge. It is a private residence with a maintained graveyard behind it.

**Crosswicks Orthodox Friends:** Located at 530 Ward Avenue in the Crosswicks section of Chesterfield. It was built in 1833. The Chesterfield Historical Society maintains the house today.

**Hicksite Friends:** Located at 110 Main Street in Moorestown. Built in 1897 and is currently used as a cafeteria in the West building of the Moorestown Friends School.

**Upper Springfield Friends:** Located at 121 Highland Road in Springfield. Constructed in 1727, it is now a private residence. Quaker historical marker and burial ground located in the rear of the meetinghouse building.

**Vincentown Friends:** Located at 115 Main Street in Southampton, was built in 1813. This facility serves as the Vincentown Grange headquarters, meeting and banquet hall.

## Meetinghouse Reopening

**Mansfield Monthly Meeting:** Located at 3191 Route 206 South in the Village of Mansfield. The Meetinghouse is currently being renovated. It is under the care of Burlington Quarter. Call 609-267-1249 for more information.

## Quaker Meetinghouses

Since 1681 the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has provided assistance and oversight for its constituent Monthly Meetings. PYM covers a geographical area from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to Trenton and from the Jersey Shore to State College, Pa. Each member of the Religious Society of Friends is a member of this body. All are members of a Monthly Meeting, a Quarterly Meeting and a Yearly Meeting.

A Monthly Meeting worships together weekly and has a business meeting once a month. A place of worship is a meetinghouse, and a local group is called a meeting.

Many meetings have first-day school (Sunday School) for adults and children. Child care is provided for children during Meeting for Worship.

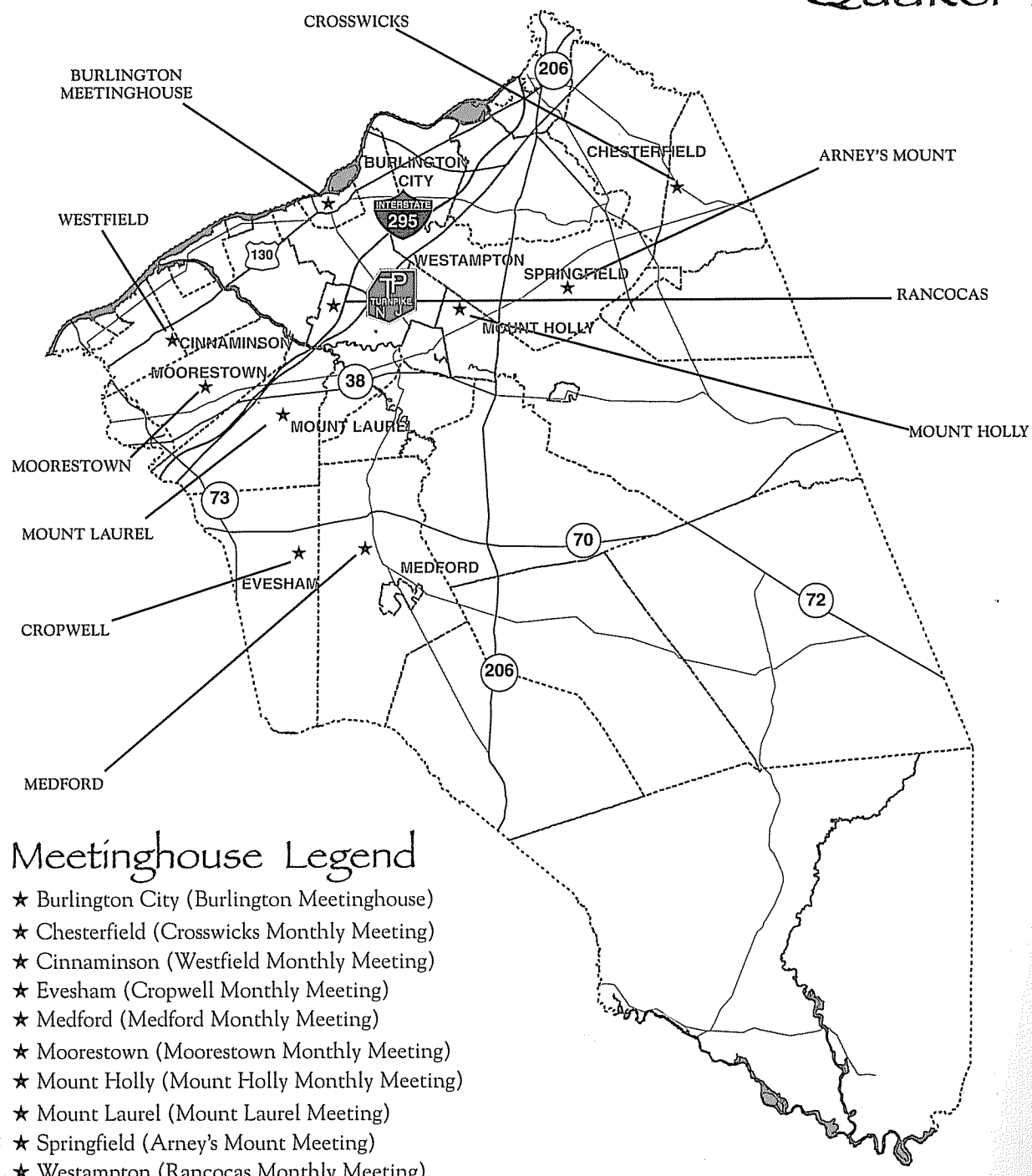
Quarterly (Regional) Meetings are groups of Monthly Meetings within a particular geographical area that convene two to four times a year for Friends to encourage and strengthen one another through worship and to deal with matters of regional concern.

The Yearly Meeting comes together at Annual Sessions to conduct business, receive spiritual refreshment and commitment as well as renew the bonds of friendship.

When Friends worship it is called Meeting for Worship. Friends gather at their meetinghouse in silence and await God's word and guidance. One or more worshippers may break the silence to share an inspired message of hope, joy or thankfulness or perhaps a pressing need or concern. Friends listen carefully and are mindful and accepting of the message. There is no appointed clergy; anyone may minister. No offering is taken; Friends contribute to their meetings privately. The worship service ends as Friends shake hands. At the conclusion of the service, or Rise of Meeting, Friends may gather in the social room for refreshments or a simple lunch.

For additional information on the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), visit the Website at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org).

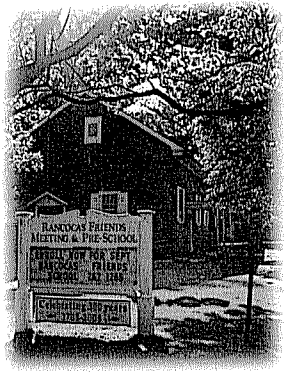
To schedule group tours of Burlington County meetinghouses, call the Burlington County Office of Tourism at 609-265-5055.



## Meetinghouse Legend

- ★ Burlington City (Burlington Meetinghouse)
- ★ Chesterfield (Crosswicks Monthly Meeting)
- ★ Cinnaminson (Westfield Monthly Meeting)
- ★ Evesham (Cropwell Monthly Meeting)
- ★ Medford (Medford Monthly Meeting)
- ★ Moorestown (Moorestown Monthly Meeting)
- ★ Mount Holly (Mount Holly Monthly Meeting)
- ★ Mount Laurel (Mount Laurel Meeting)
- ★ Springfield (Arney's Mount Meeting)
- ★ Westampton (Rancocas Monthly Meeting)

# Meetinghouses in Burlington County



## Rancocas Monthly Meeting

Located at 201 Main Street in the village of Rancocas, the meetinghouse was built in 1772. Dr. Daniel Willis, a Quaker pioneer, was instrumental in establishing Rancocas Monthly Meeting. In 1681, the first Meeting For Worship was held in the home of Thomas Harding. In 1703 a log cabin was built for members to worship.

**Meeting For Worship:** Sunday, 11 a.m. (June 15-Sept. 15 worship is at 10 a.m.)  
**First Day School:** Sunday, 10 a.m.  
**Meeting Telephone:** 609-267-6152

## Rancocas Friends School

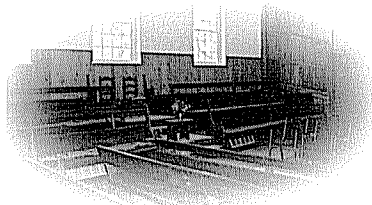
Rancocas Friends School, located on Main Street, was established in 1681 and is under the care of Rancocas Monthly Meeting. It offers pre-K classes for 4 and 5 year-olds.

Extended care is provided.  
**School Telephone:** 609-267-1265

One-room schoolhouse



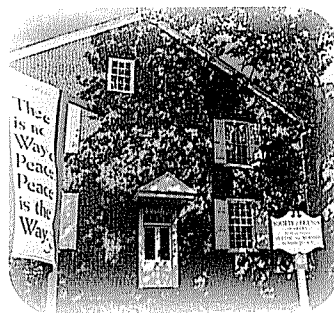
Dress and bonnet worn by Quaker women



Interior of the Meetinghouse



Shoes Quakers wore



## Mount Holly Monthly Meeting

Located at 81 High Street in Mount Holly, this large, two-story brick house was built in 1775. It was recently restored with a historic preservation grant.

Every second Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. Delaware River Folksong Fellowship performs music in the round. Every third Sunday after worship there is a discussion relating to topics of interest to Quakers.

**Meeting For Worship:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

**First Day School:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

**Telephone:** 609-261-7575



## Mount Laurel Meeting

Located at 438 Mount Laurel-Moorestown Road in Mount Laurel and originally known as Evesham Monthly Meeting. British troops were housed here in June of 1778 on their retreat from Philadelphia, eventually ending at the Battle of Monmouth. It is the oldest meetinghouse still in use in Burlington County. The interior remains as originally built. Mount Laurel is under the care of Moorestown Monthly Meeting.

**Meeting For Worship:** Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

**Telephone:** 856-235-1561



Library's textbooks

## Medford Monthly Meeting

Located at 14 Union Street in Medford, it was built in 1814 and is still an active meetinghouse.

**Meeting For Worship:**

Sunday, 10 a.m.

**First Day School:**

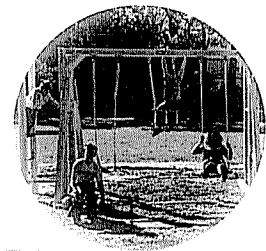
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

**Adult Religious**

**Education:**

Sunday, 11 a.m.

**Telephone:** 609-953-8914



First Day School students play on swings after class



Adult religious education class



## Burlington Meetinghouse

Located at 340 High Street in Burlington City, the first meetinghouse was built in 1683 but was demolished and replaced in 1783. It is now functioning as a Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Conference Center. This historic building recently underwent a multi-million dollar restoration. Rear burial grounds hold the grave sites of prominent Friends such as Dr. Joseph Taylor, founder of Bryn Mawr College; printer Isaac Collins; missionary Steven Grellet and Chief Ockanickon, a Lenape Indian.

**Telephone:** 609-387-3875