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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Design & Photography:
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Special thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to this brochure:
Joe Lauffer, Burlington County Historian
The Moss/Maris, Noll, Davenport, Adams and Leeds/Buzzy Families

SIPALA is Hawaiian for peace.
Historical facts reviewed by the clerks of Burlington and Haddonfield Quakers.

Burlington County
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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

Cowpany Meetinghouse
Located at 1834 Jackson ville -Jobstown Road in Springfield. Built in the late 1700s, was once used as a Hessian hospital during the Revolutionary War's Battle of Trenton 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 Westfield Historical Society maintains the house today.

Hicksville 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 1777, 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 Southamptom, 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 Quaker. 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.

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)
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

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

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

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

Rancocas Friends School

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School Telephone: 609-267-1265

One-room schoolhouse

Mount Laurel Meeting

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Meeting For Worship: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Telephone: 856-235-1561

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 Grelter and Chief Ockanickon, a Lenape Indian.
Telephone: 609-387-3875