

Membership

Although we look forward to new members, no one is pressured to join. If you have gotten to know us and feel ready to become a member, the procedure for joining is simple. Write a letter to the Meeting, which will be read at the next Meeting for Business.

A few Friends will be appointed to get together with you to talk. Besides getting to know you, they will try to see that you know about Quaker ideals and practice.

At the following Meeting for Business, you will be accepted and welcomed into membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a member.

Friends' History in the Manasquan Area

According to the minutes of the Shrewsbury Quarterly Meeting of 8th Month 29, 1706, "This meeting doth permit that there may be a first day meeting weekly at Manasquan for ye present at ye request of some friends that doth live there."

It is most likely that this weekly meeting had met in private homes for some years prior to that date.

The best information available suggests that the first meeting-house on Meetinghouse Road was built in about 1730 in the southeast corner of the present burial ground. It was the oldest house of worship in the Manasquan area.

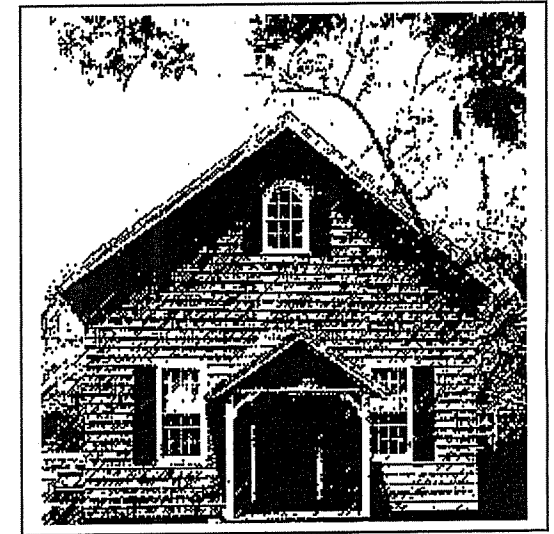
Minutes of Shrewsbury Monthly meeting mention that a major repair to the structure was approved in 1834.

In 12th Month, 1885, the remains of this meetinghouse were sold at auction.

The present meetinghouse, built by J.H. Morris, was dedicated on 7th Month 21, 1886. Additions to the structure were built in 1931, 1955 and 1966.

*Your first time
in a Quaker Meeting?*

Welcome!



Manasquan Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
2257 Meetinghouse Rd. at Rt. 35 Circle
Manasquan, NJ, 08736
732-223-2133

Join us on First Day (Sunday):

- Adult Study Class.....10:00 a.m.
- Meeting for Worship and First Day
School for Children.....11:00 a.m.
- Meeting for Business.....12:15 p.m.
on the third Sunday of the month

A Quaker Meeting is based on silence, but it is a silence of waiting in expectancy.

We come to Meeting because we feel the need to worship. It is important to us. We do not recite creeds or repeat set prayers. There is no ceremony, no priest, no prearranged service.

Meeting for Worship starts after announcements and a song or two. Sit anywhere you like, but if possible leave seats near the door and at the end of rows for latecomers. Children may be present for a time at the beginning of Meeting, and then leave for their own activities in another room.

The silence may last for quite some time, perhaps a half hour or more. But that does not mean that nothing is happening. All of us are trying to come nearer to each other and to God as we are caught up in the still spirit of the Meeting.

We do not worship in isolation, but try to hold an awareness of all those gathered with us, uniting in a common purpose, so that the waiting and listening becomes an act of sharing.

You may find it easy to relax in the silence and thus to enter into the spirit of the Meeting, or you may be disturbed by the strangeness of the silence, by distractions outside or by your own roving thoughts.

Do not worry about this - we all find it difficult to settle at times, but we return again and again to the still center of our

being, where the presence of God can be known.

Try, if only for brief periods, to be quiet in body, mind and spirit. Bring whatever is pressing on your mind to the Meeting. It can be a time of insight, revelation, healing, or calm.

Nearly everyone at some time in their lives seems to want to find God for themselves, even those who find it hard to believe that God exists. In such cases using a different image or concept, such as 'spirit' or 'light' can be helpful.

The silence may be broken if someone present feels called to say something which will deepen and enrich the worship. Anyone is free to speak, pray or read aloud an appropriate passage, provided it is done in response to a prompting of the spirit which comes in the course of the Meeting. The silence is broken for the moment, but it is not interrupted.

Listen to what is said in an open-minded, charitable spirit. Each contribution may help somebody, but our needs are different and can be met in differing ways.

If something is said that does not speak to your condition or need, try nevertheless to reach for the spirit behind the words. The speaker wants to help the Meeting: take care not to reject the offering with negative criticism.

Each of us brings our own life's experiences to Meeting. Some people will have a profound sense of awe and wonder

because they know that God is present. Others will be far less certain. They may only be ready to hold an awareness that their experiences in life point beyond themselves to a greater whole.

Some will thankfully accept God's inexhaustible love shown in Jesus, the promise of forgiveness and the setting aside of past failure. Others will know that to seek to be open to people in a spirit of love and trust is the direction in which they want to move.

In the quietness of a Quaker Meeting, those present can become aware of a deep and powerful spirit of love and truth that transcends their ordinary experience.

We seek to become united in love and strengthened by truth so that we enter a new level of living, despite the different ways in which we may account for this life-expanding experience.

The meeting will close after two members have shaken hands. Afterwards, feel free to speak to anyone, and join us for refreshments.

If you wish to know more about Quakers, please introduce yourself to any member. You may borrow books from the library, and other literature is available.

While sitting in meeting for the first time, you may find it helpful to re-read this leaflet.

(This leaflet is adapted from "Your first time in a Quaker Meeting?" published by Quaker Life.)