

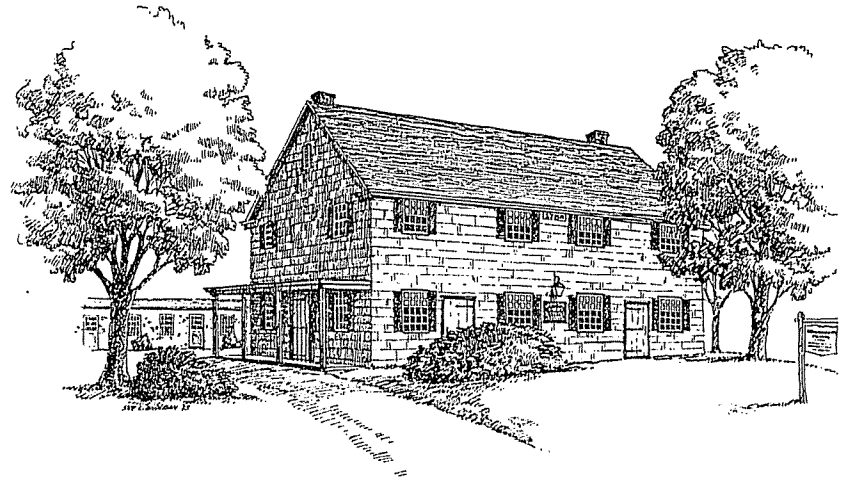
INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**PLAINFIELD FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
AND HISTORICAL SKETCH**

With only minor alterations and repair the Meeting House remains unchanged after nearly 200 years of service. Old as the present building is, the organization is much older. Historically, the Meeting can be traced back to a group of Friends who met in private homes in Perth Amboy in 1686, after the purchase of "East Jersey" by William Penn and other Quakers in 1681. In 1704, the meeting place was moved to a residence in Woodbridge where, in 1713, a Meeting House was constructed. In 1731 a small Meeting House was built on the "Plainfield Plantation", near what is now Woodland Avenue. In 1788 Quaker farmers built the present Plainfield Meeting House, for which the town was named *Plainfield* in 1800.

The timbers of the present building are sound. The original doors, and even original benches are still in use and the excellence of their condition bears testimony to the spirit of diligence and sincerity of the builders, a spirit which Friends of all times strive to emulate.

Plainfield Friends Meeting
225 Watchung Avenue at Third Street
(Opposite Railroad Station)
Plainfield, N. J. 07060



A QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP HELD EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

Children may attend Meeting or Religious
Education classes in the School Wing.

*Rahway and Plainfield Monthly Meeting
is associated with
New York Yearly Meeting of
The Religious Society of Friends*

We welcome you and hope you will find strength and peace while sharing in our worship, which is without formalities or professional ministry. We are a meeting of people who gather to search, with divine assistance, for the qualities that are of essential value to the individual, the group and society.

Friends come together during Meeting for Worship in silence, and without a theme or program. Many find that a time of silent prayer helps to turn their minds from daily pressures to an awareness of the presence of the Spirit. The hour may be silent or there may be spoken messages. Worshippers should not come with a determination to speak or to be silent, but rather, to be responsive to the Inner Light. Since Quakerism is a way of life, the aim is to carry from this Meeting the spiritual strength to live Friends principles in all associations.

The Friends way of life ideally emphasizes simplicity, humility, loving kindness toward all people, recognizing no boundaries of occupation, race or creed. We are particularly concerned with the avoidance of war, and seek those ways of life that will remove the causes of conflict.

After Meeting ends with the shaking of hands, perhaps you will linger with us a while, and take part in our fellowship.

If you would like to learn more about The Religious Society of Friends, we shall be happy to discuss it with you.

In the following words in 1647 George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends, expressed his discovery of the Inner Teacher and also the way of Quaker Worship.

"When all my hopes in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, then, Oh then, I heard a voice which said: 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition', and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy."

From the General Advices of London Yearly Meeting:

"Be earnestly concerned in your meetings for worship to enter reverently into communion with God, and with one another. Come with hearts and minds prepared. Yield yourselves up to the influence of the divine presence so that you may find the evil weakening within you, and the good raised up. God calls each one to the service of the meeting. Be obedient and faithful, whether by word or silent waiting, and receive the message of others in a tender spirit."