

Manhattan Monthly Meeting

Religious Society of Friends

15 Rutherford Place

New York, NY 10003

January 2012

RE: Report to Quarterly Meeting

Manhattan Friends continues to meet on the First, Third and fifth first Days with Second First days set aside for Bible study. Our Bible study theme "Women in the Old Testament" was a source of inspiration to members, as well as, our six children. On Third First Day, our Meeting's opening reading comes to us from Noel Palmer's Daily Notes To God – A Devotional Experience. These activities gave us numerous opportunities to engage in deeper understanding of our religious teachings.

There were no changes in our membership status.

Our children, the backbone of our Meeting, played active roles at both the local, Yearly and International Meeting levels. For Yearly Meeting 2011, we had 5 children participating in daily activities, on their grade levels, as well as the general community. Our grades 5-8 children attended Powell House Youth Program and Work Weekend. We were also fortunate to attend Friends United Meeting's (FUM) Triennial in Wilmington, Ohio. Members and children spoke highly of the experience gained and the friendships formed at the aforementioned events. We have also worked in collaboration with 15th Street First Day School to provide holiday gifts for the shelter's guests. During the festive season, we volunteered on Christmas Eve at the Shelter by providing a portion of the meal, stuffing stockings, greeting guests and sharing their life stories.

David Herendeen, member Easton Monthly Meeting, is serving as interim pastor while the Search Committee seeks clarity for fulfilling the pastoral position. Our support for Diving Primary School, western Kenya and Jamaica Yearly Meeting Young Friends continues. We will participate in FUM 2012 Chain-of-Prayer. Despite low weekly turnout, members continue the meeting's vibrancy while holding others in the light.

Although 2011 was a challenging year, we are thankful for opportunities that fostered our faith and hope in the Living God. The dawning of 2012 has brought with it a deeper consciousness of the indwelling spirit of God with a feeling of blessedness, joy, peace and love.

In Love and Friendship,

Gloria P. Thompson, Interim Acting Clerk

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