



Religious Education at Stony Run Friends Meeting

Updated 8th Month 2019

For Parents, Teachers and Interested Community Members

Please contact the Religious Education Committee with any questions, concerns, suggestions or ideas:

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Calendar of Events 2019 – 2020 (tentative, subject to change)

September 8	First Day of Class and Ice Cream Social at Simple Lunch
September 29	Assembly for Camping Weekend
November 30	Assembly for Thanksgiving
December 28	Assembly for Christmas
January 5	Second trimester begins
March 7	Pie Bake (JYF, YF)
March 22	Third trimester begins
April 12	Assembly for Easter, egg hunt led by Young Friends (tentative)
May 24	Assembly for Memorial Day
June 7	Last Class, end-of-year picnic, and presentation of gift books
June 14	Summer Assemblies begin

Overview of Religious Education Committee at Stony Run

The [Religious Education Committee](#) provides year-round activities for infants and children of all ages through a variety of programs. Meeting for Worship is always open to children of all ages. Children under four years old are served in the nursery. First Day School classes welcome children from pre-primary through fifth grade. Children in sixth through eighth grades enroll in Junior Young Friends and high-school aged children come together in Young Friends. In the summers and near high-travel-holidays, children of all ages gather in one group in Assemblies.

Our program uses the curriculum as a springboard and touchstone for showing and guiding students to see the variety of spiritual paths available to them. Religious education honors the Light within all and respects the contributions of the individual students, teachers, and parents in the program.

We encourage parents and caregivers to become active in the programs provided. You are welcome at all activities.

Meeting for Worship

Meeting for Worship offers time for silent reflection and seeking of the Inner Spirit. Children are welcome in Meeting for Worship at any time though customarily attend the first 20 minutes of late meeting and are then escorted to age-appropriate First Day School classes. Parents do not need to leave the meeting unless they want to accompany their children.

Classes and Curriculum

Ages 4-8 (grades pre-K - 2)

Curriculum focuses on learning about the Quaker Testimonies through stories and activities that speak to young children.

Ages 9-11 (grades 3 - 5)

This year's focus for this age group will also be Quaker Testimonies.

Ages 12-14 (grades 6-8, Junior Young Friends)

Junior Young Friends. traditionally runs with a very open, discussion-oriented format. The class structure varies by instructor.

Ages 15-18 (grades 9-12, Young Friends)

Young Friends is a self-governing group. The group traditionally has held Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on the First Sunday of the month (Bagels for Business), which is their business meeting. Other activities may include service projects. Service projects they've done in the past include a cleanup at Amazing Grace, organizing a Meeting-wide picnic at the burial grounds, baking cookies for the Meeting carol sing, a "Pie day" bake sale, and organizing the Easter assembly.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Opportunities

Junior Young Friends Conferences (“Cons”)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) holds a series of weekend retreats for 6th-8th graders, whom we call Junior Young Friends (JYFs). JYF conferences or “cons” are held at different Quaker Meetinghouses throughout the school year. Cons are a fun way to see friends from other Meetings, camp, make new friends, and retreat from the pressures of teenage life, while still developing skills around living in community and having a lot of fun. [Jossie Dowling](#), the BYM Youth Programs Manager, facilitates these weekends in conjunction with the [Youth Programs Committee](#). Her phone number *during events* is 301-774-7663 ex.107 (this is the office number that will forward to her cell). <http://yf.bym-rsf.net/>

The dates and locations for this year’s Junior Young Friends cons will be:

- November 9 – 10, Langley Hill Friends Meeting
- January 11 – 12, Gunpowder Friends Meeting
- March 7 – 8, Adelphi Friends Meeting
- May 1 – 3, Catoctin Quaker Camp

Young Friends Conferences (“Cons”)

Young Friends are welcome at conferences (cons) sponsored by Baltimore Yearly Meeting . The BYM Young Friends have their own website, where you can find out more about their cons. By the way, if you're an adult you can be a Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) at one of the cons. More are always needed, so volunteer if you can. Information can be found <http://yf.bym-rsf.net/> Youth Programs Manager Jocelyn “Jossie” Dowling (301-774-7663)

The dates for this year’s Young Friends cons will be (locations to be determined):

- September 27 – 29
- November 29 – December 1
- February 14 – 16
- March/April – to be determined
- May 22 – 24

Summer Activities

Assemblies

During the summer, children of all ages come together for assemblies. These assemblies cover themed topical issues and provide enriching activities for children.

Camping Programs

Baltimore Yearly Meeting's [camping programs](#) provide opportunities for spending extended time living in functioning Quaker communities that encourage tenderness, loving concern, dynamic activity, laughter, respect, work, honesty, silence, and joyful noise.

Policies

The Religious Education Committee respects the policies put in place by the Meeting community for the smooth and ethical operation of our program. The details of various policies are below.

Fire Drills

If there is a fire drill, the meeting place for children is the playground. Teachers, please calmly escort the children in your classroom to the playground and stay with them until the fire drill is over (at which time class may resume, time permitting), or parents pick their children up.

Record-keeping

Attendance rosters: Teachers are strongly urged to keep attendance rosters complete and up to date; these are documents which will be filed and available should any children later wish to have evidence of their intentions to be conscientious objectors.

Child Information Sheets: For any student not on the pre-printed attendance roster, teachers should ask a parent to fill out an information sheet. For students on the pre-printed rosters, the information sheet allows parents to provide teachers with important medical and behavioral information. If the parent indicates they want to receive more information about Stony Run programs, teachers should give a copy of the completed form to the Stony Run Office Manager who will update the meeting database.

Volunteers: Teachers are asked to track all volunteer attendance within the class (even parents) at the bottom of each printed roster of class attendance. Please record the date and name of any volunteer.

Child Safety Policy

Stony Run has adopted the following standards in relation to children's activities. The entire policy is in a binder in the library.

The Meeting has set out guidelines for volunteers who interact with children, including within the context of First Day School.

- Volunteer teachers need to be an active attender for at least six months. (This does not apply to parents volunteering in a classroom on an occasional basis.)
- Parents are responsible for supervising their children before and after First Day classes and during all meeting events. It is the responsibility of parents to teach their children about appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.
- If a class has only one child and one adult, the class must combine with another class. Two adults with one child is fine, however, we cannot have a one adult/one child group.
- Inappropriate behaviors toward and in front of children are prohibited. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, smoking and use of tobacco, weapons possession, being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs used illegally, displays of sexual behavior, pornography, physical neglect, inadequate supervision (including lax

supervision of small children on the playground), and mental or emotional injury to a minor. Overall, any behavior that would be considered inappropriate is prohibited.

- Regular volunteers must complete a background check (administered and seen only by the Meeting Facilitator). The background check does not include credit checks and is focused only on child safety. The background check is required every two years. Occasional volunteers (like parents volunteering occasionally in their child's classroom) are not required to have a background check; however, it is encouraged.
- If there are situations that require a one adult and one child group (examples may include travel on field trips, or specific volunteer instances), the parent must provide written permission for the grouping.
- Regarding bathrooms and children: to avoid a one adult/one child grouping while helping children in the bathroom, we suggest propping open the bathroom door to provide easy, visible access.
- The Meeting requires that all volunteers report suspected child abuse to the Clerk of Meeting or the Meeting Facilitator, who will then investigate the claim, keeping the Meeting community apprised of the situation.

Expectations for Students, Parents & Teachers in Religious Education

Expectations are part of our social contract within First Day School and we offer these expectations to students, parents, and teachers, asking them to agree to and respect them.

Expectations for Students

- **Respect:** Treat teachers and other students with respect and courtesy. This includes listening to others, following instructions, and considering the feelings of other students during class activities.
- **Cooperation:** Pay attention and to cooperate fully with teachers and other children.
- **Positive Attitude:** Participate in class activities with a positive attitude.

Expectations for Parents

- **Respect:** Be respectful of teachers and their children by dropping off and collecting children in a timely manner. If needed, allow time for a reasonable parting from their children when dropping off.
- **Cooperation:** Work with teachers to manage any problems that arise in the classroom. Please note that if a teacher is having difficulty helping children cooperate with others or engage in the class, the teacher may request that the child's parent stay in the classroom. That way the teacher will be able to fulfill their responsibilities to the rest of the class.
- **Communication:** Let teachers know about any specific needs as well as either permanent or temporary situations that might require special considerations. For child care in the nursery, parents must complete a form for each child. Each time a child is delivered to the nursery, parents must complete the sign-in sheet to let the child care workers know how to contact the parent.
- **First Day School and Child Safety Policies:** Programs for children at Stony Run Friends are operated largely by volunteers, guided by the Religious Education Committee and the Child Safety Committee. This handbook is on the table in the foyer of the Meeting House. A binder with the Child Safety Policy is in the Library.

Expectations for Teachers/Child Care Workers

- **Respect:** Teachers are expected to model the values of the Friends community for the students. Teachers are expected to treat students with respect and courtesy. This includes maintaining a note of discretion with other adults in discussing perceived classroom issues, and avoiding airing of negative comments about the children within their hearing after class and within the larger community.
- **Cooperation:** Teachers may need to work with parents to manage problems that arise in the classroom. If a teacher is having difficulty encouraging a student to be part of the class or cooperate with others, the teacher may ask the parent to stay with the student during First Day School, so that the parent can help the student acclimate while the teacher helps the rest of the class with the lesson.

- **Participation:** Welcome children at 11:20 and keep them until 12:10, when First Day School is dismissed.
- **Communication:** Teachers may wish to communicate with parent and child at the pickup about child's specific needs, as well as either permanent or temporary situations that might require special consideration. If unavailable to teach a session, teachers are expected to arrange for a substitute or ask the Religious Education Committee to find a substitute.

Teaching Opportunities

All classes and assemblies are guided by volunteers. There are opportunities to teach First Day School classes, lead Junior Young Friends and Young Friends activities and lead Summer Assemblies. Although class schedules are set at the beginning of the school year, the Committee is committed to finding an appropriate volunteer opportunity at any time of the year.

Teaching Support

Religious Education teachers are volunteers and the Stony Run Friends community values their contributions. To support teachers in their efforts, the Usher will check the hallways and classrooms shortly after 11:20 to ensure compliance with the Child Safety Policy.

We encourage teachers to bring student concerns and issues quickly to the Religious Education Committee for resolution. We want to ensure that disruptions to the classroom environment are resolved quickly with little effect on other students in the classroom.

Throughout the year, if there are new children in the classroom, please ask a parent to fill out a Child Information Sheet so that we may update the roster.

For extra physical materials, there is a Teacher's Library closet in the pre-primary classroom. If you need to purchase additional supplies to support your teaching, please use the [reimbursement form](#).

Teaching Requirements

All teachers and regular substitute teachers are required by the Meeting's Child Safety Policy and Maryland State law to undergo a background check before working with students. This check looks for criminal activity related to children and does not include a credit check.

Child Care

Stony Run is committed to providing child care for everyone for all meeting events by request.

Per courtesy, safety and Maryland law please don't allow children younger than 13 to wander Meetinghouse halls or the playground during Meeting for Worship or other events without an adult presence.

Nursery

Child care is provided for all children during the adult discussion hour and Meeting for Worship. Two care-giving adults will be present at all times. Child care on First Day commences 15 minutes before the first Meeting and ends 15 minutes after the later Meeting.

Please be considerate of our child care workers and pick up your children quickly after the rise of Meeting.

Spirit Led Parenting Group

There will be parenting group sessions scheduled this fall. This is an open group that uses the first half (45 minutes) of the session to share parenting challenges and ideas for parenting strategies around the challenges. The second half (45 minutes) will be used to share readings and built on the book Paths to Quaker Parenting-using Quaker Beliefs, Testimonies and Practices. (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting published 2009). The group meets 3rd First Day of the month in the library from 1-2.30 pm and starts in September. Child care is available

Adult First Day School Class

Adult RE holds a once a month class for adults at the same time as the youth classes. The adult RE class provides an ongoing opportunity, in community, to learn about the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends. The Adult RE class meets on the 3rd First Day of the month at 11:20 and starts in September.

Parent Teacher Lounge

Room 202 has been dedicated as the parent-teacher lounge. This room has a variety of resources for families to access pertaining to Quakerism. There is a bulletin board that can be used to post information relevant to RE and families.

Friends School

Friends School of Baltimore is adjacent to the Stony Run Meetinghouse. Founded in 1784, [Friends School of Baltimore](#) provides a coeducational, college preparatory program guided by the Quaker values of truth, equality, simplicity community and peaceful resolution of conflict.