

The Provident FRIEND

July 2017

News from the Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

(From the editor)

I'm interrupting our regularly scheduled hiatus to bring you this important letter on building expansion plans from our clerk, Mike Hirtle. Friends decided that a short "special edition" would be the most efficient way to bring this to the widest possible readership.

The next issue of the Provident Friend will appear as scheduled in September.

--Jen McFadden

A Letter from the Clerk

Dear Friends and Attenders,

After consideration at several recent Meetings for Business, we are finalizing a plan to expand and improve the Providence Meetinghouse. This addition will have benefits for all of us as we seek to serve our families and our community. First, the nursery will be enlarged and moved to a spot farther from the Meeting Room. Second, a large new multipurpose room will provide space for a variety of activities, especially for our First Day School. Third, two bathrooms will be located on each floor, one with a shower, allowing more comfortable accommodations and enabling us to better host retreats for young people. Fourth, a high efficiency heating and cooling system will improve our carbon footprint. Finally, in the interest of improving access for Friends with mobility issues, a lift will connect the upper and lower floors.

Some years ago our Meeting received some generous donations specifically intended to improve the building but the total, now at \$170,000, falls far short of the estimated costs of our current plan. We believe that the improvements described above will cost in the neighborhood of \$437,000. Our Finance Committee is exploring other budget lines from which we might draw as well as applying to various Quaker and other organizations for contributions/grants, but we project that we will be about \$200,000 - \$250,000 short. The good news is that we can proceed with this project by making up the shortfall from our General Fund, which currently totals \$880,000

The bad news is that we rely on the income from the General Fund to help defray our annual operating expenses. In addition to the loss of income we will also see increased expenses related to the operation of the expanded building. We estimate that the total impact on our budget could be as high as \$20,000 per year.

We are all a part of the community who meets, worships and meditates together. We enjoy each other's fellowship, we form a strong network of seekers, and our children benefit from the First Day School. The Meetinghouse is our nexus. We all have a stake in it, both now and for the future. We don't want to

just rely on the generosity of friends from times gone by to fund this addition, so we are seeking a financial commitment from all who are actively involved in the life of the Meeting. We are looking for both a one-time contribution earmarked for the building expansion as well as an increased level of annual giving from all members and attenders going forward. Gifts of any amount will be greatly appreciated and helpful.

In order to help support this effort please make your checks payable to Providence Friends Meeting with "PMH Expansion Fund" on the memo line. Send checks directly to the Treasurer: Peter Swaszek, 57 Brayton Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818. We hope to receive your first contribution by the end of August.

If, for any reason, the project does not proceed, these gifts will be returned.

We look forward to joining together to make our Meetinghouse more accommodating to our needs, with each of us being a part of that effort. Thank you for being involved in this exciting project.

With kind regards in the light,

Mike Hirtle
Presiding Clerk

Providence Monthly Meeting Contact List

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Moses Brown School Liaison: **Betsy Zimmerman** liaison@providencefriends.org
Young Adult Friends: (To Be Named) **yaf@providencefriends.org**
To schedule the Meetinghouse: **Bruce Shaw** scheduling@providencefriends.org



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Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
(401) 331-4218 or <http://providencefriends.org>

Meeting for Worship each Sunday

Providence: 10:00 am Saylesville: 10:30 am
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First Day School, Providence - Sunday. Children join Meeting for Worship from 10:00-10:15 am and then proceed to First Day School from 10:15-11:00 am.

Other Meetings for Worship (All are welcome):

Monday - 12:30pm - Moses Brown Upper School

Wednesday - 8:25am - Moses Brown Lower School

Wednesday - 9:40am - Moses Brown Middle School

Wednesday - 10-11:30am 2nd & 4th Wed's - Saylesville

Thursday - Noon-12:45 pm Brown University in
J. Walter Wilson room 411

Potluck, Providence - each First Sunday

Sing-along, Saylesville – 11:30 am each First Sunday

Meeting for Business

Providence: Second Sunday of each month at 12:00pm

Saylesville: Second Sunday of each month at 9:30am

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Providence, RI 02906