

QUAKERS & BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING



Our Community Today

Birmingham is an active, caring community of families and individuals of all ages who come together to worship in the Quaker tradition. We share a strong sense of spiritual seeking, fellowship and of community, so important to us in today's world. Our children participate in our Worship, First Day School, and in our community events. We also have special events just for the children, including a craft day, hayrides, and an annual First Day School picnic.

Many of us were attracted to the Religious Society of Friends by its guiding principles, the testimonies on Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship.

These principles guide us as individuals and as a community. We share a strong sense of social justice; many are involved in community service, preferring to "Let our Lives Speak" our faith. We are active in efforts to improve the lives of area residents, as well as people who are suffering throughout our nation and the world.

Our History

Birmingham Friends Meeting was established in 1690, shortly after William Penn founded Pennsylvania. Friends worshipped in the cabin of William Brinton until the first meetinghouse, a log structure, was completed in 1722. A school, also made of logs, was established in 1756. In 1763, the meetinghouse was replaced by the stone structure we use today. Just 14 years later, the Battle of the Brandywine raged around the Meetinghouse; it was used as a hospital first by Washington's army, then by the British. Hundreds of slain soldiers are buried in a common grave in the cemetery behind the Meetinghouse.

Since those early days, the Meetinghouse has been expanded to accommodate a growing membership. The log school house was replaced by the existing octagonal building in 1819 which was used as a school for many years and is now used for other activities after being rehabilitated in 1981. A modern kitchen and education wing were added to the meetinghouse in 1968.



Birmingham Meetinghouse as it looked in 1909

BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING - A GROWING COMMUNITY OF FAITH
ESTABLISHED 1690