



Religious Education at Stony Run Friends Meeting

updated September 2024

For Parents, Teachers and Interested Community Members

Please contact any member of the Religious Education (RE) Committee
with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or ideas:

<i>RE Committee Members</i>		
Paul Isayi	pauliyai@gmail.com	240-521-6227
Martha Johnson	Martha.Johnson@gmail.com	312-259-5892
Blaine Keener	blkomg@hotmail.com	443-414-9103
Nancy Moore	goren.moore@gmail.com	410-207-7871
RoJamie Oyenuga	missperry25@hotmail.com	843-532-1064
Trudy Rogers	trudyqkr@gmail.com	410-657-9768
Facilitator		443-703-2590

Contents

- Calendar of Events
- Overview of Religious Education at Stony Run
- Meeting for Worship
- Classes and Curriculum
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting Youth Programs
- Summer Activities
- Policies
- Expectations for Students, Parents & Teachers
- Teaching Opportunities
- Childcare
- Nursery/Pre-primary
- Adult First Day School Class
- Friends School
- Friends Church Baltimore

Calendar of Events 2024 – 2025 (tentative, subject to change)

September 8	First Day of Classes
September 29	Assembly for Camping Weekend
October 27	Event at the Burial Ground
November 23	Pie Bake (Middle and High School Young Friends)
December 1	Assembly for Thanksgiving
December 22	Assembly for Christmas
April 20	Assembly for Easter, egg hunt led by older students
May 25	Assembly for Memorial Day
June 1	Last Class, presentation of gift books and Ice Cream Social
June 8	Summer Assemblies begin

Overview of Religious Education at Stony Run

The RE Committee provides year-round Sunday morning 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 six years old are served in the pre-primary room. The Elementary First Day School class welcomes children from first through fifth grades. Our Middle and High School Class includes those in grades six-twelve. Children in sixth through eighth grades are Junior Young Friends (JYF) and high-school aged children are Young Friends (YF) for the purposes of Baltimore Yearly Meeting activities. In the summers and near high-travel-holidays, all our school-aged children gather in one group for Assemblies. The Nursery/pre-primary room is open year-round.

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 6-11

Elementary aged children from both Stony Run and Friends Church Baltimore are led by a teacher and an adult volunteer each week. Their curriculum focus includes the power of Spirit in our lives, what Bible stories mean to us, and the example of Quakers past and present through stories and activities that speak to children.

Ages 12-18 (grades 6-8 JYF and grades 9-12 YF)

These students are 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 and time for planning their time together. Other activities may include service projects. Service projects they've done in the past include organizing a Meeting-wide picnic at the burial grounds, baking cookies for the Meeting carol-sing, a "Pie day" bake sale, organizing Easter assembly and an Earth Day electronics and fabric recycling day.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Youth Programs

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) holds a series of weekend conferences for Junior Young Friends (JYF's) and Young Friends (YF's). The 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. BYM needs adult volunteers to be with students during cons. Details are on the BYM [Youth Programs webpage](#).

Summer Activities

Assemblies

During the summer at Stony Run, all our school-aged children 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.

Junior Yearly Meeting

During the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in early August children who attend with their families are provided classes and activities through the Junior Yearly Meeting.

Policies

The RE 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, teachers, please calmly escort the children in your classroom to their designated safe spot 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 them as evidence of their intentions to be Conscientious Objectors.

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 and on the website.

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

- 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 one child with one adult.
- 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 Facilitator). The background check does not include credit checks and is focused only on child safety. The background check is required every three 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 1:1 adult to child ratio (examples may include travel on field trips, or specific volunteer instances), the parent must provide written permission for the 1:1 ratio.
- Regarding bathrooms and children: to avoid a 1:1 ratio while helping children in the bathroom, 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 Facilitator, who will then investigate the claim, keeping the Meeting community informed of the investigation with respect to matters that are not confidential.

Expectations for Students, Parents, and Teachers

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 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 a child 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 childcare 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 childcare providers know how to contact the parent.

-

Expectations for Teachers/Childcare Providers

- **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 credit checks.

Childcare

Stony Run is committed to providing childcare 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/Pre-primary

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

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

Adult First Day School Class

From time-to-time, RE has held a 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. If you would like the opportunity to participate in an adult RE class during the youth classes, or at another time, please contact any member of the committee.

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. We share the playground and some facilities with each other.

Friends Church Baltimore

Friends Church Baltimore is a programmed Meeting for Worship which meets at Friends School on Sunday mornings. Their school-aged children join our children for First Day School classes and are welcome at other Stony Run events.