

A Brief History of Adelphi Friends Meeting

Undated Anonymous Contribution

On several Sunday afternoons in the summer of 1955, a group of Friends and other interested people met at the old Adelphi Mill on Riggs Road. There they held brief Meetings for Worship and Business, which were followed by picnics and recreation. The purpose of these gatherings was to get better acquainted and to plan for a new Friends Meeting in the Washington Suburban area in Maryland.

The plans bore fruit. A meeting place was found and a secretary was hired to assist the Meeting with its first year's activities. The place was the old St. Andrew's Parish Hall in College Park. Although these rented quarters were far from perfect for a rapidly growing Meeting of young families, those who met there were thankful to have found a place for a Meeting, and they put the limited space to good use. The group began holding regular Sunday School classes and Meeting for Worship and for Business in September of 1955.

The College Park Meeting of Friends was formally established as a Monthly Meeting of Potomac Quarterly Meeting on August 18, 1956 at Goose Creek Meeting in Virginia. On September 9th, 1956, the Washington Monthly Meeting of Friends (Irving Street), many of whose members had been a part of the new group from the beginning, merged with the College Park Meeting. The new Meeting was established as a united one belonging to both Baltimore Yearly Meetings of Friends.

During the preceding months, a Building Committee had been exploring the possibility for securing more adequate and permanent quarters for the Meeting. After considerable searching, the Committee found a property for sale which seemed reasonably adequate for present needs and which provided space for future expansion. Consideration was also given to the attractive grounds and good community location. The property selected as that where we now find the Meeting, 2303 Metzert Road in Adelphi. It was purchased on October 9, 1956. Because of the new location, the name of the Meeting was changed to Adelphi Friends Meeting.

The ownership of a Meetinghouse and absence of paid staff brought new responsibilities for everyone in the Meeting. Housekeeping and care of small children during Meeting for Worship are rotated in the group. Work Days are held on weekends as needed. On these occasions, Friends gather at the Meetinghouse to work together on the care and improvement of the house and grounds. Money for the Building Fund, library and other projects has been raised through the serving of dinners for other organizations, bake sales, and other activities. A newsletter describing Meeting activities is sent to members and other interested people each month.

Our regular activities include Sunday School each Sunday at 9:45 (10:30 in the summer), followed by Meeting for Worship at 11:00. The Monthly Meeting for Business is held at 4:00 on the second Sunday of each month. It is followed by a pot luck dinner at 6:00. Times of other activities are announced on Sunday mornings and in the newsletter. Visitors are welcome at all Meeting activities.