

The Herndon Light



8th Month 14, 2016 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 236

8-21-16 Adult discussion session 9:00 AM "How do we as a Meeting demonstrate our core beliefs and testimonies outwardly to the community and world." Jon Burton will facilitate
9-4-16 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
9-11-16 THERE WILL BE A BUSINESS MEETING AT 9 AM
9-23 to 25 Family Camp Weekend at Camp Shiloh

Query 14 Peace

Queries:

How does my life reflect "the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion for war"?

Where there are hatred, division, and strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?

How do our lives illustrate our understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace within and among ourselves?

How do we regard those we believe have harmed us or others? How does this affect our spiritual lives?

Advices

Since its founding over 350 years ago, the Religious Society of Friends has testified to the worth of every individual by refusing to participate in war. We repudiate war because it violates the primacy of love, destroys lives that God has given, and tears the fabric of society. Members of our Society have traditionally refused to serve in the armed forces. The Peace Testimony is, however, more than a mere refusal to participate in war. Fox's assertion that he "lived in that light and

power that takes away the occasion for war" and Woolman's advice that we "examine our lives to see that the seeds of war are not contained therein" firmly establish connections between this and other testimonies. As we work for peace in the world, Friends need to search out the seeds of war in ourselves and in our way of life. Instead of joining in actions that may lead to destruction and death, Friends are urged to cooperate to save life and strengthen the bonds of unity among all people. Work to create the conditions of peace, such as freedom, justice, cooperation, and the right sharing of the world's resources. Seek not only peace with one another, but peace with the earth. Recognize that wars can arise when poor environmental practices lead to scarcity and unjust distribution of resources. Our faith calls for us to be fully present to the person before us. We need to bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes, and prejudices in ourselves which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging our need for forgiveness and grace.

Meeting For Business 8-14-16

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 12 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to

Herndon Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends holds Meeting for Worship at 660 Spring Street in Herndon each First Day (Sunday). Hymn singing begins at 10:15 am. An unprogrammed Meeting for Worship begins at 10:30 am and lasts about one hour. After worshipping with adults for 10-15 minutes, children and teenagers attend First Day School classes until the end of Meeting for Worship. The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information call the Meeting's telephone answering machine at 703-736-0592. The Newsletter Editor is Terence McCormally. Notices for the Newsletter can be sent to him at 2514 Trophy Lane, Reston, VA 20191 E-mail tmccormally@ffpcs.com. Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Meg Wallace **WEBSITE AT** www.herndonfriends.org.

The Care Coordinating Committee is available for Friends in need. If you need assistance because of an illness or other emergency, contact Abbey Compton, Clerk, at abbey.compton@verizon.net; or Priscilla Chamlee at dandpchamlee@gmail.com; or Fred Cresson at cresson4@verizon.net, or Stacey LaRoy at stacebear@laroyfamily.com or Margaret Rogers at margrog@juno.com

Business at 9:00 am on 8/14/16 with a reading of the 14th Query from BYM Draft Faith and Practice on Peace.

Religious Education – Meg Wallace gave the Religious Education Committee Annual Report for the school year July 2015-June 2016.

The First Day School has 31 children registered and the program is divided into 4 age groups. While many committee members teach, the committee's primary responsibility is to develop curriculum and organize activities. Cathy Tunis commented that she is very grateful that the committee continues to provide Biblical stories and stories of Quaker leaders in its curriculum.

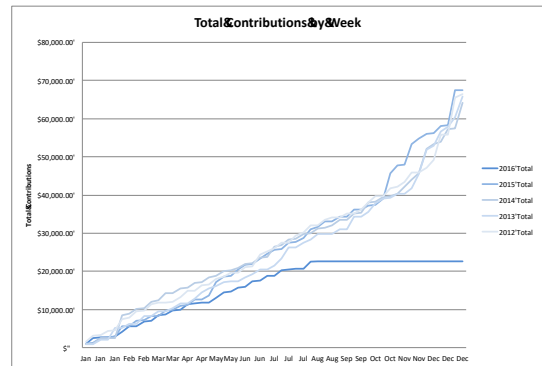
Meg reported on the progress of the project to purchase a shed for use as an auxiliary classroom. Final approval of the project was received from the Town of Herndon Heritage Preservation Review Board at its public hearing on July 18. As previously approved by the Meeting, Meg proceeded with the purchase of the shed s. The shed is being built in Pennsylvania by Amish carpenters. A representative from the company has visited the site and will deliver the shed in early September. Some branches will have to be removed from the tree hanging over the parking lot. (Harry Tunis is looking into this.) The shed will arrive on a skid, be placed directly on the existing parking lot, and leveled. It will be ready to connect to electrical service ready. After installation is completed, the next phase will be the electrical connection, furnishing, and assessment of the need for heating/cooling equipment. The Clerk thanked Meg for her persistent pursuit of this project.

Ministry & Oversight – Fred Cresson reported that the committee provided grants to four children from our Meeting to attend Quaker camps. A total of seven of our Meeting children attended Shiloh this summer. Fred also reported on two upcoming adult discussions. Jon Burton's discussion on "How do we express our testimonies and beliefs outwardly to the world?" will be held next week, August 21, at 9 a.m. (postponed from August). Louisa Davis will lead an adult discussion on September 18, at 9 am, on the

White Privilege conference and the Pendle Hill retreat on Alternatives to Mass Incarceration that she attended. Louisa expressed gratitude to the Meeting for providing her a grant to attend the White Privilege conference.

Treasurer–

Devin Mahoney presented the treasurer's report. The meeting has collected in contributions \$18, 547 of a projected \$51, 061 for the year, but has spent \$25,608 of that projected \$15,061 as of July 1. While meeting contributions typically lag during the first half of the year, contributions in 2016 are behind the trend for previous years as seen on the graph below. There are sufficient meeting reserves to carry the balance.



Devin pointed out some categories in the budget (highlighted on the attached report) where we may exceed the budget. The electronic transfer charges seem to have gone up and will be investigated. The cost of the sandwich making for the Embury Rucker Shelter averages about \$200 a month and seems to be coming out about right. The fire alarm system charges may also exceed budget. Devin also noted that there is over \$12,000 in the Capital Fund for expenses such as repainting, appliance replacement, etc. even after expending about \$14,000 already for the shed. The Growth and Building Fund has been growing due to contributions and a good stock market, currently totaling over \$401,000. A copy of the budget is included in the newsletter

House & Grounds – Dave Whomsley reported on the plan for replacing the refrigerator based on research by Harry Tunis. Our current

refrigerator leaks water into the body of the refrigerator regularly and uses excessive energy. A repairman reported recently that it cannot be fixed. Several models of similar size and specifications are available for between \$500 and \$600 at Lowe's and can be delivered free of charge, along with removal of the existing refrigerator. He is investigating only the models with CEED Tier 1 certification, which means they exceed the federal energy saving standard by 10%. Harry was encouraged to consult with Lynn Nagle for the sandwich making project, as well as Hospitality, to make sure the size is sufficient. The Meeting approved up to \$1,000 in expense for the purchase of a new refrigerator.

Dave also reported that other ongoing projects include upgrading the electrical service to accommodate the new shed and to improve service to outlets in the kitchen. Dave Wilkins is investigating an assisted listening system for the meeting room. Another concern is arranging for snow plowing next winter.

Hospitality – Kindra Whomsley reported that Hospitality is co-sponsoring an end of summer party at Louisa Davis's home on Lake Thoreau for Saturday afternoon, August 27, from 2 to 6 p.m. Louisa will provide additional information to Kindra for sending out on the listserv. Parking is available on Ridge Heights road and at Langston Hughes Middle School. The party will include boating, swimming, and sitting on the dock, for Friends of all ages. Parents are responsible for their own children. Friends are invited to bring finger food, Louisa will provide watermelon. Bring your swimming suits and, if possible, extra chairs.

Cathy Tunis gave a report on 2016 **BYM Annual Session**, which is included elsewhere in the newsletter. Cathy encouraged the Meeting to consider a donation of \$5000 from our Growth and Building Fund the Cataoctin Quaker Camp Bathhouse renovation, which is still short about \$75,000. This recommendation was laid over till the September Meeting for Business.

Greening Committee – Debbie McCormick reported on the committee's interest in

starting a Hometown Habitat with neighboring faith communities, including a proposal for a rain garden on the meetinghouse grounds. If we do this, we would be leaders in an interfaith effort being coordinated by the Plant NOVA Natives campaign in which various faith communities reach out to neighbors to spread the word about using our properties to create habitat for the rest of the living world. The committee would like to invite neighboring faith communities to a showing of the film "Hometown Habitat" (the relevant 25 minute segment) and a discussion. There are several other communities that have expressed interest in this project, including Accotink UU and Goose Creek Friends Meeting. The Meeting approved the meetinghouse being used for this gathering, with the date to be announced.

The Clerk closed the Meeting for Business with a period of silence, and announced that the next Meeting for Business will be held on September 11, 2016. This is a departure from our regular schedule of not holding business meeting in September, but we have much business to discuss and it seems necessary.

How Others See Us: Bob Fonow and the explosion at Karrada

(This report, forwarded by Harry Tunis, describes some of the work done by Herndon Friend Bob Fonow in Iraq. It was written by an Iraqi who worked with Bob.)

"Who is Bob Fonow? Bob is a US citizen who embraces the doctrine of the Quakers. Quakerism is a doctrine of Christian denomination that split from the English church during the civil war period in Britain between 1642 to 1651 with its founder, George Fox. The group opposes war and even the carrying of weapons. They are characterized by simplicity and prohibit the acts of singing, dancing, aimless wastes of time and smoking, and the followers of this sect are spread in various parts of the world, particularly in English speaking regions such as in America, Australia, New Zealand and others. Their numbers do not exceed half a million people in total, and they invite others

to return to the days Christ (pbuh)*, without a priest as the medium between man and God and between man and Christ. They opposed slavery and played a major role in its eradication in the Americas where they have also sided with the indigenous and black communities and other minorities, standing against their persecution. Many of them volunteer to work in areas where there have been epidemic spreads of diseases, earthquakes or famine around the world.

As for our friend, Bob Fonow, a man of more than sixty years; he was working in the field of telecommunications in the United States, and came upon a request in a local newspaper asking for a person with extensive information in communications to work in Iraq...

At the beginning of 2007, I formed a committee of security advisors for a project to secure Baghdad and protect the Iraqi-Syrian border. We spoke with Bob as a committee to see if he could provide some ideas that would benefit us with this important project, and he was enthusiastic about helping protect people's lives by using modern technological capabilities and without having to resort to military conflict. ... Upon studying detailed maps of the city of Baghdad, he suggested that the first area where this project would start would be the Karrada and Jadiriya district, as this region is surrounded on three sides by the River Tigris where the access bridges could be controlled with ease... It would not be difficult to prevent any strange car from entering the area before a thorough examination using the most advanced devices.

This was all in 2007, where these plans would not have taken more than a maximum of two, or at most three, years to completion.

I have received this morning an email from Bob, expressing his deep pain at martyrdom of more than eighty martyrs in Karrada (this is the number at the time of writing) and in the email he reminds me of this project and wonders why it has now been 9 years without the project coming to fruition. He told me that the first step in the project was the protection of Karrada, and I do not believe that the attack would have occurred in Karrada today

if it had been implemented. It is the easiest area to protect and was the first area that was planned to be secured with the project. Why hasn't the project been implemented?

I do not know how to answer him. My dear reader, you might be able to help me..."

(signed)

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi

(*The Arabic phrase 'alayhi as-salām (عليه السلام), translating to "peace be upon him" is a du'ood or conventionally complimentary phrase attached to the names of the prophets in Islam. The English phrase is also given the abbreviation **pbuh** in writing)

Cornerstones Update

Melanie Stanley from Peace and Social concerns reports the Cornerstones Food Bank continues to need donations. Non perishable food can be brought to the Meeting House and Melanie and Tim Stanley will deliver them to the Elden Street center every week. She also tells us that the Cornerstones Neighborhood Resource center needs volunteers. There are both one time and continuing need opportunities. You can email Melanie at ridingfree2@gmail.com or look at <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/volunteer/>.

345 years of BYM!

--Cathy Tunis

2016 BYM Annual Session report to Herndon Friends – August 14, 2016

The 345th Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting was held August 1-7, at Hood College in Frederick, MD. This was the first year on the Hood campus and things went even better than hoped. Because Hood is in the geographic center of BYM and near the major metropolitan areas, attendance was up to about 400, from 325 last year. Many people were also happy to have a beautifully landscaped campus with large trees and green spaces, no hills, and classic well-maintained buildings. Two golf carts were rented to deliver attendees between buildings, when walking was an issue. As a member of the

Program Committee, the planning committee, I was responsible for scheduling workshops and worship sharing groups, which involved many trips between buildings each day. I was grateful for the golf cart drivers who picked me up more than once! Friends were also very pleased with the quality of the food, the vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options, and the lovely dining room with large windows and round tables.

The theme was Discernment and Action in Spiritual Community. The Plenary speaker on Tuesday night was Christina Repoley, the founder of Quaker Voluntary Service. QVS is a year-long service program for Young Adults interested in Quaker spirituality and social change. Similar to the model of Jesuit Volunteer Corps, volunteers live in a community house and are paired with a professional service organization. Programs have been set up in three cities – Philadelphia, Boston, and Portland, OR. On Friday evening, the Carey Memorial Lecture was given by George Lakey, a Quaker activist, who has led non-violent actions to bring about social change for over 50 years. Both were fascinating and engaging speakers.

The Business sessions were conducted by Ken Stockbridge, presiding clerk. Some highlights:

- Through major diversity efforts, 27% of the BYM campers (up from 3%) and 30% of the staff are now non-white. They have a recruitment program called STRIDE in three cities, including DC. A \$300,000 grant from the Shoemaker Foundation (spread out over 4 years) has made this work possible.
- The Stewardship and Finance committee has begun a comprehensive analysis of the apportionment formula. Income from apportionments amounts to \$462,200. The total budget of the Yearly Meeting is \$2,013,504.
- The Camp Catoctin bathhouse is scheduled for destruction on Labor Day weekend, with work beginning on the new one the first week in September. The new bathhouse is an extremely "green" project, with composting toilets,

waterless urinals, and two gender-neutral family-style units. You can read about it here: <http://www.bym-rsf.org/giving/catoctin-bath-house-project.html> Contributions for this project are still needed to complete the construction – they are about \$75,000 short. Would Herndon Friends consider donating to this project from our Growth and Building Fund?

- Yearly Meeting embraced the Unity with Nature Committee's call for local meetings to calculate their carbon footprint, recognizing that global warming will continue until we are generating no more carbon than nature is able to sequester.
- A proposed addition to the BYM Vision Statement from the Working Group on Racism was discussed. Final approval depends on whether or not to add the word "class" in the first sentence. The proposed statement reads, "We Friends are of many skin colors, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, and stages of life, seeking the Spirit's presence in our lives, and in our life together. We aspire to include greater diversity of Friends across all differences, recognizing that some of us have experienced oppression and marginalization in ways that others have not.
- A report from the ad hoc Healthy Organization and Purposeful Evolution (HOPE) committee proposed some structural changes. 1) Create committee clusters to increase communication and coordination and decrease duplication of effort among committees of similar focus. 2) Adjust BYM staffing to increase ability for staff to focus on Meeting support and Volunteer support, by revising the Administrative Manager position to an

Associate General Secretary position, convert the part-time bookkeeping position to a full time administrative assistant position. 3) Provide additional training to staff in current positions. 4) Create an Executive Committee of officers and clerks to establish an “executive function” within the Yearly Meeting. The report was laid over for further consideration.

- Ned Stowe, Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, was introduced as the new General Secretary of BYM. Bob Rhudy, Patapsco, was thanked for his service as Interim General Secretary, during the year it took to revise the job description, conduct the search for candidates, and make the final selection. Ned worked at FCNL for many years and most recently oversaw the extensive building construction project at Sandy Spring.
- Nominating Committee highlights: Harry Tunis was appointed to another three year year as Clerk of Trustees. This position means that he also serves ex-officio on the Development Committee and the Finance working group.
- And from the Naming Committee report at Interim Meeting, Cathy Tunis was appointed to serve a three year term on Search Committee. The Search committee nominates the Yearly Meeting officers, the Supervisory Committee, and the Nominating Committee.
- Jodi Beatty continues her term on the Peace & Social Concerns committee and Margaret Fisher serves as clerk of the Right Relationship with Animals working group.
- What committee would **you** like to serve on? It is a wonderful way to meet and get to know Friends from other

Meetings and develop your spiritual life beyond the world of Herndon Friends.

Unexpected Rewards

--Harry Tunis

Over the past few months Tim McVay and I have become good buddies. Tim is the person who is giving us \$500 as a thank you for the use of our parking lot during the construction of the new fire station. He lives way over in Southern Maryland and commutes every day.

He and I spoke early on when the fire house project began. He asked if his crew could use our parking lot as a spot for his crew from Biscayne Contractors. (The bank and the funeral home said “no” and the plumber doesn't have the room). I said that we are part of Herndon community and would be pleased to be a part of making the building project go well. I saw him regularly over the past few months as I was doing yard work at the meetinghouse.

When a big tree limb fell on our yard from the one tree we have, he offered to have his crew take it over to the dumpster to get rid of it... which he did. He has offered to take me through the building whenever I want.

He also asked about Quakerism. He is probably the first person I've met who already knew the tough times that Friends had in England and how we came to the U.S. I talked about the meeting. I said the sign says "All Welcome" and we mean it. He liked that.

A few weeks earlier one of the truck drivers (a subcontractor of Biscayne) gave John Dyck \$100 in cash to support our good work.

Over the past few weeks I've also met representatives from Dominion Power and the Town of Herndon (who are involved in the construction) who couldn't thank me enough for allowing them to install the electrical unit on the edge of our property.

All these nice stories!!

Unspoken Messages

When we bought our house in Reston 5 years ago it came complete with a front and side yard carpeted in English Ivy. It was green, it was low maintenance, it covered the ground in the shade and prevented erosion of our hillside. But English Ivy is an invasive, non native plant so we decided it had to go. (This has always seemed a little elitist to me, a little anti-immigrant as it were.)

But we went to work on the ivy. This involved pulling and cutting, layers of newspaper covered by mulch. And in just a year or two, it seems to be mostly gone. It still requires maintenance because the neighbors still have a substantial crop, but it grows slowly and the little shoots are easy to pull up (and we built a wall: a row of landscaping timbers to mark off our property from the neighbors and protect our borders.)

However, that big mulch bed now is a haven for weeds. Crabgrass and Japanese siltgrass and chicory and things I don't recognize.

I went away for a couple of weeks the end of July and when I got back my former ivy bed was a mass of weeds: some grass a good 4 feet high, dense crabgrass, and spreading siltgrass. After spending many hours in the hot sun one Saturday I ended up with a recognizable bed, itchy arms and about 50 pounds of noxious plants. I also had a thought about the problems in the Middle East. When you go into an environment and rip out a system that has evolved to fit over a long time because it doesn't suit your taste, you shouldn't be surprised if you don't magically get just the kind of system you wanted. If you cut and run, you just get the weeds.

THINKING ABOUT RACE –

White Fragility

(Description of a workshop offered at the White Privilege Conference (WPC17) by Robin DiAngelo, Director of Equity for Sound Generations in King County/Seattle:)

that builds our expectations for racial comfort while at the same time lowering our tolerance for racial stress. I term this lack of racial stamina 'White Fragility.' White Fragility is a state in which even a minimal challenge to white entitlement and the white worldview becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves including argumentation, invalidation, silence, withdrawal and claims of being 'attacked' and not feeling 'safe.' These moves function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and maintain white supremacy. In so doing, our freedom is limited and the movement we need to create racial equity and justice is blocked. This workshop will provide an overview of white fragility and the perspectives and skills needed for white people to build their racial stamina and re-imagine more equitable and just norms and practices."

- See more at:

<http://www.overcomingracism.org/resources/White-Fragility.pdf>. The WPC17 took place in Philadelphia, April 14-17, 2016. Eleven Quaker organizations were part of the 14-member Host Team, and five others were sponsors at various levels, including Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Friends General Conference had invited the WPC to Philadelphia. About a dozen people from BYM attended the conference, which had an attendance of 2500 people, 500 of whom were Quakers and 260 of whom were high school students.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR). The WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

"White people in the U.S. live in the context of white supremacy. This context provides an insular, racially privileged social environment

Brief Notes

The kids are home from Camp, but it's not too late for one last family Camp experience. BYM is hosting three family camps this fall. First up is Shiloh from 9/23 through 9/25.

A program coordinator will plan camp activities for Saturday morning, afternoon and evening and Sunday morning—and there will be work projects as well. Similar family camp weekends are planned for October 7-9 at Catocin, and 10/21-23 at Opequon. Registration information from Jane Meginson at janemegginson@bym-rsf.org or phone 717-481-4870

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