

# The Herndon Light



8th Month 13, 2017 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 245

- 8/20 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 9/3 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
- 9/8-9/10 BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat—see article elsewhere in newsletter for details
- 9/16 BYM Retreat for Clerks of Committees Langley Hill
- 9/17 – Adult Discussion 9:00 AM “The Gathered Meeting,” a Pendle Hill pamphlet by Steven Davison
- 9/17 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 9/21-10/1 Young Friends Conference Goose Creek
- 9/21-10/1 Catoctin Quaker Camp 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend
- 10/1 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
- 10/8 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9:00 AM
- 10/14 BYM 10<sup>th</sup> Month Interim Meeting Homewood Meeting Baltimore

## Query Five: Education

### Queries

*How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry with a loving and understanding attitude?*

*What effort are we making to be better acquainted with Quaker faith and practices and the beliefs of other faiths?*

*Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries, and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere?*

*Do we also see nature as a teacher and a guide?*

*Do I strive to develop my physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching my Divinely given potential?*

*How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?*

Advices (excerpt)

Seek for ourselves and for our children the full development of God’s gifts, which is true

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](mailto:tmccormally@ffpcs.com). Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Meg Wallace **WEBSITE AT** <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/herndon-friends-meeting>

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 [AbbeyComptonisHere@gmail.com](mailto:AbbeyComptonisHere@gmail.com); or Priscilla Chamlee at [dandpchamlee@gmail.com](mailto:dandpchamlee@gmail.com); or Fred Cresson at [cresson4@verizon.net](mailto:cresson4@verizon.net), or Stacey LaRoy at [staceybear@laroyfamily.com](mailto:staceybear@laroyfamily.com) or Margaret Rogers at [margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com)

education. Education continues throughout life; our communities are strengthened when we all share its opportunities and privileges. Be ready at all times to receive fresh light from whatever quarter it may come; approach new theories with discernment.

Education not only fosters individual growth, community responsibility, and a knowledge of God’s world, but also a sense of wonder at continuing revelation in this changing universe. When religious education is practiced in the home, all members participate in family silence, in prayer, in readings from the Bible and other religious works, and in family discussions. Our youth develop a sensitivity to God and an appreciation of the wonders of the world when we set an example in our own lives. Thus children can learn how God works through and among all of us as exemplified in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Friends are encouraged to foster educational activities that bring all age groups together. Conferences, workshops, and retreats, organized by Monthly, Quarterly, or Yearly Meetings or other Friends' bodies, provide contacts with a variety of Friends' viewpoints. Encourage adult members to follow their leadings in seeking education of all kinds. Be sensitive in offering the financial assistance sometimes needed to take advantage of such opportunities.

### ***Meeting for Business 8/13/17***

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 20 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m. on August 13, 2017, with a reading of the 5th Query on Education, from the 2013 edition, Second Reading, of *Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting*.

**Finance** - Liz Willson gave the Treasurer's report and distributed the Budget Update, which is attached. We are about 65% percent through the year and have received 78% of the contributions budgeted. Liz made copies of the VANCO forms for automatic deductions from individual members' accounts, to be used for new contributions or to make changes to current donations. Overall we have about \$782,000 in total assets. Liz also reviewed the apportionments for BYM from last year and the newly approved amount for 2018, \$11,755. She reminded Friends to report contributions in kind, by submitting receipts for items purchased and clearly indicating if they are to be considered a contribution-in-kind or are for reimbursement. All the gifts to Friends organizations and others that we support have been distributed. The only one on hold is the contribution to Friends United Meeting, which awaits Meeting approval. Liz also reminded us that several large capital expenses are upcoming, including the landscaping project, electrical work, and a possible new roof.

**House & Grounds** – Harry Tunis reported on the electrical work which will be started this next week, hoping that the cabin will be wired for electricity for the beginning of First Day School. Dave Wilkins reported on the proposal to install an assisted listening system. Dave described several types of assisted listening system: induction loops,

perimeter loop, or an FM listening system, and three different microphone options. Dave also mentioned that a demo system could be experimented with to see what works best under our conditions. A complicating factor is the noisy air-handling system which Friends agreed needs to be investigated first. The air handling investigation was referred to H&G and Dave will let us know when he has a system he can demo for us. Friends agreed that Dave should treat us as he would any other customer, including any expenses incurred for investigating the alternative solutions. Dave assured us that his installation costs for whatever we decide on would include that.

**Ministry & Oversight** – Inga Erickson gave an update on the proposal for an Advancement and Outreach Committee. The revised proposal was sent out to the listserve, feedback was received from several members, and workshops were attended at BYM Annual Session. The committee will meet and receive input from anyone who has something to share. Cat reviewed the process we have used so far.

**Guidelines for the Listserve** – Cathy Tunis distributed the guidelines that were developed by the moderators last May. Every effort will be made to limit messages to announcements of activities or events, planned or sponsored by the Meeting or related organizations. The list is not intended as a forum for personal commentary or discussions.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on October 8, 2017.

-Submitted by Cathy Tunis, Recording Clerk

### ***Landscaping Committee Report***

We had our official site visit from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Kay Fowler, Cathy and Harry Tunis, and Margaret Fisher met with them on Thursday 8/10, and with Karyn Thompson, the landscape designer from Lush Landscapes. The purpose of the site visit is to make sure that our plans are designed to perform properly for at least ten years. (By accepting the grant, we are agreeing to maintain the work for that long). The representatives approved our plan and also suggested that we consider applying right now for a second matching grant for up to \$3500 for a rain garden to collect water from the south side of the building. Since we have more than

enough square footage to qualify for the original conservation landscaping grant, there is enough separate land to also do a rain garden. Karyn is optimistic that Lush Life can include a rain garden and still bring the meeting's share in at the \$5500 level. Since the meeting had approved up to \$9000 to make allowance for the possibility that the grant would fall through, we do have some wiggle room. The states within the Chesapeake watershed are under federal mandate to reduce their run-off by a significant amount by 2020. They are therefore eager to find land such as ours that is suitable for these projects. Individual landowners are also eligible, but it is especially helpful that our property is in such a visible location for inspiring others to act as well.

Lily also mentioned that we could qualify for a separate matching grant of up to \$20,000 for a bioretention area. This is something we could consider for collecting water from our parking lot. Underground rain cubes would be an option in that case.

--Margaret Fisher

## ***FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Advocacy Team***

Our Herndon/Northern Virginia Advocacy Team has been underway since March and is now approaching its final training session. With an average attendance of 12-15 members, including Herndon Friends, one each from Langley Hill and Alexandria Meetings, and several non-Friends very much in tune with Quaker values, the team is fully committed to making face-to-face lobby visits with our congressional representatives and Senators. The FCNL legislative priority for 2017 is reining in military spending and our first visits will be around this issue. As we build relationships with our representatives and their staffs, we will be poised to carry on with other issues as they arise.

The first lobby visit took place on August 8 in the Sterling office of Barbara Comstock, representative for the 10<sup>th</sup> District. The team for that visit included Amy Shinkman, Meg Wallace, Jack Shinkman, Margaret Fisher, and Susan Joyce (Langley Hill).



The full story on the Advocacy Team can be viewed on the HFM website:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/herndon-friends-meeting/announcements/hfm-sponsors-fcnl-advocacy-team>

## ***BYM Yearly Meeting Report***

***--Cathy Tunis***

Annual Session was held August 1-6, 2017, at Hood College in Frederick, Md. Attending from Herndon Friends were Margaret Fisher (who led a workshop and an interest group), Harry Tunis (Clerk of BYM Trustees who reported to the body and clerked a Trustee meeting); John Smallwood, who was part of part of a four-person panel in a workshop to address the question "Who is Jesus"; Cathy Tunis (Search Committee member), who attended all the Business sessions and workshops on Outreach and Soulful Singing, and Laurie McPherson, a first time attender, who particularly enjoyed the plenary speakers.

Tuesday evening was the panel discussion on Ending the School to Prison Pipeline. Panelists included: Phil Caroom, former Maryland Juvenile Court judge and member of Annapolis Friends; Eddie Conway, founder of a prison literacy project and former inmate; Natalie Finegar, Baltimore City Public Defender; and Vince Taylor, former Juvenile Probation Officer and founder of a school called "Restorative Justice Circles." The discussion was wide ranging and included thoughts on the root causes of juvenile crimes and what is being done to help end the cycle. One of the main problems in Baltimore and other places is the criminalizing of offenses in public schools, due to the presence of police officers in the schools.

The Friday Carey lecture was presented by Shan Cretin, outgoing General Secretary of the

American Friends Service Committee. She highlighted her years of working for justice in various capacities with stories of her experiences, focusing on the challenges that arise from race, poverty, and privilege. One poignant story was from her early years working in the black community of Los Angeles and being told by a Black Panther that she needed to work on fixing the problems of race and prejudice in her own community and to leave his community to take care of itself.

Some highlights from the Business sessions:

- A statement from the Unity with Nature committee requesting that all Friends refrain from accepting plastic bags at the point of purchase, in all stores, not just grocery stores. Plastic bags are made of polyethylene which is a petroleum product. Production contributes to air pollution and energy consumption. It takes 1000 years for polyethylene bags to break down. The amount of petroleum used to make 1 plastic bag would drive a car about 11 meters.
- Stewardship and Finance committee reported that although it is normal and customary for them to present an Operating Budget and a Capital Budget for 2018 at Annual Session, they would not be doing so this year. They will further discern how to address several issues and bring the budgets to the Fall Interim Meeting on October 14. In short, although the original budget reports for 2015 and 2016 showed that total revenues exceeded total expenses in both years, an auditing review showed that some increases in restricted contributions for the Catoctin Bathhouse, grant income, and investment income were included in the operating budget as revenue and should not have been. The goal is to create a balanced budget for 2018 that is transparent with regards to the treatment of operating income and expenses, as well as income and expenses for capital projects.
- The Catoctin Bathhouse was completed on time and put to use for this summer's camp sessions. A total of \$433,000 was donated for the project and another \$340,000 in Friendly loans was received. The loans were made by 8 individuals and one Monthly Meeting at an average interest rate of 2.5%. The last payment on these loans will be due in 2022.
- An unprecedented number of visitors from other Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations attended the Business Sessions – about 25 people – from all over the US and from Kenya. Monthly Meetings are encouraged to invite travelling ministers from

Friends World Committee to visit with us.

- The Faith and Practice Process Clarification committee reported on their work and recommended that the new standing Faith and Practice committee (not yet appointed) would propose changes, additions, or deletions to Faith and Practice in sections and show how they differ from the approved 1988 edition. While some Meetings have started using the 2013 edition, it is not the approved edition. Reprinting will only occur on an annual basis when there are significant changes that have been approved by Business Meeting. The online version will be kept current with all approved changes.
- New developments at the 2017 Friends United Meeting Triennial - The current Clerk is from Great Plains Yearly Meeting. The clerk and most of the current Board members are considering how to include LGBTQ individuals in all functions of FUM. In fact, one of the Anchor Groups (like a workshop) at the Triennial was led by Riley Robinson, our former General Secretary and a gay man.
- The combined Camp Property Management and Camping Program committees are seeking discernment on the future of Opequon Quaker Camp. After much deliberation, they have decided to explore options for purchasing a different site for the camp. The current site is leased and will not be available for leasing or purchase after the current lease expires. The committees are reluctant to make any capital improvements to leased property and the camp facilities are deteriorating. The committees would like Friends throughout BYM, both Monthly Meetings and individuals, to consider the factors and share their thoughts with the committee. Further information is in the full report.

### ***BYM Minute on Korea***

“Baltimore Yearly Meeting (“BYM”) of the Religious Society of Friends (“Quakers”) urges U.S. leaders to resist any temptation to a military strike against North Korea.

The use of military force on the Korean peninsula would cause massive loss of life and other horrific consequences to Koreans and other nations' people including our own. Over 100,000 Americans reside in South Korea, including thousands of civilians. Such a war, especially nuclear war, also would do terrible, long-term damage to the world's ecosystem. As with the war in Iraq, an attack on North Korea would have unintended consequences.

Only continued patience, diplomacy and nonmilitary interactions hold the promise for true peace-building and a better future for the Korean peninsula. Our nation must reject the false promises of war and threats of war.

The BYM region of Quakers include more than 52 worshipping communities in four states (Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia with attendance of more than 7,000. Quakers have supported peaceful resolution of conflicts for more than 350 years, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, participating in establishment of the United Nations and other practical, ongoing conflict resolution organizations. Consistent with Friends' historic Peace Testimony, we "*utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever.*"

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*Approved by Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Quakers) of the Religious Society of Friends, during Annual Sessions at Frederick, Maryland on 8/6/17 . This minute is posted on the FCNL website, where you can use their tools to send this to your representatives.*

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/minute-by-baltimore-yearly-meeting-as-to-consideration-of-u-s-renewed-military-action-against-north-korea-989>

## ***BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat***

(From BYM Flyer)

BYM invites Friends from across Baltimore Yearly Meeting for the fall Spiritual Formation Retreat at the beautiful Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, West Virginia (<http://priestfield.org>)

The fall retreat is a welcome respite from one's busy life and offers plenty of time and space for spiritual reflection, renewal, and revelation.

Though we are all pilgrims taking different roots to the same destination, it is nice to occasionally share the experience with others. The fall retreat is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

To register visit: <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/spiritform/>

**Registration Deadline: August 28, 2017**

## ***BYM Working Group on Racism:***

**Black and Proud. Even if Strangers Can't Tell,** by Rebecca Carroll, **New York Times**, 4/3, 2017

"Being black in America has historically been determined by whether or not you look black to nonblack people. This keeps racism operational. Brown and black skin in this country can invite a broad and freewheeling range of bad behavior — from job discrimination to a child being shot dead

in the street. For my son, though, being black in America is about more than his skin color. It's about power, confidence, culture and belonging.

"When my son first started to black identify at about 5 or 6 years old, an acquaintance of ours asked my husband, in my presence, if he felt like we were 'depriving' our son of his 'white side.' My husband, a sociology professor and the author of two books on the failure of housing and school desegregation in the United States, said: 'If my parents had instilled any Italian culture in me, I might want to share that with my son. But if you're talking about general whiteness, there's nothing there to pass down.'

"This acquaintance, it seemed, was suggesting that by encouraging our son to embrace his blackness, we were depriving him of something bigger and greater than the already big and great benefit of white privilege. That my son sees more power in centering his blackness over exploiting whatever white privilege he may ultimately be afforded is a thing of glory."

(The BYM WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, [david.etheridge@verizon.net](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net).)

## ***BYM Clerks Retreat at Langley Hill***

(From BYM Website)

The clerks of BYM Committees and Working Groups— past, present, and future — are invited to gather on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm for a day of worship and preparation for the new committee year. There will be time to worship, share information about the role and tasks of a clerk, and especially to share knowledge and wisdom with each other. Friends are invited to bring questions to explore, and insights about committee life and clerking to share. The group will look at the nuts and bolts of clerking a BYM committee, including such different things as recognizing and nurturing gifts of committee members, as well as using internet and computer technology to connect with one another, and working with BYM staff. The focus will be on how to keep committee members and the committee spiritually centered and vital as they serve the Yearly Meeting and local Meetings.

*Brief Notes*

*Pendle Hill Conference:*

Social Justice through Economic Resistance A conference for inspiration, education, networking, and action.  
September 21-24, 2017 (Thursday evening through Sunday noon). Register on the Pendle Hill website

FCNL Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute Washington DC November 2-5, 2017 Register on FCNL website

*Herndon Friends Meeting*  
*660 Spring Street*  
*Herndon, VA 20170*