

# The Herndon Light



2nd Month 2, 2020 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 264

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 16 | Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Meeting for Worship is 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. with brief hospitality before and after, at Bealeton Depot in front of Fauquier County Library, 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton. |
| February 16 | 9 a.m. First Hour discussion - Fred Cresson will share his spiritual journey.  |

## Query: Home and Family

- *Do you regularly seek God's guidance?*
- *Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt?*
- *Do you allow time for family worship and spiritual exploration, taking care to include both the very young and very old?*
- *How do you take care that commitments outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention the family needs for its health and well-being?*
- *How does the Meeting support families of all kinds in their attempts to improve communication, family life, and the rearing of children in an atmosphere of love?*
- *Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally?*
- *Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously?*

Friends responded out of the silence. One Friend spoke of the many families who start coming to Meeting to find a place to raise their children in a faith community, but later drop away because their children move on.

The best thing we can do for our children is to make the Meeting a part of our life and who we are as a family.

Another found the queries depressing, a long string of reproaches.

Questions are an important way of thinking about things and often bring clarity.

Faith is not just attending Meeting (or any church), but should be part of a larger practice of how we lead our lives. That practice may be meditation or gardening or whatever brings us closer to God.

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 Jay McClendon. E-mail [bluejay825@gmail.com](mailto:bluejay825@gmail.com) Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Stacey LaRoy. Correspondence and contributions can be sent to PO Box 88 Herndon, VA 20172 WEBSITE <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 Priscilla Chamlee at [dandpchamlee@gmail.com](mailto:dandpchamlee@gmail.com); or Fred Cresson at [cresson4@verizon.net](mailto:cresson4@verizon.net), or Margaret Rogers at [margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com), or Bert Curtis at [bertedits@gmail.com](mailto:bertedits@gmail.com)

## **Advices**

Our Meetings and communities are composed of persons who live in many kinds of home situations. Our home life is enriched when we embrace with tender regard the needs and abilities of all members and their unique contributions. In the eyes of our children, in the loving expression among adults, in the concern we have for the well-being of all in the Meeting family, we feel God's love at work on earth.

Families are strengthened when we live our testimonies: engaging in various forms of stewardship; practicing equality and being aware of its limitations; living with integrity; pursuing simplicity in all its complexities; and finding the satisfaction of a peaceful approach to the world. As we strive to create the peaceable kingdom at home we need to be particularly careful about anger and its expression. Stressful situations need to be addressed openly and lovingly. Participation of all family members in discussions and decisions regarding joint family possessions and activities helps children develop judgment not only in their personal decisions and the decision-making process, but also with respect to time values and the worth of the activities themselves.

Meetings should be aware of situational stresses encountered by families whose members have special needs because of physical or mental illness, developmental disability, addiction, or handicap. These families may require extra loving support and sensitivity to their needs.

We need to be mindful of those who live alone, for frequently the Meeting community is their family. We need to be aware of circumstances such as illness, the infirmities of age, or unusual stress, in which those living alone may require assistance or companionship.

## **Meeting for Business 02/02/20**

The 27 Friends introduced themselves. Clerk **Inga Erickson** reviewed the agenda.

**Cathy Tunis** briefly summarized the Minutes from the prior Meeting for Business.

**Inga** spoke about the Voices she read at the last Meeting for Business, which included a quote from a speech by Sojourner Truth.

**Inga** discovered that the passage was rewritten by Francis Gage using Southern slave dialect and this incorrect version has been perpetuated. She then read the accurate quote, which shows the distinct voice of Sojourner Truth.

**Inga** apologized for inadvertently perpetuating racism and has forwarded this new information to the BYM office.

The corrected version has been referred to the *Faith and Practice* revision committee.

**Inga** reminded Friends to speak to the Clerk and wait to be recognized before speaking. Meeting for Business is not like a fast train speeding down the track, but needs to move slowly enough that we can each climb onboard.

## **Announcements**

BYM Camp scholarships: \$350 is available, per child, per session, regardless of need.

**Donor letters** for 2019 tax purposes will be arriving soon from the Treasurer, **Terence McCormally**. If there is a discrepancy, please inform Terence.

**Sandwich making** for the Embury Rucker Shelter will occur next week, even though

it corresponds with the Women's Retreat when many will not be at Meeting. Marguerite Miller will pick up the sandwich making ingredients and other volunteers not attending the Retreat will be needed to make the sandwiches.

### ***Annual Sessions "Pay as Led" program***

**Harry Tunis** explained the new way of charging for Annual Session that is being considered, asking people to pay what they can afford, either more or less than the true cost. **Harry** serves on a BYM subcommittee working on this issue.

### ***House and Grounds Update***

**Harry** gave an update on the roof and solar panels project.

1. There are two amendments to the approved budget for the metal roof and gutter system to be installed by Northern Virginia Roofing. The first involves an additional expense for the inclusion of Gutter Guards, (\$878.50) which were not included in the earlier presentation. These will mean that no one will have to get on a ladder to get the leaves out of the gutters. The second involves including the price of the metal for the lower roof over the kitchen (\$3749) which was omitted in the estimate to the great distress of the NVR estimator. The new total for approval is \$38,451.69. (The earlier approved amount was \$33,158.40) (In general the cost of metal is about three times the cost of asphalt.) **The Meeting approved this increased cost.**
2. One of the items in the 2018 master plan for capital improvement was the reworking of the brick walkway next to the parking lot so that it is level and easier to navigate

especially when slippery. The job will reuse the existing bricks. The bricks on the edge of the path will be set in concrete which will help the other bricks stay tighter together. This new surface will require less weeding. The work can be done in March or earlier if we have warmer weather. The expense to approve is \$2800. **Approved.**

3. Another item from the 2018 master plan is to paint the interior of the building which has only been done once since the initial painting in 1995. Cracks in the drywall will be repaired. The walls of the bathrooms will be repainted. We may even paint the area below the chair rail in the meeting room a different shade of white to make the room seem more cozy. The expense to approve is \$2900. The work may be done early in one of the weeks in February. A question arose about the 25-year-old wallpaper in the baby room. That wallpaper does provide color and interest for young children and it would be nice to retain something similar. Enlisting young Friends to do some of the painting was suggested. **Friends agreed that the painting should be done by professionals, but that the baby room could be decorated by Young Friends as a service project.**
4. On Tuesday, **Margaret Fisher** and **Harry** met with the Town of Herndon's Chris Garcia, who is the representative to the Herndon Preservation Review Board. Also attending were Wyatt Thorpe and Angeline Hannachi from Prospect Solar. As a result, we have a better sense of the review process.

Wyatt and Angeline will be working on a draft of the proposal for our review then submission to the Board. We are hoping to meet the deadline of February 10. If everything appears in order, then there will be a working session with the Preservation Review Board on March 4 and a decision will be made at the meeting of the Review Board on March 18. Our challenge is to show that the architectural integrity of the building has not been changed and that there is extremely low visibility of the solar panels from the street.

### ***House and Grounds Committee***

#### ***2019 Annual Report***

**Andrew LaRoy** read the report.

### ***Greening Working Group (under the care of House and Grounds)***

#### ***2019 Annual Report***

This report included the Landscaping subcommittee projects. **Margaret Fisher** read the report.

### ***Peace and Social Concerns***

#### ***2019 Annual Report***

**Tim Stanley** gave the report.

### ***April Meeting for Business falls on Easter***

The usual day for Meeting for Business conflicts with Easter so the decision was made to reschedule Meeting for Business to the first First Day of April, and postpone the usual potluck until Easter, the second First Day of April.

### ***Hospitality Committee***

#### ***2019 Annual Report***

**Cat Wilkins** read the report.

### ***FCNL at the Meetinghouse***

**Katherine Cole** reminded Friends that everyone is invited to attend the first Wednesday evening of the month meeting of the Advocacy Team at the meetinghouse at 7 p.m.

Also, there will be a meeting to prepare a list of our suggested legislative priorities for FCNL for the next Congressional term, 2021-2022. This threshing session will be held on February 22 at the meetinghouse.

A simple vegetarian meal will be served at 6 p.m., and the meeting will end no later than 8:30 p.m.

### ***Card from Jeanne Snyder***

**Jeanne** was instrumental in our Meeting in the 1980-1990s and has kept in touch with many of us after her move to Boulder, Colorado. She expressed her thanks for our keeping in touch and told us that we were her “favorite Meeting.”

**Kim Glazer** has maintained the practice of sending Christmas cards to Friends who have moved away.

### ***Sandwich Volunteers***

Members of the Young Friends First Day School class made sandwiches for Embury Rucker Shelter this month. Here they are with their friendly “adult” presences.



## **Annual Reports**

### **House & Grounds 2019 Annual Report**

In 2019 House & Grounds continued to move forward with items from the long range plan completed in 2018.

Concrete repairs were completed on the front steps and the sidewalk between the side door and Lynn Street.

We worked in close cooperation with the landscaping committee and contractor to re-landscape the parking lot side of the meeting house.

We also worked closely with the Greening Committee to get estimates for chimney repairs, roof replacement and a photovoltaic (solar) power system. These plans were approved by the business meeting in January 2020.

The committee determined to mark two spaces in our parking lot for Friends with special needs and this action was approved by the monthly business meeting. Our attempts to find appropriate pre-made signs were unsuccessful and the (now former) H&G clerk volunteered to seek a reasonably priced source of custom signs. He intends to proceed on that front in the upcoming weeks.

Ten volunteers from the house and grounds committee continued to rotate cleanup duties after

First Day meetings, keeping the rugs vacuumed, the bathrooms clean and supplies properly stocked.

**Tim Stanley** graciously continued his volunteer work to keep our lawn mowed.

We held an indoor work day in January in which we gave areas not normally covered

by the weekly cleanings such as cleaning the windows and repainting the bathroom ceiling tiles.

The clerk would especially like to thank Harry Tunis for doing as much (or more) work than the clerk even though he is not even named as co-clerk!

### **Greening Working Group – 2019 Clerk’s Report**

**Participants: Bill Benson, Katherine Cole, Bert Curtis, Keith Curtis, Margaret Fisher (clerk), Kay Fowler, Andrew LaRoy, Selena Leary, Paul Murphy, Tim McDermott, Jim Nagle, Connie Ortiz, Margaret Rogers, Harry Tunis**

The *ad hoc* Greening Committee has been renamed the Greening Working Group under the House and Grounds Committee. Membership will continue to be self-selected, and anyone who wants to participate may do so at any time. In April, we proposed two minutes which were accepted by Meeting for Business.

The first declared our commitment to prioritize spending to support the environment. The second instituted a policy of avoiding single-use products whenever possible. For Earth Day, we organized the annual plant exchange and a City Nature Challenge event in which several people took photos of wild plants and animals on our property and uploaded them to iNaturalist. We investigated solar panels for the meetinghouse roof and developed a recommendation to bring to Meeting for Business in January 2020.

**The Landscaping and Habitat subcommittee** continues to work on our gardens to make them friendly to wildlife. We arranged for a second major landscaping project using native plants,

designed by Lea Wolf and installed by Manuel Rivas and his crew from Northern Virginia Property Services. Thanks to an automatic sprinkler system provided by Paul Murphy, the new plants survived the hot summer, though we may have lost some shrubs from the 2017 project at the front of the building. So far, we have identified 95 species of animals using our property. Their photos can be seen on the Herndon Friends Meeting iNaturalist project.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/herndon-friends-meeting>

For the first time, monarch butterflies reproduced using our three species of milkweeds, stripping the leaves off the Common Milkweed in a very gratifying way.

### ***Peace and Social Concerns 2019 End of Year Report***

Herndon Friends Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee thrived during 2019. Members continued valued programs, initiatives and explored new ways to address social issues. Trying to face violence, injustice, and environmental devastation takes all of us and this committee really came together to do what we can do. The notes below attempt to capture some of the work:

**Capital PRIDE** – Saturday was the parade and BYM met at Friends Meeting of Washington. Sunday, June 9, noon to 5, was the festival.

**MINUTE from P&SC** – The committee united in funding the 2019 fees for participation in Capital PRIDE, and plans to participate next year.

**Food Ministry** –members brought in food for the food bank at Cornerstones.

Thanksgiving baskets were prepared for 60 families on Nov. 17.

**NRA protests** – the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month. Several members of our Herndon Friends Meeting regularly attend these.

### ***Virginia Interfaith Center Public Policy Day of All People***

Six members travelled to Richmond to lobby on:

- Medicaid
- Minimum wage
- Equal Rights Amendment for Women

**FCNL Advocacy Team** meets on the first Wednesday of each month – first hour is our advocacy team and second hour is a national forum via conference call. Planning to meet with senators and representatives once a quarter.

### ***Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions***

The committee considered a request that HFM become official members of this organization and make a small donation. This interfaith organization is in Fairfax County working specifically on climate issues to advocate with county on these issues.

### ***Minute***

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions partners together with faith communities to develop local solutions to climate change. The Peace and Social Concerns supports that Herndon Friends Meeting becomes an official member of Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, and makes an annual donation to this group.

### ***ADAMS Center Visit***

Muslim and Quaker women met on February 24 at our meetinghouse to get to know each other and share information about their faith.

**Building Community** - Paul Murphy went to ADAMS Center regarding ornaments and to build connections between the ADAMS Center and HFM.

**Ornaments** – bright brass designs that will represent the “Inward Light” (Farsi). The profits go to MCCP – Medical Care For Children Partnership Foundation.

**BYM Networking Day for Peace** – sessions on immigration, mental health/criminal justice, slow progress from slavery to emancipation, and nuclear war. Margaret Fisher and the BYM working group shared a vegan lunch. Encourage others to attend in the future.

**Friendly Eight/First Hour Discussion** – Margaret Fisher brought two books to the committee, *A Plea For the Animals* and *Eating Animals* to consider for discussion in Friendly Eight or First Hour discussion. Idea added to discuss the practicality by sharing cookbooks.

**November 5** – GO VOTE! Judith Fox spoke about sending post cards to encourage voting for Democratic candidates on each Monday and Friday from 10-12 at Whole Foods in Vienna. Everyone is welcome! [networknova.org](http://networknova.org)

**Open Topics** - Conversation started about building knowledge and understanding of people who are gender neutral or non-binary. Pronoun stickers brought up to be considered to go with nametags.

## **Hospitality Committee**

### **2019 Annual Report**

#### **Purpose**

The work of the Hospitality Committee is a service-based ministry. Our purpose is to foster deeper communion within the HFM community by providing a hospitable environment where members and

attenders can share food, drink, and company.

#### **Members**

**Kindra Whomsley** (Co-Clerk)

**Cat Wilkins** (Co-Clerk)

**Priscilla Chamlee**

**Anu Das**

**Sue Huebsch**

**Paul Murphy**

**Dave Whomsley**

**Karen Williams**

**Camryn Joy Williams**

#### **Accomplishments**

The accomplishments of the Hospitality Committee fell under four areas: food and drink, Easter egg hunt, greening initiatives, and welcomings.

#### **Food and Drink**

Hospitality Committee’s primary accomplishment was supporting hospitality at rise of Meetings for Worship throughout the year. On the first Sunday of each month, the committee supported potluck through meal setup and cleanup. On non-potluck days, the committee provided coffee, fresh fruit, and various other refreshments. We also supported the Christmas Sing sweet and savory pot luck.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The Hospitality Committee with the help of the Religious Education Committee also organized the annual Easter Egg Hunt in which 11 children participated as hidens and seekers.

#### **Greening Initiatives**

Hospitality Committee continued to support greening initiatives begun in 2015. Cloth napkins, compostable items, and reusable items are used for each potluck. Following HFM’s Minute on using non-disposable items as much as possible, we also implemented the policy for weekly refreshments. We were thankful for the additional help offered in dish washing.

Most all food waste generated in the Meeting is composted in the compost ring beside the shed. These initiatives impact the supplies we buy and our setup and cleanup activities for after Meeting refreshments and potlucks.

***Welcomings***

Lastly, the Committee welcomed one new member into the Meeting: **Camryn Joy Williams.**



Herndon Friends Meeting  
660 Spring Street  
Herndon, VA 20170