

The Herndon Light



2nd Month 8, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 223

Feb 10	Happy 80th Birthday for Mary Davis—our oldest Herndon Friend!
Feb 13-15	Young Friends Conference at Homewood Meeting in Baltimore
Feb 15	Adult Discussion 9:00 AM The Peace Testimony Facilitated by Ting Yi Oei
Feb 15	Fauquier Friends Worship Group
Feb 15	Religious Education Committee Meeting at Rise of Meeting for Worship
Feb 28	Game Night for First Day School Students in Godly Play
March 1	Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
March 1	Student Peace Awards Reception 4 PM Mountainview High School, Centreville.
March 8	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9:00 AM
March 15	Fauquier Friends Worship Group
April 11	Herndon Friends Sing In 10-4 AM For details: Stacey LaRoy staceybear@alaroy.com 703 599 9390
April 19	Fauquier Friends Worship Group

Query

How do we provide young people with guidance about Quaker faith and practice?
How do we get to know and care for our children and young people as individuals?
What have we learned from the wisdom expressed by our young people
How do we share our deepest beliefs with children, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them?

Meeting For Business 2/8/2015

At 9:00 AM on First Day, 2nd Month 8th day Kim Glazer gathered 23 Friends for Meeting For Worship with Attention to Business with a reading of the Query. Friends responded out of the silence.

The meeting received the annual report of the Treasurer Devon Mahoney. Herndon Friends Meeting finished 2014 with a surplus: Collections of \$49,703 and total expenses of \$42,804. This sum includes reported in-kind expenses and contribution, but Devon acknowledged that some Friends do not provide receipts when they purchase items for the meeting (Eg stamps for the newsletter, food for sandwich making). While this generosity is appreciated, Friends are encouraged to report all in-kind donations, so the meeting has a fuller understanding of its financial picture.

Notable on the annual report was the appearance of Fauquier Friends Worship Group, established with the leading of Bonnie Stockslager. The Meeting spent \$742 on Maintenance and Supplies instead of the projected \$1500—this may be an example of the unreported in-kind donation, which skews our understanding of what it really takes to keep the Meetinghouse going. The Ministry and Oversight Committee had \$2000 left unspent in its scholarship and visitation fund (so, Parents, Make sure you claim your Camping Scholarship as described below.) The prize for accurate budgeting goes to the Religious Education Committee, which spent 1,497 of their requested \$1500. As in usual for HFM, surplus in the General Fund at the end of the year is transferred to the Growth and Building Fund, which currently amounts to \$373,967. The Capital Fund, which is used for needed maintenance and improvement to the current building reported a \$4500 expenditure for removal of the large tree at the northeast corner of the meetinghouse. Despite that, the fund has a balance of \$8192. The Family Emergency Fund was not used during 2014. The current balance is \$6063.

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**.

Lynn Witwer delivered the report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. In the last year, Friends have donated hundreds of pounds of food for the Cornerstones Food Pantry, delivered from the Meetinghouse by Melanie and Tim Stanley. The Junior Young Friends and the Elementary First Day School class continued to produce 60 bag lunches for the homeless shelter every month. The Bikes for the World Project collected 23 bicycles this summer. Bikes for the World has expanded the number of collections in this area, so that our efforts there are no longer as needed. We will lay down the Bikes for the World collection. The Christmas Ornament designed by Melanie Stanley generated more than \$250 to be donated to the Medical Care for Children's Partnership. The P&SC continues to work on ways to expand ornament sales, including considering credit card and internet sales.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been unable to keep up with the generosity of Herndon Friends. Despite increasing the number of Thanksgiving Food baskets from 20 to 40 and then 50, Friends still donated \$700 more than the \$2200 spent on the baskets. The money was donated to Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) which sponsors the Thanksgiving Food drive.

In another project, the committee helped Cornerstones develop a list of Friends who are willing to be available for emergency food or other assistance for clients identified in need by Cornerstones.

The Clerk's Appreciation:

At the close of Meeting for Business, the Clerk spoke out of the silence to reflect on the generosity and faithfulness of Friends in attending to the business of the meeting, from Hospitality, to House and Ground, to Religious Education. That faithfulness was especially expressed in the thoroughness and accuracy of the annual reports received from the Treasurer and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee; that gratitude extends to Paul Murphy for his years of work with the Ornament Sales and Bicycle Collection, to Melanie and Tim Stanley for their delivery of food collection; to Lynn Witwer and Lynn Nagle for FAP'ing the Junior Young Friends in the production of 1440 sandwiches last year,

BYM Camps and Sweet Potato Biscuits

Registration is now open for BYM Summer camps: at Opequon, Catoctin, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure. Registration can be accomplished on line at <https://bymcamps.campbrainregistration.com/>
Many Herndon Young Friends report that Quaker

camp is the highlight of their summer: a warm, welcoming, accepting community. Some Young Friends say it is a life changing experience. As a measure of support for the camping program and its value to our children, Herndon Friends Meeting provides a partial scholarship for every Young Friend who attends one of the BYM camps. Friends should contact Cat Wilkins, clerk of Ministry and Oversight Committee for information on receiving the scholarship.

Parents can receive additional camp tuition support by volunteering to work at one of the camps for a week—as a cook, or as health care aide. If a parent does that, they will learn camp songs and camp food, including Sweet Potato Biscuits, which is both.

Friends had the opportunity to sample Sweet Potato Biscuits during hospitality on 2-8-15. To hear the song, you'll have to find a Friend who's been to camp:

Sweet Potato Biscuits—the Recipe

2 cups flour
2 Tbsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
1 1/2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
1/4 cup oil
1/2 cup sugar

Combine dry ingredients. Add wet ingredients. Mix it all up well. (It will be sticky) Roll out on floured board to about 1 inch thickness. Form 2" biscuits. Bake at 425 for about 10 minutes on parchment lined sheets.

Sweet Potato Biscuits: The Song

Sweet potato biscuit, that's what I said
Sweet potato biscuit dancing through my head
I went to the cooks table asking for some bread
Found me a biscuit but the cooks was all dead

Chorus

**Sweet potato sweet potato biscuit on the run
Gotta find me biscuit gotta get me some of that
Sweet potato sweet potato biscuit on the run
Gotta find me a biscuit gotta get me some of that**

Standing on the hill since the day before last
Saw a line of biscuits stretching into the past
Jesus on the hillside you know what he said
He said take this biscuit this sweet potato bread

Chorus

Standing on the waters of the river wide
Hop on a biscuit a catch yourself a ride
Ride to the devils house all the way
Share a biscuit with the devil on judgment day

Chorus

Sweet potato sweet potato sweet potato biscuit 4x (crescendo volume: yell biscuit as loud as possible on fourth time.)

Letter from a Traveling Friend

Since Meeting for Business blessed me with a travel minute, I have been relentlessly hounding the clerks of various meetings in BYM to “invite” me to speak to them about vegetarianism. It takes time for requests like this to wend their way through committees, but I now have dates lined up at several places. I have been delivering my testimony for thirty or forty minutes about the spiritual, environmental, and health effects of our food choices and then inviting everyone into worship sharing around two queries: How does our food connect us to the rest of the living world? How can we live in unity with that world? I have come to have great respect for the power of queries. Having to think about a question gives voice to the most persuasive of all teachers: the Inner Guide.

So far, I have visited Alexandria, Patapsco, and Penn Hill Quarterly Meetings. In all cases, the reception has been very kind, if not universally accepting of my queer notions. It has been amusing to hear the objections to vegetarianism that pop up when people have not had time to think it all through. On the one hand, some people are concerned that if we don't eat farm animals, they will overrun the planet. On the other hand, there is the worry that if we don't breed farm animals to kill, they will go extinct. (I wonder what is the point of valuing a species if we do not value the individual members of that species?) One listener was concerned that if we do not have enough cows to deposit their manure on the ground, then the land which has been ruined by overgrazing will never recover. Naturally, I have not seen Quakers rise to a direct defense of the atrocities that constitute the majority of animal-raising and fishing operations nor of the catastrophic effect they have been having on the environment. But nor do I see most people rushing to avoid the actions that produce those conditions.

On my journeys and at BYM events, I have been meeting fellow travellers who hope to see a cultural shift within Quakerism in favor of a better way of living. We plan a little conclave on Saturday, February 14, 11 am to 2 pm at the home of Mary Campbell in Silver Spring. I would very much welcome the company of anyone who is interested.

I would also welcome company at any of these engagements:

Homewood (in Baltimore) Feb 15

Gunpowder (north of Baltimore) March 8

Midlothian (near Richmond) May 17

I am working on a date for Stony Run, and my request is still going through committees at Friends Meeting of Washington, Sandy Spring, Richmond, Frederick, Adelphi, and Annapolis. I have not been able to reach anyone at Charlottesville or Hopewell Center. This only leaves forty or so meetings to go! (Somehow I don't think I'll get to all of them...) Goose Creek turned me down, but I told them I would bug them again in a year anyway.

I have been especially blessed by the precious friendship of Weez, who has provided spiritual accompaniment whenever she is available and who lifts me up in my work.

The only bad thing about this experience has been that it takes me away from HFM, the most supportive and loving of all communities.

Margaret Fisher

BYM Women's Retreat: Sing Ye in the Spirit

Quaker testimony on music in worship has changed dramatically. There was a time when Quakers frowned on music as a frivolous secular diversion. In 1649, George Fox wrote, “*I was moved to cry also against all sorts of Musick, and against the Mountebanks playing tricks on their Stages, for they burdened the pure Life, and stirred up people's minds to Vanity (Journal of George Fox, 1649). But, then, he was only 25 years old.*

Years later he recognized the power and influence of music in calling out the Inner Light. At age 61, he wrote: *Now friends, who have denied the world's songs and singing; sing ye in the spirit, and with grace, making melody in your hearts to the Lord.* It's still not clear from this that he would have approved of choral singing or orchestras; maybe he wanted silent music only. This is one of the advantages of continuing revelation.

Nine Herndon Friends attended the largest ever BYM Women's on January 24th-26th, joining 167 other BYM women at Skycroft retreat center in Frederick, Maryland.

Gwen Zanin, Inga Erikson, Margaret Fisher, Amy Shinkman Weez Rothrock, Abby Compton, Stacey Laroy, Marie Brinza, and Jody Beatty participated in singing, chanting, worship sharing. The vigor of the group was represented partly in the average age of the participants, which has dropped from 60 to 40 in the last few years; five women from BYM Young Friends attended. Even a heavy snow, which kept some of the Skycroft staff from being able to make it in to work did not chill the enthusiasm. Inga Erikson led a 2 and 1/2 hour chanting workshop, and her enthusiasm was recognized by the group with her selection as clerk of the planning committee for the 2015 retreat

If that is not enough to entice potential participants, consider that accommodations are good (either a motel style room or dorm style accommodations), meals are provided by the retreat center staff, and minimal chore work means

attendees can spend time seeking collegiality and inspiration.

Young Friends Workshop

Herndon Friends played host for the BYM Young Friends Nuts and Bolts Committee for their meeting January 16-18. About 20 Young Friends arrived on Friday evening to spend the weekend in fellowship and policy discussion. Although Young Friends are self governed, they were assisted by BYM Youth Program Coordinator and FAP Allison Duncan. Max Nagle, who is one of four Young Friend Representatives on the BYM Youth Program Committee, reported that in addition to cooking, eating, taking a hike to the caboose and playing Frisbee, Young Friends worked through the committee's response to issues in another Yearly Meeting Youth Program which is having concerns about gender sorted accommodations and inappropriate behavior. After concerns some years ago about behavioral issues at Youth Conferences (Cons) BYM responded by intensifying FAP training and recognizing the responsibilities of Young Friends to self govern, making it a model for Quaker youth programs (that last sentence is the editor's opinion)

Game Nights

Religious Education is sponsoring Game Nights for First Day School students On January 31, Lynn Witwer and Kendra Whomsley were FAPs at Junior Young Friends Game Night. Katherine Cole delivered the Pizza. The next Game Night, for the younger children in the Godly Play curriculum, will be February 28th.

Peace Awards Reception

The reception to honor the 23 recipients of a Student Peace Award of Fairfax County will be 4 PM on Sunday, March 1. It will be held at the auditorium of Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville, VA 20121. The keynote speaker will be Vickie Shop, Restorative Justice Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Everyone is invited to this annual event. If you would be willing to bring a plate of finger food or to help at the reception, please arrive at 3 PM (an hour early). Margaret Fisher, 1margaret.e.fisher@gmail.com, is coordinating the reception, and she would appreciate knowing about your willingness to help.

And While You're Thinking About Peace

Ting Yi Oei is planning an adult discussion session on the Peace Testimony at 9:00 AM on February 15th at the Meetinghouse. He has suggested that Friends review the life and work of Quaker Peace Activist A.J. Muste, who was an active pacifist. You can access a 2006 Friends Journal article about Muste on line at <http://www.friendsjournal.org/j-muste-20th-century-s-most-famous-u-s-pacifist/>. (or just google "muste friends journal", it's the first hit) One quotation from the article: David McReynolds of the War Resisters League observed that Muste's Inner Light "was so central to him that his life cannot be understood without realizing that he was, even at his most political moments, acting out his religious convictions."

First Day School Clubhouse

Plans are moving ahead to purchase a pre built shed to place on the Meetinghouse parking lot to provide a clubhouse/classroom for First Day School use.

The proposed "pre-fab" building would be 12 x 16 feet, and come finished with interior walls and electrical wiring.

Meg Wallace has met with town planners and engineers and there is no structural impediment. The Bank has offered to write a letter formally confirming their willingness to let us use the bank parking lot on Sunday AM, alleviating municipal concerns about losing a portion of the parking lot. There remains a review by the Heritage Preservation Review Board of the town of Herndon. There will likely be an additional expense in upgrading the Meetinghouse Electrical service and running a line to the new building to allow for lighting, cooling and heating. The manufacturing company will need to do an inspection to assure the proposed site is sound and can be adequately leveled. No firm timeline is available.

Brief Notes

Daniel Chapter 1—the topic for First Day School BibleSMARTS Curriculum 2-8-14

- ¹¹ Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: ¹²“Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations, and deal with your servants according to what you observe.” ¹⁴ So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations.
- The Care Coordinating Committee is available for Friends in need. If you need assistance because of an illness or other emergency, contact Abby 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

From the BYM Camping Website: *“Our goal is to foster the kind of self-esteem that facilitates spiritual growth. Opportunities for such growth are created in the process of supporting campers through challenging experiences. Success in negotiating rapids or exploring artistic creativity offers a deeper strength from which to accept the challenge and risk of turning inward toward the Light. Typically, a camper goes home a more competent, confident person whose spiritual roots have deepened and whose ties to the broader Quaker community have strengthened.”*

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