

The Herndon Light



9th Month 11, 2016 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 237

- 9-18-16 Adult discussion session 9 AM White Privilege and Mass Incarceration Led by Louisa Davis
- 9-18-16 Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00
10877 Willow Drive N Bealeton
- 9-23 to 25 Family Camp Weekend at Camp Shiloh
- 9-25 Screening of "Hometown Habitat" Interfaith meeting 1 PM
- 10-1 Back to First Day School Night 6 to 8 pm at the Meetinghouse
- 10-2 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
- 10-8 "Second Saturday" Adult discussion group 6:00-8:00 PM Home of Meg Wallace
- 10-8 Meeting for Business at Rise of Meeting for Worship
- 10-15 Interim Meeting Sandy Spring—The Catoctin Bathhouse will be on the agenda
- 10-16-16 Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00
- 11-20-16 Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00

Query Simplicity

Am I aware that the ways in which I choose to use my time, my possessions, my money, and my energy reflect my most deeply held values?

How do we support one another in our search for a simpler life?

What am I ready to release so that I can give my attention to what matters most?

What in my present life most distracts me from God?

Meeting For Business 9/11/16

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 19 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business by reading the Query and Advices on Simplicity.

Friends responded out of the silence:

This definition of simplicity may not apply to our time and place

The opposite of simplicity is not complexity; it's

duplicity.

It's not busyness that is distracting, it's foolish thoughts; if we avoid wasting time on foolish thoughts we can pay attention to the priorities. There are too many priorities to just pick one.

What seems simple at the time may not really be so simple; it may be really difficult to pay attention to what seem simple

Recording clerk Cathy Tunis read the highlights from the minutes of the last Meeting for Business.

Finance Committee clerk Amy Shinkman reminded Friends of the ongoing financial needs of the Meeting and the opportunity to donate either by putting money or checks in the contribution box on the table by the side entrance, or by filling out the monthly donation form to set up regular electronic contributions. She also reminded committee clerks to be thinking of their budget requests for next year, as the Finance committee will be

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

contacting each of them to begin the budget preparation process for 2017.

Ministry & Oversight clerk Fred Cresson

asked Louisa Davis to announce the plan for next Sunday's adult discussion at 9 a.m. Louisa will report on the Pendle Hill workshop she attended on Alternatives to Mass Incarceration, as well as her attendance at the White Privilege Conference last summer, which had a large Quaker presence.

Meg Wallace announced M&O's plans to begin an adult spiritual formation exercise called "Second Saturday," to be held each month, October through May. Small groups of Herndon Friends (8-10) will gather for a simple meal from 6-6:30 (provided by the host). At 6:30 the host will present a prompt for reflection, and silent reflection will follow until about 7:30. This period of reflection will include opportunity and supplies for journaling or artwork. From 7:30- 8 Friends will re-gather and share if desired. Dates will be October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13. The first gathering will be at the home of Meg Wallace, 12807 Kettering Drive, Herndon. Sign up sheets will be posted and other Friends are invited to host later gatherings. Katherine Cole announced that she will be hosting child care from 5:45 to 8:15 at her home at 2514 Trophy Lane, Reston (about a 10 minute drive from Meg's house) for Friends who want to attend the first Second Saturday gathering on October 8.

Camp Catoctin Bathhouse Project – Harry Tunis, Clerk of Trustees of BYM, reported on the Catoctin Quaker Camp Bathhouse project. The existing bathhouse has been deteriorating and plans have been made for replacing it. It has reached the point that the building was demolished this year because it was not thought to be usable for another season. Yearly Meeting leadership wants to have the replacement building be a statement on Friends' Commitment to environmental stewardship and inclusiveness as well as being a welcoming, comfortable, functional, and sanitary building. With this in mind visionary plans were drawn up with composting toilets, solar power, and private gender neutral rooms. Initial estimates were that such a building would cost in the neighborhood of \$290,000 and \$225,000 has

already been donated to this project.

Unfortunately, as the plans were seasoned it became clear that the costs would be much higher, perhaps double or more the initial expectation. After attending Yearly Meeting last August, Cathy Tunis made the suggestion that Herndon Friends donate an additional \$5000 from the Growth and Building fund to the Bathhouse project. During Meeting for Business, Friends questioned whether the proposal is too complex or whether this expenditure is the wisest way to further the BYM Camp experience which otherwise values simplicity in facilities and programs. Concern was raised about the precedent for similar facilities at the other camps.

The Yearly Meeting planning committee continues to thresh plans for the replacement bathhouse and is considering modifications to lower costs and preserve the key aspects of the vision. There is no need to rush the project because even though the old bathhouse has been demolished there are contingency plans to use a temporary trailer unit next season if necessary.

The Clerk reminded Friends that we need to trust in the process and the wisdom of the many Friends who have already worked on the planning of this project for many years. BYM Trustees, and the Stewardship and Finance, Development, Camp Property Management, and Camping Program committees will publish their recommendations before Interim Yearly meeting, and the project will be on the agenda for the Interim Yearly Meeting at Sandy Spring 10th Month 15 to discern the way forward.

Friends were united in recognizing the great value of the camps to our children in the past and for many years to come, and the need for continued update and attention to the facilities. Due to the generosity of Friends and the wisdom of the finance committee the Growth and Building fund has grown to over \$400,000. To support the work of BYM in the camping program, **The Meeting approved an immediate donation of \$5000 to the BYM camping program, with the understanding that we will continue the discussion at a future monthly meeting for business and consider further unrestricted donations to the camping program.**

Greening Committee Margaret Fisher

reports that the committee is considering ways to reduce storm water runoff on the Meetinghouse grounds. One option is installing a rain garden. One estimate of the cost to do this was \$8000, some of which may be defrayed by a grant from the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. This requires further seasoning and will be discussed at future Greening committee meetings, usually held after Meeting on the first Sunday of each month.

Website coordinator, Ed Markham, reported on the progress of the new website, hosted by FGC Quaker Cloud, and the ongoing process of determining the organization of information for the site. Ministry and Oversight was asked to help review the texts of several documents on our Practices, now located on the existing site, to make sure they are still accurate. Other suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Ed.

Louisa Davis asked about the possibility of affiliating with the Interfaith Partners for Criminal Justice, an organization she works with. Louisa was encouraged to bring this up through the Peace and Social Concerns committee, before proposing anything further to the Business Meeting.

Cat Wilkins closed the Meeting for Business at 10:15 with a period of silent worship. We will meet again on October 9, 2016, at 9 a.m., for the next Meeting for Business.

Hometown Habitat

Margaret Fisher announced the interfaith screening of *Hometown Habitat*—a production of the Meadow Project on creating Living Landscapes-- followed by discussion to be held on Sunday September 25th at 1 pm at the Meeting house.

All are welcome and indeed encouraged to come and help with the hosting. Please let Margaret Fisher know if you are planning to be there. Finger food would also be helpful, and if anyone would like to chip in a few dollars to help pay for the licensing fee, that would be appreciated.

Please invite anyone you know from neighboring faith communities or anyone else as well.

Our Meeting will be the first in this plan to have multiple interfaith forums across Northern Virginia. For more information see

<http://www.plantnovanatives.org/faith-communities.html>.

Shoemaker Grant

In March of 2015, BYM received a grant of \$225,000 from the Shoemaker Fund to promote its diversity program. The money will be used to subsidize camper fees with the goal of replicating the diversity program at Catoctin Camp at the other BYM residential camps in order to grow young adult leaders steeped in cultural competency and connected to local meetings. The Diversity program began in the camping program in 2010 as an effort to attract under represented groups to BYM camps. The Development committee of BYM has been working with the Shoemaker foundation for several years and it's efforts were rewarded with the development of the Growing Diverse Leadership in BYM proposal submitted in October 2014.

The Shoemaker fund was established by Thomas and Mary Shoemaker, brother and sister who lived in Germantown, Philadelphia, PA in the house built by their father Franklin Shoemaker in 1859. They were lifelong members of Green Street Friends Meeting. Thomas was a business man who worked in a lumber yard and Tannery, but eventually developed a business as a professional trustee. He and Mary lived a modest life, and wisely invested his commissions. They were both active in Quaker activities, especially educational ones all their lives, and had the ambition to establish an ongoing educational fund. Thomas died in 1936, and Mary in 1953. They left behind the Shoemaker Fund, which has given over nine million dollars in grants in support of Quaker values. In recent times, the fund has shown a particular interest in revitalizing and diversifying Quaker institutions and meetings. The success of the BYM camping diversity program was a key factor in the Fund's decision to award the grant to BYM.

Back to First Day School Night

Meg Wallace announced Back to First Day School Night on 10/1/16 from 6 to 8 pm for parents and adults interested in the First Day School curriculum. Dinner will be served—but no child care provided. This is for grownups. Talk to the teachers and coordinators, learn what's planned and share your concerns.

Brief Notes

Family camp weekends are planned for October 7-9 at Catoclin, and 10/21-23 at Opequon. Registration information from Jane Meginson at janemegginson@bym-rsf.org or phone 717-481-4870

Herndon Friends Meeting is hosting an exhibit of the interactive art installation "39 questions for white people", a project by artist Naima Lowe. The artist says of the piece, *"The work of creating the book became an exercise in turning the emotional labor of racism into tangible physical labor. I was able to turn all that pain into an object, which is incredibly strange, but also incredibly freeing."*

The questions which are displayed on the front of the kitchen counter in the Meeting House challenge people "who think of themselves as white" in the language of James Baldwin and Tai She Coates to consider how pervasive racial stereotypes are. Some of the questions are , "How do you know you are white?" "When did you know you are white?" "Do you notice when the last white person leaves the room?" The exhibit is one way to get into a contemplative frame of mind in preparation for the adult discussion session on White Privilege to be facilitated by Louisa Davis on September 19th at 9:00 am at the Meetinghouse.

The Shed Arrives? Delivery of the First Day School extension building is rumored for this week

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