

# The Herndon Light



4<sup>th</sup> Month 8, 2018 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 251

- 4/15 9 a.m.: First Hour Discussion Rex Ambler's Experiment with Light – led by Amy Shinkman  
4/15 11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group Bealeton Depot 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton  
4/19 7 p.m.: Communications and Outreach Committee Meeting  
4/21 – 10 am -3 pm: Clerking workshop for new committee clerks. Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. Contact Deborah Haines ([deborah.haines@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.haines@gmail.com)) or Bette Hoover ([bette@justpeacecircles.org](mailto:bette@justpeacecircles.org))  
4/22 9 a.m.: Ministry and Oversight Committee Meeting  
4/27-4/29 – Family Camp Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp – Contact David Hunter ([davidhunter@bym-rsf.org](mailto:davidhunter@bym-rsf.org))

## Query 12 Membership

How can I actively support the meeting community?  
How can I support the Clerk of Meeting and clerks of committees?  
How am I maturing into the fullness of membership in this spiritual community?  
How does the meeting community nurture my spiritual growth and transformation?  
In what ways does the Meeting make its needs clear to each of us?

## Advices

We affirm that each Friend, not just the Clerk, has a direct responsibility for the Meeting. Membership in the Religious Society of Friends is a spiritual commitment. To become a member, we expect a person seeking membership to have come experientially into general agreement with the Society's principles of belief and testimonies as expressed in our *Faith & Practice*.

Membership carries with it spiritual obligations. Each of us, as members, is

called to participate in the Meeting's spiritual life and to attend worship regularly. Members need to nurture each other's God-given gifts and talents. As members, we are invited to seek guidance from one another and the Meeting in discerning God's will for ourselves. Pray for one another.

The basic spiritual commitment of membership creates practical obligations. The vitality of each Monthly Meeting depends on its members' investments of time, energy, and financial support. Friends can strengthen their Meeting through regular participation in Meetings for Business, service on committees or as officers, regular financial giving, taking part in service projects under the care of the Meeting, assisting in maintenance of Meeting property, and representing the Meeting in community and wider Friends' organizations.

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 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 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)

## *Meeting for Business 4/8/18*

Clerk Liz Willson gathered 13 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m. on April 8, 2018, with a reading of the 12th Query on Meeting for Business, from the 2013 edition, Second Reading, of Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

**Ministry and Oversight – Meg Wallace** read the proposed Spiritual State of the Meeting Report for 2017 to be forwarded to the Ministry and Pastoral Care committee of BYM. Some Friends spoke to the power and beauty of the composition and thanked **Terence McCormally** for preparing it. Since the report was not distributed widely, Friends suggested that they would like to see a copy to read more carefully. The Meeting agreed to send the report to the wider community for the purpose of soliciting suggestions. Comments are to be sent to M&O and the committee will discern necessary changes at their meeting at the end of April. Final approval will be held until after that committee meets and we hold a Called Meeting for Business in May.

**Treasurer's Report – Terence McCormally** presented the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2018 financials for the Meeting. Expenses for the first quarter exceeded income, which is not uncommon for this time of year. The overall balance sheet is healthy. Investments have only declined slightly despite the downturn in the market. Terence explained that the meetinghouse valuation is an estimate, determined by a combination of the county assessment and realtor estimates found online. The actual value is only what a buyer would be willing to pay for it.

**Finance Committee – John Smallwood** reported on the committee's research on some legal issues: the need for incorporation and determination of tax status. The determination was that we are in compliance with all requirements without any further action. The report is attached. On May 15, a representative from Friends Fiduciary Corporation, an investment company used by many Friends Meetings, including the Yearly Meeting. All Friends will be invited to attend. The committee is also considering the hiring of a paid bookkeeper, and is gathering

information from other Meetings. The Finance committee asks that House & Grounds give them a list of future renovations and improvements that will be required in the coming year. Also, Peace & Social Concerns is asked to prepare a considered list of organizations that the Meeting will contribute to.

**Communications and Outreach Committee** – No meeting was held since the last Business Meeting but **Ting-Yi Oei** reviewed some of the issues, including the restrictions on signage by the Town of Herndon. The newsletter preparation will be taken over this month by **Jay McClendon**. The next committee meeting will be April 19 at the meetinghouse at 7:00 p.m.

**Religious Education – Meg Wallace** said that because there is no First Day School for the middle and upper level classes on the First Sunday of each month, attendance has declined within those age groups. The committee decided to invite everyone to join the Godly Play class, if they find it difficult to stay in Meeting on that Sunday.

The Clerk made several announcements about upcoming events. The Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

## *McCormally Ousted as Newsletter Editor*

After serving as Newsletter editor since 1996 (with a brief reprieve in 2014 during the tenure of Editor **Fred Cresson**), **Terence McCormally** has been replaced as the newsletter editor by **Jay McClendon**, a person with actual professional writing and editing expertise. The Communications and Outreach Committee made the decision during their first meeting. **Stacey LaRoy** will take over the production and distribution duties formerly overseen by **Meg Wallace**.

## *Earth Day at Herndon Friends Meeting*

All are invited to linger after announcements on Earth Day, April 22, for a mini environmental festival. We will have our annual plant and gardening exchange, and

demonstrate ways to save on energy use, plastic, waste, etc. If you know of a nice tip to share, bring it along so we can include it.

For our plant exchange, we're welcoming non-invasive plants of all types, and all garden-related items: tools, books, seeds, whatever. Participants are asked to label their plants with the name of the plant and any care instructions.

Vegan snacks will be provided (but bring some of those as well, if you feel moved!)

### ***We're on Social Media!***

Herndon Friends Meeting has upped its social media game with new Twitter and Instagram accounts, in addition to an improved Facebook presence. We're on Twitter and Instagram at @HerndonQuakers, and on Facebook at Herndon Friends Meeting. Come see us!

### ***One Year Ago, in "The Light"***

**Payoff of Meetinghouse Mortgage:** Following up on the minute approved at last month's Meeting for Business, the meeting has paid off the Promissory note to complete the purchase of the Meetinghouse from the Herndon Fortnightly Club. Assistant Treasurer Liz Willson and Trustee Harry Tunis coordinated the presentation of the \$72,000 check, and received the original copy of the note in return.

### ***10 Years Ago, in "The Light"***

#### ***Unspoken Messages***

We are approaching the third anniversary of the death of our young friend Don Aiken who died of a brain tumor on his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday after being ill for nearly three years. Don was an inspiration in many ways and an example of how illness, by stripping away the unnecessary and superficial, reveals the inner light more fully. Time marches on, life proceeds, and things change. Don's cohort of friends, including Herndon Friends Lauren Hoy and Anna McCormally, are graduating from high school and looking towards college. A friend came to visit and stayed in Don's old room; the bedsheets were changed. Don's

parents are leaving the area in a few months—his Dad has already started his new job in Florida.

Each such milestone raises the spectre of whether it is possible that he will vanish from our lives, that we will forget him, a prospect that is frightening and embarrassing. Don's cell phone is still turned on. His parents left his account active so friends can call and hear his voice, and leave a message. Earlier in the month a friend was visiting the country and needed a phone and in the gracious and warm spirit that has characterized her grief and memorialized Don's generosity, his mother lent her Don's phone.

It was lost. Somewhere, somehow, on the Metro, walking in downtown DC, left on a table or slipped from a purse, the phone was gone. There were tears and guilt. No recriminations but much remorse, and much anxiety.

But then some few hours later Don's father called from Tampa. It seems someone found a cellphone disassembled, lying on a park bench in the rain in Lafayette Park. Someone else took it to the White House Visitor's center, and someone else took the time to reassemble it and find that, despite its exposure to the elements, it still worked, and then started working through the address list in the phone's memory to find someone who knew who's phone it was. The next morning an expedition to the District recovered the cell phone and provided an opportunity to see the cherry trees in bloom. Rather than a lost memento there is now another joyous memory, part of the polishing of grief that leads, when the prickly spikes and rough edges are smoothed away, to the enduring jewel of a presence, adamant and unwavering.

--Terence McCormally

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