

# The Herndon Light



3rd Month 12, 2017 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 243

- 3/19 Adult Discussion 9:00 AM: Minute on Support of Friends United Meeting: John Smallwood
- 3/19 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 3/26 Kait Loftler -Thun at Rise of Meeting on STRIDE, the BYM Camping Diversity Program
- 3/26 Active Bystander Training 2-5 pm Langley Hill Meeting
- 4/2 Potluck at rise of Meeting for Worship
- 4/9 Meeting for Business 9:00 am
- 4/16 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship—Easter!
- 4/23 Adult Discussion: 9:00 AM The Conversation Project: End of Life Planning K. Cole
- 4/23 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot
- 5/7 Potluck again!
- 5/21 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 at the Bealeton Depot

## **Query: Caring for One Another**

*In what ways do I show respect for that of God in every person?*

*Do I reach out with spiritual and practical care to those with special needs?*

*Am I comfortable making my own needs known to my Meeting?*

*How do we share in the diverse joys and transitions in each other's lives?*

*Do I consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle?*

### **Advices**

Our Meetings are strongest when Friends are concerned about the welfare of every member of the Meeting community. While we need to guard against prying or invasion of privacy, it is nevertheless essential that Meetings be aware of the spiritual and material needs of members of the community and express caring concern in appropriate ways. To this end, we are to live affectionately as friends, entering with sympathy into the joys and sorrows of one another's lives.

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** <http://www.quakercloud.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 [abbey.compton@verizon.net](mailto:abbey.compton@verizon.net); 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)

As we are willing to offer help, so we need to be willing to make our needs known and to accept help. In bereavement, we need to give ourselves time to grieve. When others mourn, we need to let our love embrace them with the simple things of life: praying together, talking, planning meals, caring for children, and otherwise being of comfort. In offering pastoral care, it is not necessary to find the right words; it is important to be present.

Just as we do not leave pastoral care to a pastor, so we may not leave this most essential function to a committee alone. It is important to recognize when it may be appropriate to reach within or beyond the Quaker community to involve persons with special expertise.

### **Meeting For Business 3/12/17**

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 21 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m. on March 12, 2017, with a reading of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Query on Caring for One Another, from the 2013 edition, Second Reading, of

*Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.*

*Friends responded out of the silence in gratitude for the love and caring shown to them by the Meeting. One powerful connection we can make with visitors to our Meeting is to learn their names and call them by name the next time they come. Letting others know when you are in times of hurting requires a significant amount of trust. A commitment of time to the Meeting helps us develop the trust required to be able to ask for help and to offer it.*

**Ministry & Oversight** – Inga Erickson read the 2016 Ministry & Oversight annual report. The active year included 4 new members and 2 marriages under the care of the Meeting.

**The Meeting accepted the report.**

**Clearness Committee on Membership**

Inga Erickson, Stacey LaRoy, and Cat Wilkins met with Matthew Shinkman on February 12, 2017, and found him clear for membership.

The clearness committee enjoyed hearing more about Matt's spiritual discernment. He is a thoughtful, warm, and committed individual who already brings much to our Meeting. **The Meeting enthusiastically approved his membership, with gratitude for his active service to the Meeting.**

**Arranging for a welcoming at potluck was referred to Hospitality.**

Inga Erickson also reported that M&O would like the approval of the Meeting to discuss having a rainbow flag outside the Meeting. Discussion on this topic, including the queries: Other issues may require similar treatment. What is the purpose of the signage? How can we incorporate other concerns? **The Meeting approved empowering Ministry & Oversight committee to discuss this further. There may be a need for M&O to consider having a separate Advancement & Outreach committee that would include this as their charge, along with other related concerns.**

**Finance** – Amy Shinkman distributed the following Minute, proposing that the Meeting pay off the balance of the Promissory Note held on the meetinghouse property to the Herndon Fortnightly Club.

Our current Meetinghouse at 660 Spring Street in Herndon was used as a library from

1927 through 1995. It was owned by the Herndon Fortnightly Club, formally known at The Herndon Fortnightly Club and Library Association, one of the oldest women's clubs in Virginia. It was founded in 1889 just ten years after Herndon was incorporated. To date the club has supported a variety of community organizations as well as awarded \$192,000 in scholarships to area students.

Reston Friends Meeting purchased the property from the Herndon Fortnightly Club in October 1995 for \$175,000. We made a payment of \$35,000 and signed a Deed of Trust promissory note with the Club for the remaining \$140,000, with a simple interest rate of 7 3/4% to be paid off in November 2025. In December 1995, the Meeting became Herndon Friends Meeting. We renovated the building and had our first Meeting for Worship on Easter, April 1996.

Herndon Friends are very grateful to the Herndon Fortnightly Club for accepting the promissory note. In 1995 a small group like ours had great difficulty receiving a mortgage from traditional lenders. Twenty-two years later, our community has grown and we are now in the fortunate financial position to be able to pay the promissory note.

At our Meeting with Attention to Business held in February 2017 the Meeting approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to pay off the promissory note. In recent years, promissory note payments have represented approximately twenty-five percent of the Meeting's annual operating budget. Assuming we keep the current level of operating expenses then paying off the promissory note will allow the Meeting to support more good works in line with our testimonies.

The Herndon Fortnightly Club has agreed to accept the paying off the promissory note. Accordingly, the Finance Committee recommends that the Meeting use \$76,280.18 from the Growth and Building Fund to pay the remaining principal and interest on the promissory note as of April 1 2017.

**The Meeting approved this action and celebrated this important milestone in HFM's history. The Treasurer will have a certified check drawn up for presentation to the Herndon Fortnightly Club.**

Discussion of a possible celebration with the Meeting, the Club, and the community ensued. Hospitality Committee was asked to work on this.

**Ad Hoc Greening Committee** – The Greening Committee will meet with the landscape architect on Tuesday March 21, time to be determined. All are welcome to come and walk around the property with him. This is in follow up to the recommendation accepted last month to have a professional landscaping plan drawn up for the meeting to discuss how to reduce stormwater runoff from our impermeable surfaces and to make the meetinghouse property more supportive of wildlife.

**Sanctuary DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia)**

**Katherine Cole** brought forth a Minute, proposing to join with area faith communities forming an alliance to help immigrants with concerns about profiling and deportation. The network of congregations is called Sanctuary DC/MD/VA. Katherine suggests the meeting send representatives to a March 13 Sanctuary DMV meeting to gather more information about the risks and responsibilities of joining the network.

After discussion, the Meeting united with this minute:

**Herndon Friends Meeting supports and is in solidarity with the goals of Sanctuary DC/MD/VA, a network of congregations in the DC/MD/VA region that are providing support and sanctuary to our neighbors, friends, and family who fear being detained and deported, or profiled because of their religion, race or political beliefs. Our faith will not allow us to permit the criminalization and scapegoating of immigrants and people of color. In the face of hate and discrimination we are committed to showing love, compassion and hospitality.**

Amy Shinkman expressed gratitude to Katherine Cole for bringing this organization to our attention and asked for her to represent

us at the meeting which will be held at All Souls Unitarian Church in D.C. at 6 pm on 3/13/17. She will find out what other Quaker Meetings are participating, and report back to the meeting

**Active Bystander Training:**

Cat Wilkins announced a training session on **March 26 – Active Bystander Training** from 2 to 5 p.m. at Langley Hill Meeting. This training will prepare us to be active bystanders and actively intervene against bullying, harassment, or intimidation of others. The training is free, but registration is requested at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/active-bystander-training-tickets-32484598308>

***Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County***

Herndon Friends marked the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County with a reception at Sherwood Community Center at 4 pm on 3/12/17. Twenty two students were recognized for their contribution to peacemaking in their schools and communities.

***Unspoken Messages  
Air and Space***

I accompanied our son and daughter in law and their 17 month old daughter on a visit to the Smithsonian Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum. The architect of the building created a vast but welcoming space, an awe inspiring and hopeful space. It's true that some of the machines on display are weapons of mass destruction, their creation motivated by fear, but most of it comes from our desire to see farther and higher, to test ourselves, to learn about God's creation. It's also true that Mona was less impressed by the rockets and airplanes, and more by the circular staircases which for some reason appealed to her toddler sense of humor, and by the people she met—the young woman who let her touch the meteorite, and the 7 year old boy who was admiring the Space Shuttle when Mona ran up to him and grabbed him like a long lost cousin. The people at the museum, staff and visitors, were invariably kind and patient. That lesson is perhaps more important than the science behind the Mars lander or even the Star Trek optimism that fills the place.

--Terence McCormally

## Brief Notes

### ***Walk Two Moons***

Friends who are struggling to empathize with the experience of undocumented immigrants can consider these queries from a speaker at the recent NAACP meeting:

1. When you left home this morning, did you look around your home and wonder if you'd get back there at the end of today?
2. When you got in your car, did you check you brake lights, tail lights and turn signal, and wonder if you got stopped by police, would you ever see your children again?
3. When you signed in this morning--if you were asked too--did you withhold your real name and contact information for fear of being detained?

### **Quaker Camp**

For many Herndon Friends, it was Quaker Camp at Shiloh, Opequon or Catoclin that was their first experience of living in a Quaker community of tolerance, acceptance and loving-kindness. Quaker camps offer 1, 2 and 4 week residential sessions for campers 9-14 between June 24<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>. Activities include hiking, canoeing, climbing, art, music, and nature in a healthy, Friendly community open to all. There are still some slots available for the 2017 camping season. Apply online at [bymcamps.org](http://bymcamps.org) or call Jane Megginson, Camping Program Manager at 717 481-4870. It's a wonderful opportunity. The Ministry and Oversight Committee offers a \$350 scholarship to any Herndon First Day School student, and additional support is available if needed by contacting Inga Erickson, clerk of Ministry and Oversight.

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