

# The Herndon Light



12th Month 13, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 230

Dec 19	Christmas Sing at the Meetinghouse 5:30 PM for sweet and savory finger food potluck, followed by singing
Dec 20	Committee on Greening the Meetinghouse 9:00 AM
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Pot Luck and Meeting for Worship 6 PM
Dec 27	Fauquier Friends Worship Group at Bealton Depot next to library
Jan 3	Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
Jan 10	Meeting for Business 9:00 AM
Jan 17	Fauquier Friends Worship Group at Bealton Depot next to library
Jan 17	Adult Discussion: To Whom Shall We Give
Jan 17	Religious Education Committee after rise of meeting for worship
Jan 29-31	BYM Women's Retreat at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reistertown, MD
Feb 21	Fauquier Friends Worship Group at Bealton Depot next to library

## Query: Integrity

*How do we seek truth by which to live? How do we recognize it? In what ways does my life speak of my beliefs and values? Do I strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths? In what way is my life in harmony with truth as I know it?*

## Meeting For Business 12/13/15

Clerk Kim Glazer gathered 22 Friends for Meeting for Worship with attention to business with a reading of the 8<sup>th</sup> query from the 2013 draft of the BYM Faith and Practice. Friends responded out of the silence.

--Seeking truth was my job for many years, and it was often difficult because there was often more than one truth. A colleague, a federal judge, told me once "if there's anything I've learned being a judge, it's that there are two sides to every story. "

--Don't judge yourself; we are all one with God we all have our part of the truth. Recognizing that others share that "Godness" inspires us to live with kindness and compassion

--Humans are profoundly inept at finding truth; There's my truth and somebody else's truth. Just because we don't agree on the complete truth doesn't keep us from finding harmony.

--I recall another Friend sharing with me that there is truth, and then there is Truth with a capital "T"; that capital T truth may become clear to us only with time but the capital T truth is the unifying element of all religions.

--As an advisor to a meeting's search for socially responsible investment, I was charged with discerning the truth behind corporate claims. One of my fellow committee members told me, "in every company there is a little pocket of darkness, just as there is in all of us. The presence of the darkness doesn't keep us from making progress."

The clerk requested committee reports.

**Student Peace Awards** – Margaret Fisher announced that there will be 22 Student Peace Awards this year. The Peace Awards are presented to students from area high schools who are identified by their school guidance counselors in accordance with the guidelines of the Student Peace Awards committee. As in past years, students are recognized with a cash award, a

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** [www.herndonfriends.org](http://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 Abby 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 [stacebear@laroyfamily.com](mailto:stacebear@laroyfamily.com) or Margaret Rogers at [margrog@juno.com](mailto:margrog@juno.com)

donation in their name to a charity, and an awards ceremony. This year the ceremony will be on March 13 at 4 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax. The speaker will be Al Fierres, a professor of Peace Studies at George Mason University.

**Nominating Committee** - The final list of Clerks and Committees for 2016 was presented by Weez Rothrock. **After some minor corrections, the slate of nominations was approved.** The list is attached. The committee expressed gratitude to everyone for agreeing to share their gifts. Two members of the Nominating Committee are rotating off. An Ad Hoc Committee to appoint the Nominating Committee will need to be named in January.

**Greening Committee** - Margaret Fisher reported that the committee has proposed that HFM become an official member of the steering committee for the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. The Faith Alliance is made up of representatives from many faith communities in Fairfax County. There are currently 37 faith communities on the Community Council. The steering committee meets once a month. There are no dues, membership fees or required financial contributions. **The Meeting approved membership in the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.** Paul Murphy has volunteered to be our representative and his appointment was approved.

Devon Mahoney presented the first reading of the budget. The budget will be reviewed again for approval at the January Business Meeting

### *Statement on Climate Change*

Margaret Fisher presented for a second reading and discussion the shared statement on climate change, first presented at the August business meeting. The statement was originally prepared by Quaker Earthcare Witness and presented by the BYM Unity with Nature Committee at the 2015 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session. This statement has been endorsed by several monthly meetings, as well as Baltimore Yearly Meeting. It has already been presented at the Climate Change Conference in Paris this month.

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a non profit organization formed after an FGC conference workshop in 1987. The organization was originally called Friends in Unity with Nature, but changed its name in 2002.

There was broad although not universal support for the statement on climate change. Clerk Kim Glazer reported receiving email comments from meeting members saying they could not support the document as written because they are unconvinced of the accuracy of some of the scientific claims in the statement, including the

assertion that climate change is occurring in any way different than it has in the past, that human activity is a cause of the change, or that it should be a goal to stop using fossil fuels. There are concerns that implementation of the policies outlined in the statement would have profound social and economic impacts that have not been adequately considered.

Due to the controversial nature of the document Clerk Glaze asked for the meeting to observe some minutes of silence to hold each other, absent Friends, and the document in the light with the expectation that a path forward would emerge. Speaking out of the silence, Weez Rothrock stood with a message to consider the power of a Meeting gathered in the presence of the Spirit to find discernment not through voting or debate but from a spiritual leading.

When discussion resumed Friends united with the recommendation of Margaret Fisher to include Herndon Friends Meeting on the list of Quaker organizations (now numbering more than 60) who have joined with the statement as reproduced below :

#### **Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A shared statement by Quaker groups January 2015**

As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples. (Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco-Justice, 2012, p.1)

We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations.

We call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement. As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that the current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth's ecosystems and species, including human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently.

We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited material growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

We recognize that most anthropogenic\* greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion. We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth.

We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction. We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come.

We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

\* Clarification that fossil fuels are the largest anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions was added August 27, 2015.

## *Meeting House Clean Up*

The Fall Meeting House Clean up was accomplished on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Friends gathered for window washing, cabinet decluttering, raking, weeding and hauling. Margaret Rogers completed a brick compost ring.



Young Friends participated as well as evidence by this photo of David Whomsley at work.

Friends enjoyed a lunch with Priscilla Chamlee's famous smoked turkey breast with cranberry sauce, some fabulous chocolate chip cookies and some vegan faux pepperoni.

(Photo by Lee Davis)

## *Infirmity*

In purest song one plays the constant fool  
As changes shimmer in the inner eye.  
I stare and stare into a deepening pool  
And tell myself my image cannot die.  
I love myself: that's my one constancy.  
Oh, to be something else, yet still to be!

Sweet Christ, rejoice in my infirmity;  
There's little left I care to call my own.  
Today they drained the fluid from a knee  
And pumped a shoulder full of cortisone;  
Thus I conform to my divinity  
By dying inward, like an aging tree.

The instant ages on the living eye;  
Light on its rounds, a pure extreme of light  
Breaks on me as my meager flesh breaks down—  
The soul delights in that extremity.  
Blessed the meek; they shall inherit wrath;  
I'm son and father of my only death.

A mind too active is no mind at all;  
The deep eye sees the shimmer on the stone;  
The eternal seeks, and finds, the temporal,  
The change from dark to light of the slow moon,  
Dead to myself, and all I hold most dear,  
I move beyond the reach of wind and fire.

Deep in the greens of summer sing the lives  
I've come to love. A vireo whets its bill.  
The great day balances upon the leaves;  
My ears still hear the bird when all is still;  
My soul is still my soul, and still the Son,  
And knowing this, I am not yet undone.

Things without hands take hands: there is no  
choice,—  
Eternity's not easily come by.  
When opposites come suddenly in place,  
I teach my eyes to hear, my ears to see  
How body from spirit slowly does unwind  
Until we are pure spirit at the end.

**Theodore Roethke**

## *Thank You*

Kim Glazer has clerked her last Meeting for Business, at least for a while. Friends united in expressing their gratitude for her leadership. During her tenure, we started the Fauquier Friends Worship Group and the Wednesday Mid Week Meeting for Worship. She also started the practice of asking for silent worship after the reading of the Query at Meeting for Business to allow Friends the opportunity to respond.

#### Brief Notes

Thanks to the efforts of Cathy Tunis and Ed Markham, the Herndon Friends Meeting Directory is now available on line at the [herndonfriends.org](http://herndonfriends.org) website. In order to view the directory, you have to log in to the website, which means you have to know your password. If you can't find that or reset it yourself from the "forgot password" link, you can email Ed Markham at [edward.markham@gmail.com](mailto:edward.markham@gmail.com)

Herndon Friends Meeting Ornaments are available for purchase from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. You can purchase and pick up your ornaments the next two First Days, or contact Paul Murphy at [murphy005@verizon.net](mailto:murphy005@verizon.net).

It was a special joy today to have Melanie Stanley's grandchildren Lila and Peter in First Day School. After a brief lesson on Quaker Chocolatier John Cadbury (including samples) Peter got put to work assembling ornaments, and Lila helped assemble sandwiches. And thanks to Maria Brinza who did the shopping for sandwich making this month --and for Lynn Nagle for making sure all the supplies were available

Thanks to Selena Leary and Harry Tunis who have re-painted the sign in front of the Meetinghouse. It's good to have skills.

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