

The Herndon Light



4th Month 12, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 225

- April 17-19 Young Friends Work Conference: Richmond Friends Meeting
April 18 Adult Discussion 9:00 AM The Peace Testimony Led by Ting Yi Oei
April 19 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 AM singing, 11:00 AM Worship Bealeton Library depot
April 25 FAP (Friendly Adult Presence) Training at Friends Meeting of Washington Register at BYM website
May 3 Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship
May 8-10 Junior Young Friends Conference Opequon Quaker Camp
May 10 **No Meeting for Business in May, July or September**
May 10 Plant Exchange Proceeds to benefit Student Peace Awards
May 16 Potluck and Game Night—All ages at the Meetinghouse 6-8:30 pm
May 17 Fauquier Friends Worship Group 10:30 AM singing, 11:00 AM Worship Bealeton Library depot
May 22-24 Young Friends Grad Conference
My 28-31 Herndon Festival—Parking lot attendants needed
June 14 Student Peace Awards General Meeting after Rise of Meeting
June 21 Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Food and Living in Unity with the World Led by Margaret Fisher

Query: Equality

In what ways do we respond, as individuals and as a community, to prejudice and injustice?
How do we benefit from inequity and exploitation?
How are we victims of inequity and exploitation? In what ways can we address these problems?
How do we show through our ways of living that love of God affirms the equality of all people, treating them with dignity and respect?

Meeting For Business 2/8/2015

Clerk Kim Glazer gathered 12 Friends for Meeting for Worship with attention to Business with a reading of the query and Voices on equality. Cat Wilkins reported on upcoming Adult Discussion sessions. On April 19th, Ting Yi Oei will lead a discussion on the Quaker Peace testimony. On 6/21, in response from a request from the BYM Unity with Nature Committee, Margaret Fisher will lead a discussion centered around her minute on how our food connects us to the rest of the living world and how we can live in unity with that world. Kim Glazer announced an opportunity for Friends

to Volunteer to collect money for the Peace Awards during the Herndon Festival on May 28-31. People attending the festival can park in our parking lot for \$10:00; the proceeds benefit the Student Peace Awards.

Kim reminded Friends there is no meeting for business in May

A Garden of My Own

On April 4, 15 Friends came together for the Meetinghouse Spring Clean Up. Dave Whomsley, clerk of house and grounds got things organized; Margaret Fisher brought the mulch and also provided interesting insight into preserving some of the harvested stalks because they are home to butterfly eggs. Fred Cresson and Terence McCormally edged the beds, while Worth Kirkman, Harry Tunis, and Ting Yi Oei pulled weeds and spread the mulch. Bert Curtis and Margaret Rogers tended the flowerbeds on the bank. Inside, Katherine Cole, Meg Wallace and Cathy Tunis scrubbed and straightened—cleaning a year's worth of accumulated clutter off the

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 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 staceybear@laroyfamily.com or Margaret Rogers at margrog@juno.com

countertops

Friends were grateful for Lee Davis who drove 25 miles from Lorton to document the work in photos; and they were thankful to Priscilla Chamlee and Don Chamlee who traveled 35 miles from Warrenton to bring lunch and expertise: but they were really impressed by Vivi Oei, who had to come the 112 miles from Richmond in order to participate.

While much work was accomplished, the picnic table is still in need of stripping and staining—a task for another day.

Easter Observances

HFM Friends gathered for worship on Easter. Kindra Whomsley organized the stuffing of eggs for an egg hunt after rise of meeting, aided by the Junior Young Friends, especially Camryn Joy who meticulously matched the eggs with kid preferences the week before. Susan Huebsch supervised the Young Friends who went outside during First Day School Class to hide the eggs. After that job was done, the class reviewed the Easter Story with the aid of music videos from “Jesus Christ, Superstar”. Once meeting for worship was concluded, the egg hiders assisted the hunters with baskets and advice to retrieve the treasures. The egg hunt was followed by potluck.

10 Years Ago, In “The Light”

“The committee has been in contact with the Drainsville Church of the Brethren about trying to develop a scholarship for high school students who have displayed interest in non violent conflict resolution. The recommendation is to develop a community sponsored fund that would develop selection criteria and award the scholarship with similar awards at High School Awards ceremonies in the spring. The plan is to begin with a single scholarship at Herndon High School. Friends expressed interest in pursuing the project, and Margaret will develop a more specific proposal.” (April 10, 2005. At Meeting for Business, from the clerk of M&O, Margaret Fisher, the first notice in the Newsletter of what would become the student Peace Awards)

Fauquier Friends Worship Group Celebrates First Year

A “Meet the Quakers” event at the Bealeton Library Depot will celebrate the one year anniversary of Fauquier Friends Worship Group on the evening of May 17, starting with a simple supper at 5 pm. Noted Quaker author, photographer and retreat leader Brent Bill will present a fast-paced, whimsical and informational presentation about Quakers and their ongoing quirks and commitments to spirituality, contemplation, equality, social justice and peace.

Brent Bill is also Coordinator of the Friends General Conference New Meetings Project and has been following the progress of Fauquier Friends from before their first meeting. He is now in the process of linking the Worship Group with a New Meeting Mentoring Team to help with future growth and development.

The Southern Fauquier, Culpeper and surrounding communities will be invited to attend. The presence and continued care of the Worship Group by Herndon Friends is most welcome and appreciated. Use fauquierfriends@gmail.com to email of your interest in attending and meeting FGC mentors.

--Bonnie Stockslager

Going to Walden

It isn't very far as highways lie.
I might be back by nightfall, having seen
The rough pines, and the stones, and the clear
water.
Friends argue that I might be wiser for it.
They do not hear that far-off Yankee whisper:
How dull we grow from hurrying here and there!

Many have gone, and think me half a fool
To miss a day away in the cool country.
Maybe. But in a book I read and cherish,
Going to Walden is not so easy a thing
As a green visit. It is the slow and difficult
Trick of living, and finding it where you are.

--Mary Oliver (Selections curated by Meg Wallace)

BYM Sing

On Saturday April 11th, Herndon Friends Meeting hosted BYM's “Come Sing with Friends” gathering. Stacey Laroy coordinated the event, with logistical support from the Hospitality Committee including Kindra Whomsley, Eveline Marquardt and Katherine Cole. Grace McDermott provided child care.

Ruth Fitz from BYM led the group in Soulful Singing, accompanied by her guitar, Jodi Beatty's violin and Katherine at the piano. Several Friends traveled from Charlottesville, and one from Friends Meeting of Washington for the event. The group met at 10:30, with a break for potluck at 12:30

Plant Exchange

The Peace Awards committee will hold the annual plant exchange on Tenth Day Fifth Month after rise of Meeting for Worship. Friends are encouraged to bring potted native plants or houseplants to Meeting for exchange that day. Monetary donations to benefit the Peace Awards will be accepted if Friends do not have plants to exchange.

Fauquier Friends Worship Group *Spiritual State of the Meeting Report 2014*

Under care of Herndon Friends Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends

In this, our first Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, Fauquier Friends are glad to tell of the inner peace and joy that comes with meeting together in worship with the purpose of knowing “one another in that which is eternal” (George Fox). Since our beginning in Fifth Month, 2014, our attendance has ranged from 2 to 13 and even when the numbers are small, there is always spoken ministry and the sense of a gathered meeting that reminds us of the promise of Matthew 18:20: “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Though only permitted by Fauquier County to rent the Bealeton Depot one day per month, we find that what starts in the Depot does not stay there.

By providing a place

for those who have difficulty traveling to a distant Quaker Meeting for Worship, we gain much increase of Spirit contrasted with the fumbling efforts to worship solo. The felt blessings, time to think about what we are doing with our lives and more intense devotion results in a stronger leading to care for and give to others. The raised happiness, energy and community connection carries throughout the weeks until we meet again. One Friend commented that this Worship Group is like Prairie Home Companion’s Powder Milk Biscuits. It gives the shy person the courage to stand up and do what needs to be done.

An example of reaching beyond the boundaries of our small group is that a reporter from a local daily newspaper accepted the bold request to attend a Meeting for Worship with her camera. The result was a front page spread with photos and the title “God in Everyone”, published both online and on paper. The piece helped to inform readers in a multi-county area of who we are and how to get in touch. Another example is when staff of three emergency and transitional shelters in our outreach area gratefully accepted donations from our small group and expressed an interest in learning about “those Quakers”. We plan to continue similar connections.

In spite of our efforts to be inclusive and welcoming, we lack diversity in our small group. This is a weakness we hope might be corrected in the future with help from others to develop a stronger, more attractive web presence. With hope and expectancy to see the first child cross our threshold, a First Day School activity is

planned each month and topics are often printed in the regular newspaper notices.

Another great challenge during our start-up months has been much illness and chronic pain. Our tiny core group of regular attenders has experienced multiple surgeries, flare-ups of prior conditions and one couple even received the frightening news of their daughter’s Leukemia diagnosis. We are honored to have the chance to hold each other in the Light and trust that God knows our deepest needs and sorrows. One Friend experiences this power of “holding” as though dispatched angels are hovering over and around those who are hurting, including those whose names we do not know, like the immigrant children who risked their lives to cross our border or those suffering from war, slavery and violence in the Middle East. Perhaps our own pain increases our compassion for others. This is indeed a mighty way for the Spirit to use even a small, developing Quaker group. With such a river of Light, how can we keep from singing?

We hope that welcome and information pamphlets, a portable library, singing, pot luck lunch and hospitality both before and after worship helps visitors and newcomers to quickly feel like they are a wanted part of Fauquier Friends Worship Group. The visits from our Care Committee and others from Herndon Friends Meeting and across Baltimore Yearly Meeting are appreciated and encouraging. While we hope for and anticipate future growth in numbers and diversity, the attendance of newcomers and seasoned Friends alike helps us to dwell in the grounded traditions that characterize so many faiths: Happiness, Compassion, Loving Kindness, Peace and Walking in the Light. We’d like to think if we can get that part right, the rest will fall into place someday.

Brief Notes

HOW TO REMEMBER WHAT MONTHS WE DON'T HAVE MEETING FOR BUSINESS:

Quakers meet

In quiet retreat

Second Sunday all the time

Except for Months five, seven, and nine.

Saturday, April 18 - Apportionment Meeting Blacksburg

Come find out more about the money that your Meeting sends to BYM! You'll hear about how other Meetings are handling their finances and about how the Yearly Meeting is doing. The Stewardship and Finance Committee hosts this annual meeting to consider issues of apportionment – that is, financial support of BYM. New this year will be our holding the event on two Saturdays, one toward the north and one to the south. Blacksburg Meeting will host on April 18 and Frederick Meeting on April 25. Friends will gather beginning at 9:30 am for coffee and snacks. The Apportionment Meeting will begin at 10:00 and is expected to conclude by 2:30 pm. In the morning, the Stewardship and Finance Committee will present a rough draft of the 2016 Yearly Meeting Budget, as well as a first proposal of Monthly Meeting Apportionments for 2016.

Saturday, April 25 - Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) Training Friends Meeting of Washington (Washington, DC)

There will be a training to become a Friendly Adult Presence at BYM Youth Programs events at Friends Meeting of Washington (Decatur Room) on April 25th from 10am to 4pm. The address is 2111 Florida Ave NW Washington DC 20008, entrance on Decatur Place. Email Alison Duncan (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org) to register and receive advance materials. There is no fee to attend, but please bring a bag lunch.

Herndon Friends Meeting
660 Spring Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170