

# The Herndon Light



6th Month 14, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 226

June 21	Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Food and Living in Unity with the World Led by Margaret Fisher
June 21	Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Depot 10:30 AM
July 5	Pot-Luck Meal at Rise of Meeting for Worship
July 12	NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS IN JULY
July 19	Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Depot 10:30 AM
Aug 2	The Not-A-Pot-Luck Vegan Meal Experience at Rise of Meeting for Worship
Aug 9	Meeting For Business at 9:00
Aug 16	Fauquier Friends Worship Group, Bealeton Depot 10:30 AM

## Query: Meeting Community

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?

## Meeting For Business 6/13/2015

Clerk **Kim Glazer** gathered 22 Friends (including Ebba!) for Meeting For Worship with Attention to Business with a reading of the query on the Meeting community.

### Improvements

Friends were pleased to learn of the passing of impediments to long planned improvement to the property. **Meg Wallace** reported that the parking issue that has stalled proceeding with the construction of a shed on our site to function as an ancillary classroom has been resolved with a generous gesture from the owners of the adjacent funeral home. The next step is a review by the Heritage Preservation Review Board for the town of Herndon. **Harry Tunis** reported that the large white panel truck that has been occupying the proposed site of the shed has been relocated. David **Whomsley** reported that negotiations with Dominion Power have been concluded with an offer of \$5000 as an easement to allow placement of a transformer on the NE corner of the parking lot.

### Unity with Nature

**Cat Wilkins** reminded Friends of the Adult Discussion session scheduled on 6/21 at 9:00 AM on Food and Living in Unity with the World to be led by **Margaret Fisher**. This Adult Discussion session is in part a response to a Minute from BYM accepting a recommendation from the Unity with Nature Committee asking all BYM monthly meetings to meet “to discern on climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation.”

The queries suggested by BYM are:

Will the human community learn to live in harmony with all of the living community of God’s creation in this time of threats from climate change, environmental degradation, species extinction and resource depletion?

Will we find a way to restore the environment and live sustainably?

It is hoped that out of this discussion will arise a minute for consideration by the Monthly meeting as a whole. In a related item, **Margaret Fisher** asked for the formation of an ad hoc committee to consider the “greening” of the meetinghouse property. Interested Friends can contact **Margaret**.

In other action, the Meeting accepted the annual reports of the RE Committee, submitted by Clerk **Meg Wallace** and the Student Peace Awards committee submitted by Clerk **Margaret Rogers**.

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)

## Charitable contributions

As part of its annual budget, the Meeting sets aside funds for a variety of organizations. This year, the meeting passed a budget with an additional \$1000 in undesignated funds, with an expectation that the finance committee would make a recommendation on distribution later in the year. **Amy Shinkman** presented the recommendations of the committee, which was to increase the contribution to four current recipients. The recommendations were made based on a combination of the organizations advancing Quaker values and the committee's assessment of their current needs. The contribution to American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was increased by \$175 to total \$500 for the year. The amount for Friends Committee on National Legislation was increased by \$100 to total \$500. Friends Journal, the sole voice for un-programmed meetings in Quaker publishing is to receive an additional \$400 to total \$700, and Friends Wilderness Center is to receive an additional \$325 to total \$825 for the year. These amounts will be reconsidered at the Finance Committee meetings later this fall and may become the new baseline budget for 2016.

## *Comings and Goings*

It was with great joy that Friends accepted the transfer of **Inga Erikson** from Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting to Herndon Monthly Meeting. It was with both joy and sorrow that Friends acknowledged the departure of **Lynn** and **Michael Witwer**, and their children **Mary** and **Ethan** who are relocating to Wisconsin. The nominating committee will be struggling to replace their service on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and the Finance Committee (and Mary and Ethan as sandwich makers.) Our joy is that way opens, but we will miss them.

## *Fauquier Friends Worship Group*

**Bonnie Stockslager** sent a report on the one year anniversary observance of the Fauquier Friends Worship Group. Fifteen people, including the Junior Young Friends group, attended the morning Meeting for Worship, and 18 people attended the evening event. Bonnie announced that the meeting dates for the next Worship Groups at the Bealeton Depot at 10:30 AM have been set for June 21, July 19 and August 16. In preparing for the visit to Fauquier, JYF composed this letter:

### *An Epistle of Encouragement*

Junior Young Friends First Day School Class,  
Herndon Friends Meeting

To Fauquier Friends Worship Group in Bealton,  
and Friend Bonnie Stockslager

We are learning about the Bible in First Day School this year, and now we are studying the journeys and letters of Paul, who traveled widely to share with people the teachings of Jesus as he understood them. Paul started many churches in Greece and Asia, Syria and Italy. He could not get back to them very often, so he wrote letters or epistles to offer the new churches words of encouragement. In this Spirit, Junior Young Friends writes to Fauquier Friends Worship Group in support of this broadening of Quaker fellowship.

We are glad that, unlike Paul and the Church in Corinth, we have received no reports of bad behavior or squabbling among Fauquier Friends, and we are impressed with the outreach efforts you've made with your plans for a "Meet the Quakers" night on May 17<sup>th</sup> where you plan to have noted Quaker Minister and photographer Brent Bill speak to your community. We note with appreciation that you usually share a meal on your meeting days: we heartily approve of pot luck and snacks.

We did learn from Friend Bonnie that no children have attended Fauquier Friends in your first year, and we offer some suggestions on how to make the Worship Group more inviting to young Friends.

It starts by getting adults with children to attend. Many parents are looking for a spiritual home for their growing families, and outreach efforts such as you are planning are an important way to let seekers know of the opportunities in Quaker worship. Providing child care during meeting for worship is very helpful to parents of young children. Sponsoring a Quaker Parenting seminar may help expose families to the value and values of Quaker meeting. Have dedicated space and activities for children so that visitors recognize that for Friends, children are an integral part of the life of the meeting.

Make your worship group inviting to children by using bright colors and rainbows to make the meeting space attractive. We like orange. As your community presence grows it may help to sponsor a local sports team (like baseball, soccer, dance or basketball). Having a family game night is a popular way to add to the community spirit. If your facility allows, you may find a Take Your Pet to Church Day a way to attract people to try out the worship group. As the weather improves this spring, think about having picnics or other outside activities.

Do not miss the opportunity to tell stories: both the famous stories of notable Friends and the stories of your personal journey. Even more important, listen to the stories of your visitors so that you may meet them on their own journeys.

Do not neglect the value of offering service opportunities. Quakers have a deserved reputation for social action, and are usually respected in their communities for their integrity. Helping the teenagers in your area find an outlet for their social conscience is both personally rewarding and may help them meet Community Service Requirements in their schools. Perhaps you would want to extend the Fairfax County Student Peace Awards program to Fauquier County by recognizing a student in your local high school for the pursuit of peace. The awardees at our most recent Peace Awards reception worked in anti bullying campaigns, restorative justice programs, and the delivery of international aid. Starting such an outreach would mean contacting the school counselors who could identify candidates.

Young Friends would like to visit Fauquier Worship Group. As way opens, we intend to visit on May 17 during your regular session at the Bealeton depot. Until then, we will hold you in the light.

Junior Young Friends  
Herndon Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Renee Erikson	FAP
Ian Beatty	Terence McCormaly
Haley Long	Lynn Witwer
Joseph Long	Tania Hanna
Camryn Joy Williams	
David Whomsley	
Topher Whomsley	

## *Transitions*

Taylor Stanton, a graduate of HFM First Day school, marked another graduation this spring from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. She will begin a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago in July.

Three Young Friends are graduating from high school. Congratulations to Max Nagle, Carrie O'Faran and Danny Vevoda.

Rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders Eli McClendon, Braden Huebsch, Cameron Joy Williams and Leah Craig were presented with a copy of "The Quaker Way",

in recognition of their transition to high school.

During the June Potluck, The Meeting recognized rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders David Whomsley, Elisabeth Hougan, Ian Beatty, and Rosie Schantz with a presentation of a Bible.

The content of any commencement speeches for these transitions is not recorded here, but the editor is reminded of the 1986 graduation ceremony at Haverford College, when Drew Lewis, a graduate and a former member of the college's board of managers and Secretary of Transportation under President Ronald Reagan, declined to accept an honorary doctoral degree from a Quaker college. (from the NYT May 20<sup>th</sup> 1986)

**PHILADELPHIA, May 19**— Drew Lewis, the former Secretary of Transportation, stunned an audience by declining an honorary degree from Haverford College because of faculty objections to his actions in the 1981 strike by air traffic controllers.

"There is no consensus on this degree when one-third of your faculty objects," Mr. Lewis told 1,000 people Sunday at the college's commencement ... Haverford, founded by the Society of Friends, conducts much of its business on the Quaker model of trying to achieve a consensus instead of making decisions by a majority vote. Mr. Lewis, a 1953 graduate and former member of the college's board of managers, said he was acting out of respect for that tradition.

Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead, an alumnus who formerly headed Haverford's board, was presenting the degree to Mr. Lewis, who lifted off his purple doctoral hood as the audience broke into a standing ovation, said Pam Sheridan, a spokesman at the college.

Mr. Lewis declined to accept the honorary Doctor of Laws degree after he learned that 28 faculty members had signed a letter protesting what they called an attempt to break the union of air traffic controllers who staged a bitter strike in 1981.

## **Shepherdstown Friends Meeting**

The clerk received a request for assistance from members of Shepherdstown Friends Meeting, which has been meeting in rented space for many years and is seeking advice about the process of buying property for use as a Meetinghouse. It was 20 years ago that then Reston Friends Meeting purchased the current property at 660 Spring Street. To remodel took many months and it wasn't until Easter 2016 that the first Meeting was held here. Many Friends believe that having a dedicated space was critical to the growth and stability of Herndon Friends Meeting. Harry Tunis who was instrumental in the transition from Reston Friends to Herndon Friends Meeting will contact Shepherdstown Friends Meeting.

#### Brief Notes

Kim Glazer organized a parking concession during the Herndon Festival for the support of the Student Peace Awards. Lynn Witwer organized a concurrent sale of vintage Herndon Friends Meeting Christmas ornaments and snacks to support the Medical Care for Children's Partnership award. Many thanks to the volunteers who braved the hot sun and intermittent rain for the three days of this event.

During Meeting for Business, while friends were grieving the departure of Lynn Witwer and her family from Herndon Friends, a grief somewhat ameliorated by cake at rise of meeting, Meg Wallace found an additional crumb of solace. The Witwers initially found Herndon Friends through their attendance at Northern Virginia Friends School, a Quaker school which provided good education but was unable to survive financially, leaving some unpaid debts including a loan from HFM. Although that money is long gone, the presence of Lynn and her family have paid us back with interest. "I will not say: "do not weep," for not all tears are an evil." (JRR Tolkien, Gandalf, at the end of the last book of the Lord of the Rings.)

The Not-A-Pot Luck Vegan Meal Experience: The hospitality committee is planning a shared vegan meal at rise of meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Recognizing that one of the barriers to changing the diet to a more sustainable plant based diet is lack of familiarity with the taste and preparation of vegan alternatives, the hospitality committee will be offering a tasting sampler of vegan dishes—enough for all. Anyone led to contribute their own vegan favorite is welcome to do so—but don't stay away. There may be vegan chocolate peanut butter cups!

Herndon Friends Meeting  
660 Spring Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170