

The Herndon Light

that when we

1st Month 14, 2018 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 248

1/21	First Hour Discussion “Godly Play—The Parable of the Great Pearl” led by Meg Wallace 9 AM
1/23	Day for All People to meet with Virginia State Legislators
1/26-28	BYM Women’s Retreat; Pearlstone Retreat Center, Resisterstown MD Register online
2/4	Worship Sharing during Meeting for Worship to consider the queries on the State of the Meeting
2/4	Potluck at rise of Meeting for Worship
2/7	FCNL Advocacy Team Call and Meeting 7 PM at the Meetinghouse
2/11	Meeting for Business at 9:00 AM
2/18	First Hour Discussion J.E McNeil on Conscientious Objection
2/23-25	Faith & Play Training at Sandy Spring Meeting See details in Newsletter
3/17	Interim Yearly Meeting in Charlottesville

Query 9 Listening

When is it hardest for me to be ready to listen?
To what extent do I open myself to the risks of listening?
How have I been changed by deeply listening to another, to God, to nature?
How does my own perception affect the way I understand what others say?

Advices

Listening to the Spirit, to the Inward Teacher, enables us to hear “where the words come from” (John Woolman) when others speak. Hearing truth as others understand it is a way of deepening our own faith.

Just as compassionate listening can be a healing experience, inattentive conversation can be unkind and hurtful. Undivided attention is a precious gift.

Speak with your own, authentic voice, using the terms true to your experience. Encourage and welcome others to do the same. Read between the lines. Listen between the words.

Response: Friends responded out of the silence. One spoke of the implicit assumption

listen attentively we have to start with the idea that we are OK, and that the speaker is OK. Another talked of the courage it takes to withhold asking forgiveness when a conversation becomes judgmental—that an effort to soothe another can be a way to avoid having a difficult conversation. Another spoke of the risk of reading between the lines, because without careful checking this can be an excuse for putting your own assumptions on the other person.

Meeting for Business 1/14/18

Cat Wilkins gathered 20 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 am on 1/14/18 with a reading of the Query on Listening.

Friends accepted the year-end report of the Ministry and Oversight Committee as read by Katherine Cole. The report is reproduced elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Katherine also announced upcoming First Hour Adult discussion sessions for the 3rd First Days. On January 21, Meg Wallace will

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 worshiping 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** <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; or Fred Cresson at cresson4@verizon.net, or Margaret Rogers at margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com, or Bert Curtis at bertedits@gmail.com

present the Godly Play version of the parable of the great pearl; on February 18th J.E. McNeil will lead a discussion on Conscientious Objection.

During Meeting for Worship on February 4th there will be a worship sharing to consider the queries advanced by BYM as we attempt to discern the Spiritual State of the Meeting.

Friends accepted the year end report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, which is provided as an insert in this month's newsletter.

Margaret Rogers presented a brief update on the Student Peace Awards which this year will recognize students nominated by 24 local high schools as workers and advocates for peace in their communities. The program started in 2005, with the first award presented in 2006. Currently Herndon Friends serve as the contact for 9 of the schools, with the other volunteers coming from a diverse group of faith communities and service organizations in the county. The Student Peace Awards is reorganizing this year as a IRS registered 501 (c)3 organization and will be presenting more information about this at a future meeting for business.

Harry Tunis reported on the ongoing work of the Nominating Committee. Camryn Joy Williams and Lynn Nagle will join the Communications and Outreach Committee. Eli McClendon will serve on the House and Grounds Committee. Paul Murphy will extend his term on the nominating committee for one year to provide a smooth transition.

The Meeting approved the appointment of Weez Rothrock, Stacey Laroy and Harry Tunis as an Ad Hoc committee to nominate a new member for the nominating committee, as Harry Tunis has completed his term.

Ting Yi Oei provided a brief review of the new Communications and Outreach committee. He will poll the new committee to establish a regular meeting time as the committee and the meeting discern the scope of the meeting and how it interfaces with other committees. Andrew Laroy advised that the Cabin is available as a meeting space if other meeting rooms are in use.

Playing in the Light: Godly Play and Faith & Play Training for Quakers

Meg Wallace announced the availability of training for Friends who would like to participate in the Little Friends First Day School program as a teacher of the Faith & Play (Godly Play) curriculum.

BYM is sponsoring the weekend long training February 23-25 at the Sandy Springs Friends Meetinghouse. The flyer describes the program: "Used with multi-generational groups, family worship, or a children's program, this Montessori-inspired storytelling method is open-ended and sets the stage for genuine wondering about the story! It will be a rich weekend of storytelling where we'll explore Bible and Quaker Stories and practice learning and telling stories to the group. The weekend serves as both a training and a time of spiritual retreat and nourishment for teachers." Part of the occasion for the new training is publishing of the revised second edition of Faith and Play stories in February, with four new stories. More information is available on line at <https://www.facebook.com/events/329562640854564/> Or contact the trainer directly, Melinda Werner at faithandplaystories@gmail.com or reach her by phone: (484) 678-6508. Scholarships are available from BYM or from Herndon Friends Ministry and Oversight committee.

P&SC: Jan 23, A Day For All People

Melanie Stanley reminded Friends of the Virginia Legislature's Day For All People, an opportunity to visit the legislature and meet with legislators and staff about issues. The event, sponsored by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is a combination of education about effective advocacy, lectures from experts and legislators, and meetings with local legislators.

There will be an early morning bus ride from Reston to arrive at St Paul's Episcopal Church next to the State Capitol. After a full day, the bus will leave Richmond about 3:30 PM. For more information, contact Ting Yi Oei or Melanie Stanley; to register go to the VICPP website <https://virginiainterfaithcenter.ourpowerbase.net/civicism/event/info?id=12&reset=1>

FCNL Advocacy Teams

Herndon Friends are continuing their work as part of one of 80 FCNL Advocacy teams around the country. FCNL leaders share their research,

talking points and strategy with the teams on a monthly call. Their methods included writing letters, making calls, meetings with legislators and their staff, and writing to newspapers. Each year the advocacy teams focus their research and education efforts on a particular topic. In 2017 the issue was reining in Pentagon spending. For 2018, the topic will be about minimizing the dangers of nuclear war.

The next advocacy team meeting will be at the Meetinghouse at 7 pm on February 7. Contact Katherine Cole, the meeting's FCNL liaison for more information.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Year End Report 2018

(adapted from presentation at Meeting for Business 1/14/18 by Co Clerk Tim Stanley)

Herndon Friends were active in multiple areas of Peace, Justice, and Social Concerns during 2017.

Discussions at P&SC meetings ranged over a broad array: the ADAMS center, working with Syrian refugees, how to assist the homeless, participating in the post inaugural Women's March

Ting Yi Oei kept the P&SC Committee updated periodically on legislation by the Virginia General Assembly on a variety of topics including Medicaid expansion, executions, gas pipeline environmental questions, and immigration law reform. The number of executions has declined in Virginia. There was one execution in 2015, none in 2016 and two in 2017;

Co Clerks Tim and Melanie Stanley plan to join Ting Yi at the January 23, 2018 "Day for All People" advocacy day at the state legislature, sponsored by the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy, with which the meeting participates. Committee members are working to create a list of addresses and phone numbers for VA delegates and senators who represent the areas where Herndon Friends live.

In cooperation with other BYM meetings, Herndon Friends participated in the Annual DC Pride Parade and Festival.

Committee presented a minute on being a Meeting that is welcoming to all people, which was revised and accepted at MFB, and another minute regarding donation of Meeting money only to organizations that reflect our values.

Committee or Meeting members served as liaisons to many organizations: the VICPP, Cornerstones, Friends Committee on National Legislation,

American Friends Service Committee, Interfaith Peace and Justice, and Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR.)

The meeting began to participate in the **DMV Sanctuary Congregational Network** that provides assistance and solace to undocumented residents of the United States who are facing deportation proceedings. DMV divides its efforts into helping residents understand their rights, enlarging the network of congregations that can provide support and in some cases sanctuary for the undocumented, and providing training for citizens who want to advocate for and assist them/

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Much of the work is accompaniment of immigrants to ICE meetings to serve as a moral support and to hold phone/papers. Peace and Social Concerns provided financial support for Sanctuary DMV in 2017, and the organization is listed as a line item for the 2018 budget.

Cornerstones is a long standing Reston based interfaith organization that provides services for local needy or homeless people. In addition to running the homeless shelter—for which the RE committee and the P&SC committee share the responsibility for the monthly sandwich making project—Cornerstones coordinates with the county hypothermia project, and has drives to supply school supplies and backpacks, as well as a Christmas program for children.

Hyperthermia Project – Debbie McCormick worked with our committee and Meeting and Cornerstones' to involve us in the Hyperthermia Project. Debbie reported great response from Meeting. Jay McClendon organized the New Years Eve Hypothermia dinner at the North County shelter. to serve dinner for homeless on a very cold night.

Food Ministry included:

- Thanksgiving Baskets – November 13 was day for shopping and packing boxes. Many on committee, our high school students, and the entire Meeting got involved.
- Committee supported purchasing food and making sandwiches for the Rucker Homeless Shelter on the second Sunday of each month.
- Weekly collection of food at Meeting and food is delivered to the Cornerstones food bank in Reston on a regular basis.

Another Cornerstones project: Members of our Meeting sponsored children who needed gifts for the holidays.

Christmas Ornaments – We continued our sale of Christmas Ornaments to provided medical

insurance policies for uninsured children with the Medical Care for Children Partnership. This year we sold a variety of “vintage” ornaments produced in previous years. We have the potential to raise more money for this project by increasing production and expanding our customer base, perhaps by doing some online sales.

Guidelines for giving funds to Friends United Meeting (FUM) came up at recent Meeting for Business. FUM continues with its personnel policy that recognizes the civil rights of people “without regard to sex, race, national origin, age, physical disability, or sexual orientation. It is expected however that intimate sexual behavior should be confined to traditional marriage, understood to be between one man and one woman.” The limitation on sexual activity is widely regarded as discriminatory.

Conversation was held about matching our values to our giving, and to the history of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and FUM. Although we have made an annual donation to FUM in the past, and BYM continues to make a substantial donation to FUM, the meeting could not unite with a contribution to FUM this year, and FUM is no longer included as a line item in our budget.

The Peace Awards Committee is a subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns. They will be giving their annual report in May or June, at the conclusion of the 2018 Student Peace Awards. Support Peace Awards on March 11. All Friends are invited to attend the Student Peace Awards Reception

Queries for the Spiritual State of the Meeting

The Ministry and Oversight Committee has set 2/4/18 as the date for a worship sharing to discern the Spiritual State of the Meeting by considering a set of queries. Each year, Baltimore Yearly Meeting asks the Monthly Meetings to submit a Spiritual State of the Meeting report. The BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee reads the reports and composes a Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting report, which is approved at annual session. Sometimes it’s not clear what the purpose of all this is. It’s not supposed to be either a report of what the meeting did last year, or a plan for the year ahead. Part of it is a way for us all to see if we’re “on the same page.” Are we worried about the same things? Are we working towards common goals? Are there common paths in our spiritual journeys?

One way to prepare for this is to read some of the previous Spiritual State reports—not ours, but other meetings. They are all available on the BYM-rsf.org website, including the 2017 BYM SSOM.

http://www.bym-rsf.org/who_we_are/ssmr/#ssymr17

The queries suggested for this year are:

1. *As we wait expectantly for Divine Guidance, how deep are our Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Business?*
2. *How have we put our faith into action in the world, and what leadings has our Meeting felt most strongly?*

Sandwiches and Big Heart Dog Food

Joshua Whomsley and Finn Wilkins were the sole representatives of the Young Friends to help make sandwiches, but with remarkable industry and the assistance of FAPS Melanie and Tim Stanley, Kim Glazer, and Kindra Whomsely the 120 sandwiches were packaged quickly and with time for Melanie to share a story from her childhood. It seems that when Melanie was a little girl, she was sort of like “Harriet the Spy”—slipping around the neighborhood and peering into the neighbors windows. One day, she and her friend had climbed down into the window well of a basement apartment to look at the kitchen of a new person in the neighborhood—an elderly, somewhat frail looking man, who was opening a can of Big Heart Dog Food. The girls looked all around, but they couldn’t see a dog, and then horrified they saw the man spoon the dogfood out onto a plate and begin to eat it! They ran home and told Melanie’s mom, who responded not by punishing the girls for spying, but by preparing a big plate of roast beef and potatoes and giving it to the girls to take back to the neighbor. He accepted it gratefully and soon other mothers were sending food so the old man did not have to be concerned about hunger. (Melanie’s friend’s name was Susan—and the story sounds a lot like “Susan and the Witch” from the Quaker anthology “Lighting Candles in the Dark.” It’s in the Meeting library.)

Ministry and Oversight Year End Report

The Ministry and Oversight Committee strives most of all to support members and attenders along their spiritual journeys. Through First Hour discussions, scholarships to attend retreats or Quaker camps, welcoming of newcomers, pastoral care, and our continued attention to the quality of Herndon Friends Meeting’s Meetings for Worship, we hope we have lived up to the Light.

Early each year, we facilitate the “Spiritual State of the Meeting” using queries provided by Baltimore Yearly Meeting. After an hour of worship sharing, with those present sharing deeply their responses to the queries, we are grateful that Terence McCormally summarized the themes (including any reflections sent separately) and drafted a document that captured our spiritual life in 2016.

We are drawn toward the Light in our actions in the world.

Our First Hour discussion topics this year included Vocal Ministry, the FUM policy on personnel ethics, “The Conversation Project” about discussing end-of-life issues, “Provocative Stories”, the BYM STRIDE program, Sacred Spaces, the Gathered Meeting, a panel discussion with members of the FCNL Advocacy Team, and the Spiritual Journeys of Ting Yi Oei, Liz Willson, and Paul Murphy. These First Hour discussions on the third Sunday of each month continue to enrich our Meeting. We notice that vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship is often deeper if we have gathered together prior—either in a discussion, or Meeting for Business, or Committee meetings.

We were blessed to welcome three new members in 2017: Matt Shinkman, Kyle Benjamin, and John Smallwood. Matt’s clearness committee enriched our connections and our own searching. Kyle became an associate member, and John transferred his membership from Langley Hill Meeting. We are delighted that they bring their gifts and spiritual lives to worship with us.

We formed a clearness committee for the marriage of Anna McCormally and Aaron Goldbeck and, after meeting with the couple, we joyfully took their marriage under our care and oversaw that their wedding was accomplished in right order.

The Care Coordinating Committee, which will present its own report, formed several groups to help care for members needing assistance throughout the year.

Ministry and Oversight also encourages the spiritual journey of all of our youth by offering scholarships to attend Quaker summer camps at Opequon, Shiloh, or Catoctin. This year, five of our young Friends took us up on that offer and had their camp attendance joyfully supported by the Meeting. We love what Quaker camp does for our youth! We also supported several members to attend the Pendle Hill Workshop “Say the Wrong Thing”, and as always, we offer first-timer scholarships to attend BYM Annual Sessions in August.

Our Annual retreat in June was held at a local park, with food and games provided by Ministry and Oversight. Although we have hopes for longer retreats (perhaps even residential!), a survey of the Meeting members indicated that the afternoon format was the most popular at this time.

Meg Wallace continues to hold “Second Saturdays” at her home, with a simple supper, followed by silent reflections on a reading, and then deeper sharing together.

One of the challenges that we faced this year was around the formation of a new committee. We were charged by Meeting for Business to discern if Herndon Friends Meeting was in need of a Communications and Outreach Committee, and if so, to determine the role of the new committee. This process was long and full of revisions; the recommendation for a new committee was ultimately embraced by the Meeting. We are grateful for the way in which the observations of many voices challenged, informed and improved the recommendation.

Out of the discernment about a new committee came several initiatives to welcome newcomers more fully into the life of the Meeting. From a new guest book, to an Inquirer’s table at potlucks, to taking a fresh look at some of our old routines, we are pleased to find more ways to share about Quaker practice and to get to know one another more deeply.

In December, members and attenders delighted in the Christmas sing and we ended the year with a pot luck and worship on December 23rd, and Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve. From the smallest deliberations to the weightiest decisions, we are reminded to be mindful of various viewpoints, to try our best to not make assumptions, and to remain open to the workings of the Spirit among us.
Respectfully submitted,

Inga Erickson, Clerk
Ministry and Oversight Committee

Brief Notes

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.
- Dorothy Day

The updated Clerks and Committees report is available on the website.

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