

# The Herndon Light



1st Month 11, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 222

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| Jan 15    | BYM Camp Registration for returning campers begins!   |
| Jan 23-25 | BYM Women's Retreat: Connection at Skycroft Conference Center Middleton, MD   |
| Jan 31    | Dealing with Difficult People, including Yourself A workshop in Non Violent Communication<br>10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the meeting house Contact Lynn Witwer for details |
| Feb 1     | BYM Camp Registration for new campers opens   |
| Feb 1     | Worship Sharing on the Spiritual State of the Meeting   |
| Feb 1     | Potluck at Rise of Meeting for Worship  |
| Feb 8     | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 9:00 AM  |
| Feb 13-15 | Young Friends Conference at Homewood Meeting in Baltimore   |

## Query

In what ways do I show respect for that of God in every person? Do I reach out to those in distress? If I find this difficult, what holds me back? 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?

## Response

In listening to messages that not only don't speak to us, but actively irritate us, perhaps we need to concentrate on the speaker and not the message. *It never occurred to me not to share my concerns about my daughter with the meeting.* When I was grieving, I found my solace here.

## Meeting For Business 1/11/2015

Cat Wilkins, acting as clerk in the absence of Kim Glazer, gathered 21 Friends for Meeting for Worship with attention to business with a reading of the Query. After a period of silent worship, the meeting attended to business.

### Annual Reports

The meeting received the annual reports of the House and Grounds Committee, the Ministry and Oversight Committee, and the Care Coordination Committee.

**David Whomsley** reviewed the work of the House and Grounds Committee. Perhaps the most dramatic work was the removal of the large ash tree from the northeast corner of the building. The multitrunked tree, already supported with cables,

was judged too weak to stand, because of the risk of falling branches. The tree was removed and now the Bikes for the World Collection has to find somewhere else to lean the processed bicycles. Other projects ranged from the mundane (getting phone lines repaired, fixing a water leak, resolving an ant infestation) to the exciting (participating in the investigation of an ancillary building for First Day School class.

Projects in 2015 include finding alternative telephone service, clarifying procedures for incidental use of the meeting house, ensuring safe snow and ice removal.

**Cat Wilkins** presented the report of the Ministry and Oversight Committee, which outlined the Adult Religious Education Activities and the work of M&O on clearness committees, marriage under the care of the meeting, and membership.

**Margaret Rogers** presented the annual report of the Care Coordination Committee. This committee helps connect people who need assistance with people who are able to provide assistance.

Fortyseven Friends are involved in the "Circle of Care" as people who are willing to assist when notified. When the Care Coordinating Committee learns that a Friend is in need of meals because of an injury or illness, or rides to appointments, or child care, the CCC helps connect those in the Circle of Care to the people in need using the Lotsa Helping Hands website.

Margaret Rogers was instrumental in the formation of the Care Coordination Committee, and has served as clerk since its inception in 2011. Abbey

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).

Compton is assuming the clerk's role this year. The Meeting expressed gratitude to Margaret, David, Cat, and all the members of the committees for their work in 2014.

### **Spiritual State of the Meeting**

Cat Wilkins announced that the Ministry and Oversight Committee will be seeking insight in order to prepare the annual Spiritual State of the Meeting report for Baltimore Yearly Meeting. In line with past practices, the first First Day of February will have a worship sharing to consider the queries suggested by BYM. The M&O committee will use the messages from the worship sharing to aid in drafting the Report.

### **Ad Hoc Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee**

Cat Wilkins solicited nominations for the ad hoc committee to nominate people to the nominating committee. Margaret Fisher and Katherine Cole will join Weez Rothrock, and report a recommendation back to Meeting for Business

### *Joys and Sorrows*

For the last year or two, Herndon Friends have ended meeting by asking each person to stand and say their name, and to share any Joys or Sorrows they wish to tell, and to make any announcements that are pertinent to the meeting community. Most Friends have found this practice rewarding, but there have been some concerns. One is that it extends the time of meeting in a somewhat unpredictable way, and it can make it difficult for parents to choose between staying in their seats for announcements vs. leaving to supervise children who have been released from First Day School. Another is that Friends may see the opportunity as a forum for a detailed discussion of an issue, or a long tale which has less interest for the group than is supposed)

Perhaps most problematic has been the sometimes awkward juxtaposition of a serious, sometimes tearful concern and a more lighthearted joy or routine announcement. The clerk has tried to mitigate this sometimes by asking for a period of silent reflection before moving to the next speaker. And Friend Meg Wallace cautioned against thinking that meeting should be comfortable: "Awkward? Welcome to life."

Some Friends have visited meetings where the clerk arises before the end of meeting to ask Friends with special concerns or sorrows to share them out of the silence of the meeting for worship so they can be given proper reflection. This mild bit of programming is uncomfortable for some Friends who see it as disturbing the gathered meeting, confusing the distinction between a spirit led message and a personal concern.

In the discussion, it was remarked that perhaps we should have a time for Joys and Sorrows, and then a time for announcements. It was noted that Friends may need be encouraged to be brief in announcements since the details can be distributed by other means.

Rising out of the discussion, a way forward was discerned.

**Friends united with a plan to have the clerk close meeting in the usual way, and then ask each Friend to stand, give their name and share any joys, concerns, or sorrows with a respectful pause when needed. After that has been completed, the clerk will ask for brief announcements.**

### *BYM Women's Retreat*



The Women's Retreat of BYM will convene again on January 23 through 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Skycroft Conference Center in Middleton, Maryland. Register on the BYM website , or call the yearly meeting office at 301-774-7663. The website says that the theme for this year's retreat is "Connection—to ourselves, to each other and to spirit". Retreat activities will include worship and worship sharing groups, workshops, and time for singing, chanting, dancing, solitude and rest. *"The deep of winter is the perfect time to be warmed by the loving and thoughtful company of other Quaker women. It's the spiritual boost that helps me make it joyfully into spring."*

### *Christmas Wrap Up*

To paraphrase Quaker administrative leader and nonprofits scholar Thomas Jeavons (who admittedly was talking about clergy and the laity) "Herndon Friends haven't abolished the performers, we've abolished the audience." Stacey Laroy organized, as much as a person could organize a silence\* of Quakers, a wonderful Christmas Sing for Herndon Friends on 12/20/14. Nearly 50 friends crowded the meeting house, first for sweet and savory finger food, and then for a variety show that would have made Ed Sullivan jealous: Katherine Cole on the piano, Renee Erickson on the violin, and Amy Tunis on the cello anchored the choral singing. Margaret Fischer and Andrew O'Connor performed a memorable flute and vocal duet. Many children contributed to the Little Drummer Boy. Stacey and Margaret performed another duet. Renee Erickson as the Producer, and Terence McCormally as Stage Manager involved every willing Friend as a cast member in a retelling of the Christmas Story, punctuated by Christmas Carols.

## Christmas Eve Potluck and Worship Sharing

Lynn Nagle and Katherine Cole put up the sign up sheet for the small Christmas Eve Pot Luck and Meeting for Worship. Seventeen Friends signed up, but more than 30 came! There was no shortage of food, but additional tables and chairs had to be added to accommodate the growing crowd.

## *Shared by Friends*

*(forwarded by Meg Wallace)*

Remembering that it happened once,  
We cannot turn away the thought,  
As we go out, cold, to our barns  
Toward the long night's end, that we  
Ourselves are living in the world.  
It happened in when it first happened,  
That we ourselves, opening a stall  
(A latch thrown open countless times  
Before), might find them breathing there,  
Foreknown; the Child bedded in straw,  
The mother kneeling over Him.  
The husband standing in belief  
He scarcely can believe, in light  
That lights them from no source we see,  
An April morning's light, the air  
Around them joyful as a choir.  
We stand with one hand on the door,  
Looking into another world  
That is this world, the pale daylight  
Coming just as before, our chores  
To do, the cattle all awake,  
Our own white frozen breath hanging  
In front of us; and we are here  
As we have never been before,  
Sighted as not before, our place  
Holy, although we knew it not.

*--from, A Timbered Choir, by Wendell Barry*

## *Information Management*

Herndon Friends Meeting is currently managing information about the meeting members and attenders in many different places: there is a small database of names and addresses to generate newsletter labels; the RE committee keeps a spreadsheet of kids in the First Day School classes. There is a photo board that gets updated whenever Margaret Fisher can grab a new attender. Ed Markham manages the list serv; Cathy Tunis puts documents on the web site and reports on membership to BYM. Devon Mahoney has to keep track of who gives what to the Meeting. There are varying levels of backup and security to all this information.

At Meeting for Business, Ed Markham reviewed the options for moving some of this information and the HFM website to the Quaker Cloud. The Quaker Cloud is a project of Friends General

Conference, an attempt to provide a secure consistent database management system for Quaker Meetings. While it can't replace all of our databases, it does have some advantages in security and in ease of management. Although there would be some transition work to be done, once it was accomplished Herndon Friends would be able to edit their directory information, including only information they were comfortable sharing with the Meeting. The site allows work groups to share some resources and documents (think committees) and has a fairly robust calendar system. The Quaker Cloud does not currently host a listserv, so would not replace the current list serv, although that's in the works. The cost of using the Quaker Cloud would be \$240 a year for the Meeting.

Friends who are interested in seeing a functioning Quaker Cloud website can look at The Gunpowder Monthly Meeting site at <http://www.gunpowderfriends.org/>  
In the past Herndon Friends have been cautious about allowing information on Friends to be posted on the internet for privacy/identity theft reasons, to avoid increased spam, and to protect children. After discussion of the current situation,

**Friends united with the concept that the directory information would be available online. Ed Markam will lead the selection and development of a hosting service, and developing the appropriate privacy policies.**

**This may include either a redesign of the website, or a new website. Cathy Tunis, David Whomsley, Andrew Laroy, Paul Murphy, Jodi Beatty, and Margaret Fischer, will work with Ed.**

## *Non Violent Communication*

The Adult Discussion session on Non Violent Communication has generated some interest in follow up workshops. Louisa Davis is a local social activist and interfaith organizer who presents on Non Violent Communication. Lynn Witwer has arranged for Ms Davis to give a series of workshops at the Meetinghouse for Friends and for others in the Reston Herndon area.

On Saturday January 31st from 10:00 am to 1:00 PM she will present on **"Dealing with Difficult People, Including Yourself"**. Starting on Monday 2/2/14 she will lead a six week workshop from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on **Powerful Compassion, Connections, and Choices: Making Life Work for Everyone.** The sessions will be hosted at the Meetinghouse. There is no charge to attend, but donations of \$10 to \$50 are gratefully accepted. Contact Lynn Witwer for details.

Brief Notes

- \*What is your vote for a collective noun for Quakers?
  - A Silence of Quakers
  - A bureaucracy of Quakers
  - A tremblor of Quakers
  - A pandemonium of Quakers
- The Care Coordinating Committee is under new management! 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 [staceybear@laroyfamily.com](mailto:staceybear@laroyfamily.com) or Margaret Rogers at [margrog@juno.com](mailto:margrog@juno.com)
- Plans for the installation of a transformer at the Northeast corner of the HFM lot to allow for the undergrounding of powerlines in the area are nearly complete. The transformer will likely be installed later this spring.
- If you didn't come to Meeting for Business, you didn't get to hear the story of the mysterious snow shoveling: who cleared the Meetinghouse Parking Lot?

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660 Spring Street  
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