

# The Herndon Light



11th Month 13, 2016 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 239

|         |                                                                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/20   | Adult Discussion Session Led by Meg Wallace 9:00 AM at the Meetinghouse: Fables     |
| 11/20   | Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00     |
| 11/20   | Worship sharing on Reiki Alternative Healing 2:30 PM Fauquier Friends Worship Group |
| 12/4    | Potluck at rise of Meeting for Worship                                              |
| 12/11   | Meeting for Business 9:00 AM                                                        |
| 12/11   | Christmas Ornaments available for purchase                                          |
| 12/18   | Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00     |
| 1/15    | Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00     |
| 1/27-29 |                                                                                     |
| 2/19    | Fauquier Friends Worship Group Singing at 10:30; Worship/First Day school 11:00     |

## *Query Stewardship*

Do we regard our resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given? What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to nurture our gifts? How do we encourage the members of the larger community to be careful stewards of their gifts?

### **Advices**

“To turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives”: this, in the words of John Woolman, is the meaning of Quaker stewardship.

And this applies to all that we have and are, as individuals, as members of groups, and as inhabitants of the earth. As individuals, we need to be careful to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, our material possessions, and other resources in a

spirit of love, aware that we hold these gifts in trust and are responsible to use them in the Light.

Investment of assets and consumption of resources require our careful stewardship. As Friends, we can direct our investments toward socially desirable ends, avoiding speculation and activities wasteful or harmful to others. Seek to participate constructively and without greed in the economic life of the community.

## *Meeting For Business 11/13/16*

Clerk Cat Wilkins gathered 23 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 AM on 11-13-16 with a reading of the 17<sup>th</sup> Query, on Stewardship. Friends responded out of the silence.

“Resources are more than money; good stewardship means that it is important

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 Abbey 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 [margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com)

not to overspend or underspend.”  
*“Socially Responsible investment policy can be challenging. Every company has some darkness somewhere, some blemish somewhere, related to the environment or human rights or sustainability. Each of us individually also has a little darkness, some imperfection.*

Especially this time of year we get piles of solicitation Is it better to give a little to many organizations or a lot to one?

*How does this apply to the way we raise our children?*

“Some people have given lots of time and care to the meeting. It makes me proud to take the supplies to Cornerstones. But how do we reach out to the bigger community, both Quakers and non Quakers?”

The Clerk read the highlights from the minutes of the October Meeting For Business

Fred Cresson reported for Ministry and Oversight that Meg Wallace will be leading an adult discussion session next First Day, November 20 at 9:00 AM at the meetinghouse.

**Harry Tunis** reported on the accomplishment of marriage between Aubrey Stanton and Lucas Last. **The report prepared by Cathy Tunis was accepted and is included.**

**Stacey LaRoy** reported on the clearness committee for **Bert Curtis**. The committee of Stacey Laroy, **Tim Stanley, Melanie Stanley** and **Debbie McCormick** found Bert clear for membership. **Membership for Bert Curtis was approved with great joy.** The Hospitality committee will be asked to arrange a welcoming.

**Amy Tunis** reported for the Finance Committee on the plan to send a letter to all members and attenders of the meeting reminding them of the meeting’s financial

circumstances. Contributions are lagging historical trends and at the end of October contributions were \$18,429 short of the \$51,000 budgeted for the year. No analysis has been done yet to identify if the shortage is related to fewer families contributing, or a decrease in the amount of contribution per family.

Basic fixed costs for the meeting include \$21,000 for the mortgage, insurance, utilities, and finance fees, and \$11,000 for Herndon Friends share of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Apportionment. The meeting has significant reserves in excess of \$300,000 in the Capital fund and the Growth and Building fund but the meeting has already drawn on those funds this year for the First Day School Cabin and an unbudgeted expenditure to BYM Camping program to support the new bathhouse. Amy reported that approximately 80% of meeting contributions are made through an automatic debit program where Friends complete a paper form that allows the Meeting bank to directly withdraw funds from the contributor account. Receiving funds directly this way means the treasurer doesn’t have to deposit checks, but it also means that Friends cannot adjust their contribution amounts easily through their own online banking accounts.

Friends considered a draft letter provided by the Finance Committee. The purpose of the letter is to encourage Friends to make year-end contributions, to encourage more Friends to use the automatic payment program, and to encourage Friends who use the auto pay program to review their automatic payments and adjust them when possible. Friends made some suggestions for the letter, including providing information on how to adjust or sign up for auto pay, sending the budget for the year, to personalize the letter by categories (those

who use auto pay, those who haven't contributed to the meeting this year) and to make sure we say thank you in the letter, reminding all Friends that while finances are important, their most valuable contribution is their participation in the life of the Meeting.

**Friends united with the recommendation of the finance committee to send a letter to all attenders and members advising them of the state of Meeting finances and soliciting contributions in the spirit of the draft letter reviewed, with further edits as deemed appropriate by the finance committee.** The finance committee is authorized to send the letter as they determine.

**Harry Tunis**, clerk of the nominating committee reported that he, **Paul Murphy**, and **Kim Glazer** are working on the nominating committee report which will be presented at December meeting for business.

**Catoctin Bathhouse Project** - Harry Tunis reported on the Interim Meeting discussion of the Catoctin Bathhouse. The project initially was expected to cost 300,000, but when bids received it was in the range of \$700,000. A contract was approved for \$690,000 and construction has begun with hope to have this completed for next camp year. Financing will be through donations and "Friendly Loans". HFM has given \$5000 from the building and growth fund to the Bathhouse project. Lessons were learned in the process, and Harry articulated some of them: more work should be done in preparing estimates prior to committing to a project; committee members should not represent only their own interests but should endeavor to think more holistically.

## *Accomplishment of Marriage Aubrey Stanton and Lucas Last*

Aubrey Stanton and Lucas Last were married on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 5 o'clock in Bluemont, VA, under the care of Herndon Friends Meeting. About 90 guests gathered on the terrace of the Bluemont Vineyard's wedding venue, overlooking the valley and rolling hills beyond, with a blue sky and an 80 degree temperature. Overseers were Harry Tunis, Cathy Tunis, Kim Glazer and Sharon Chase. Sharon flew in from Colorado for the weekend. Priscilla and Don Chamlee also served on the Oversight committee, but were only able to be there in spirit. Apart from local family members, guests came from California and Chicago, including the family in Chicago where Aubrey had been a nanny for three years. Harry gave the opening remarks and explanation of the coming events to a rapt audience of mostly non-Quakers. The bridal party procession consisted of parents, stepparents, grandmothers, 10 attendants, 2 flower girls, and the wedding couple. Lucas had composed the processional music and Sean Stanton was in charge of the sound system. After Aubrey and Lucas spoke to each other at length about their love and commitment to each other, they exchanged the traditional vows. The beautiful wedding certificate was signed and read aloud by a friend of the couple. The Meeting for Worship was filled with messages of love and support. As one of the few experienced Friends there, Taylor Stanton gave the first message, followed by most of the bridal party and many guests. Sharon Chase gave a beautiful closing message, reminding everyone that they were participating in a wedding, not just observing a ceremony, and that all present are now part of a loving community of support for the newly married couple. The wedding certificate was signed by all present and after family photos were taken, a vegetarian meal was served. A cousin of the groom works for NASA and many went outside at 7:40 p.m. to watch the launch of the Orbital ATK rocket taking cargo to the International Space Station. The red streak in the sky rose above the horizon, directly opposite the wedding terrace. Jack and Taylor Stanton harmonized a spontaneous accompaniment as it soared out of sight.

--Cathy Tunis

## *Letter From New England Yearly Meeting*

November 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

As we gathered for our weekly worship this morning, we held all of you in prayer. From that worship, we feel led to write to you with a message of love, encouragement and support. In the aftermath of this week's election, many who are grieving, angry, fearful and isolated are likely to seek refuge and solace in Friends meetings across our region, this Sunday and in the coming weeks. While Friends can't offer all the answers to those who join us in worship, we can offer them spiritual hospitality—a place where they can experience listening, connection, accompaniment and love. **This is a simple and powerful action we can all take in the coming days to lift up a witness to the Light.**

Below are some suggestions we hope you'll consider as you prepare for worship this Sunday:

### **In our Meetings for Worship**

Many of us who worship together often are also in need of refuge. We respond to stress differently; some may be more able to serve in this way right now than others. Let's take care of one another, even as we offer hospitality to new visitors. It may help for those who share the care of worship to communicate in advance to ensure that some Friends who are more able to be available are ready to close worship, speak with visitors, or be open to pastoral care needs.

At the rise of meeting, even a simple invitation for those attending to turn to their neighbor and share briefly what is on their heart might be profoundly helpful. Parents of young children may particularly benefit from connecting with one another as they support their kids. Consider whether newcomers who express an interest might be invited to connect with groups in the meeting working to address racism, strengthen interfaith relationships, or address community needs. This can be an important way of helping them continue to find support, purpose and nourishment.

### **In our surrounding communities**

Remember that because of the climate of fear and hostility fed by this election, many who

have been explicitly targeted in the campaign—including [women], People of Color, LGBTQ+ people, Muslims, immigrants and people with disabilities—may feel particularly unsafe, excluded or afraid. More than ever, we encourage Friends to look for opportunities to publicly identify our meetings as places of refuge and sanctuary for our neighbors who might feel under threat. Posting and publicizing commitments to oppose racism, homophobia, Islamophobia and gender-based violence will be more important than ever. Look for opportunities for Friends to partner with and accompany marginalized communities. Participate in ecumenical, interfaith and community events promoting unity, connection, dialogue and mutual respect, and opposing hate and division.

### *Unspoken Messages- Anxiety*

"My expectations were reduced to zero when I was 21. Everything since then has been a bonus." — **Stephen Hawking**

So much of the anxiety that consumes us is unnecessary and self-generated, the result of artificial deadlines. During Friends discussion of the budget at Meeting for Business there was a lot of talk about end of the year deadlines. It's true that there is a real cycle to the year, as the shorter days and colder nights remind us, and there are tax rules and due dates that should be kept in mind. But in the longer run, it doesn't matter if a contribution gets made in December or January. The whole financial services industry is built upon increasing anxiety: you won't have enough for retirement!. What if you get disabled? What if you die? What if you lose your job? You should plan for college, plan for vacation. People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan! This is the absolute last time we'll ask for money before this critical FEC deadline! Double your gift with our match program if you contribute before midnight!  
STOP.

Yes, bad things are happening, are going to happen. But you know what? People's happiness has almost nothing to do with their circumstance. It's all attitude. It's all about balancing expectations. Just take a breath. Look at the super moon. Be grateful for the messages in meeting, and

the baby's smile, and Aubrey's wedding and the counting of cans, and the making of sandwiches. Remember Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

## ***Fables***

Meg Wallace is leading an adult discussion session on 11-20-16 at 9:00 am at the Meetinghouse. The topic will be the reading of some more of Ed Friedman's Fables. Meg presented some of this material at a previous adult discussion session and it was so well received that she is expanding on it in this session.

Ed Friedman was a Family Therapist, and a Jewish Rabbi who founded the Bethesda Jewish Congregation and practiced in the DC area for 35 years until his death in 1996. He was a noted teacher. Reviews of his book of fables includes these two snippets from the Amazon web site:

"Friedman, with humor, wisdom, and a devious mind, has created a series of fables that highlight the classic dilemmas and struggles of relationships. His characters haunt the reader long after the stories are over and inflict insight better than any formal interpretation ever could. These parables make great lessons and great reading for those caught in the web of trying to change another person or themselves."--Carol Anderson, PhD

"I used a fable for my sermon, and you could have heard a pin drop by the end....I find the book thoroughly delightful and powerful."--  
The Rev. Henry C. Galganowicz, Rector,  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Weston,  
Connecticut

## ***Ministry of Food***

Herndon Friends turned out in force for the Ministry of Food on First Day 11-13-16. The First Day School kids led the way by making 120 sandwiches to stock 60 sandwich bags for the Embury Rucker Shelter. Lynn Nagle accurately bought the supplies so no last minute trips were needed to pick up extra bread or turkey. Kim Glazer Louisa Davis, Jon Burton, and Ed Markam helped the kids package things up so that by 11:25 all the

sandwiches were packed in Abbey Compton's car for delivery to the shelter.

Just in time, because by then Melanie and Tim Stanley had organized a small Quaker Army to package 60 Thanksgiving Food boxes. Keith Curtis and Tim McDermott took the Young Friends shopping and returned with 500 pounds of canned goods, 300 pound of flour, 120 pounds of sugar, 20 gallons of cooking oil, 100 pounds of rice, Jello, pudding, cornbread, and Pringles and laid them out around the meeting house for Friends to divide and pack into individual boxes (the boxes themselves assembled by Paul Murphy, Camryn Joy, and others). Melanie Stanley and Lynn Nagle did the final QC check and Jon Burton, doing double duty did the final assembly. Bert Curtis packed all the boxes into a van for delivery by Katherine Cole to the St John Neuman church on Thursday, from where the boxes will be delivered to families in the Reston Herndon area.

And I'm really sorry if I didn't get your name in: Asa, and Eli, Jack, and Ebba, the Whittiers, Finn and Milo and Harry and all the rest. Great work!

## ***Women's Retreat January 27-29***

The 2017 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat will be held the weekend of January 27 through January 29 for the second year at the Pearlstone Conference Center in Reisterstown, MD. Registration should be available soon on line. Some scholarship money will be available both from BYM and by contacting HFM Ministry and Oversight Committee

The theme is Quaker Wisdom: Echoes in Our Souls. The plenary will feature Paulette Meier, who will share with us how she awakened to the words of the first generation of Friends through setting them to music of her own composition.

If you're interested, register early as the conference sold out last year with 40 people on the waiting list at the end.

Brief Reports:

Curtis Jacobs has taken a new job in eastern Washington state. Linda will join him in December and they will most likely settle in Ellensburg, WA. They will put their house in Virginia on the market in March. We will miss the presence of this wonderful family.

Fauquier Friends Worship Group will sponsor a worship-sharing on Reiki (alternative) Healing as a Spiritual Practice at 2:30 pm on November 20. All are welcome.

Email [fauquierfriends@gmail.com](mailto:fauquierfriends@gmail.com) for more info

Friend's Meetings and concerns require money and time. Non-pastoral Meetings do not need as much financial support as churches with paid ministers, but our concerns do call for considerable funding. We are required to give generously of our time, since our way of serving the Spirit depends on our personal efforts. For every Friend the responsibility to give generously of both money and time is real.

Faith and Practice, 18. Vocational and Financial Decision, BYM 1988

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Martin Luther King, Jr

Herndon Friends Meeting  
660 Spring Street  
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