

# The Herndon Light



6<sup>th</sup> Month 10, 2018 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 252

6/17	9 a.m.: First Hour Discussion: Membership in a Friends Meeting, Building Community: Led by Liz Willson
6/17	11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group Bealeton Depot 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton
7/15	9 a.m.: First Hour Discussion: Books and Snacks: Bring a favorite book to suggest for a HFM book group.
7/15	11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group Bealeton Depot 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton
8/19	9 a.m.: First Hour Discussion: Jon Burton will share his spiritual journey.
8/19	11 a.m.: Fauquier Friends Worship Group Bealeton Depot 10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton

## Query 13 Outreach

How does my life witness to my Quaker faith?

How do I reach out to new attenders and encourage their exploration of Quakerism as a spiritual path?

How does our Meeting convey Quaker faith and practice to the wider community?

Do you find ways to encourage members, attenders, and all seekers to continue attending Meeting?

### Advices:

What does it mean when Friends are admonished to “Let your life speak”? This simple sentence reminds us that it is our lives, not our words, that speak most reliably about who we are and what we believe. Our lives are our ministry, not the specific acts we think of as “official” ministry, such as speaking in meeting, following leadings, or carrying out our roles on committees. Jesus teaches us not

to hide our lights; but to let them shine every day, in every way. Outreach in this broad sense is not something we think about and plan; rather, it simply happens as

we walk our paths in the world, lighted by “that of God” within us.

Advancement and outreach are natural and integral aspects of the Quaker way of life. Realizing that we are all children of God means that there is an infinite opportunity to search for God in our relations with others. Our fellowship begins, grows, and is nurtured in home and meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our love of God and humankind to our relationships with persons in the wider community of which our Meeting is a part, with members of other Meetings, and with all persons whom we meet.

Outreach is not a monologue, but a dialogue – an adventure undertaken in the spirit of a musical improvisation with many instruments. Take time to learn about other people’s experiences of 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 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 Jay McClendon. E-mail [bluejay825@gmail.com](mailto:bluejay825@gmail.com) Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Stacey LaRoy. Correspondence and contributions can be sent to PO Box 88 Herndon, VA 20172 **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](mailto:dandpchamlee@gmail.com); or Fred Cresson at [cresson4@verizon.net](mailto:cresson4@verizon.net), or Margaret Rogers at [margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.anne.rogers1@gmail.com), or Bert Curtis at [bertedits@gmail.com](mailto:bertedits@gmail.com)

Light and, as you learn, give freely from your own. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, but do not be afraid to say what you value and to speak with conviction. Welcome the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith among Friends, as well as members of other faiths.

### ***Meeting for Business 6/10/18***

Clerk **Liz Willson** gathered 21 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m. on June 10, 2018, with a reading of the 13th Query on Meeting for Business, from the 2013 edition, Second Reading, of Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

#### **Ministry and Oversight.**

**House and Grounds** - Clerk **Andrew LaRoy** gave the committee's recommendation on an Assisted Listening System for our meeting room. This installation will make our community more welcoming to visitors and attenders. The system was chosen after several Friends visited a model installation at a retirement community for a demonstration by **Dave Wilkins**, who will do the work. The proposed system includes an FM system and a loop. Attenders can use either a setting on their hearing aids to pick up the voices, or headphones (provided) if needed. The total cost would be \$12,887. Questions and discussions followed. Andrew assured us that the sound system frequency can be adjusted to moderate the background noise of the heating and cooling fan. The loop will need to be installed under the carpeting and may necessitate some carpet repairs, or become a good reason to replace the 20 year old carpet. The Meeting approved the recommendation, with instructions to the Finance committee to determine whether the funding will come from existing funds and reserves, and/or from a special fundraising call to replenish reserves.

**Finance Committee** - Clerk **John Smallwood** reported on the meeting with a representative from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation. John gave a report on the FFC, the history of its founding in the 1800s in Philadelphia and its work with many Friends organizations, which they call "constituents." The committee will study the investments we

have and consider a reorganization of our funds. They will report back with a proposal in October, leading to a first reading of the draft budget in November, with a second reading for approval in December.

**Margaret Fisher** gave a report on the experiences she had visiting other Meetings under the auspices of her Travel Minute of April 6, 2014, from Herndon Friends. She has led at least 32 discussions in local Meetings and other groups meeting around the Yearly Meeting, including Annual Session and the Women's Retreat. Margaret voiced appreciation for the calm presence of **Weez Rothrock** as her accompanying elder and reported that her presence often deflected negative comments and softened hard feelings. She proposed a Minute that she will bring to Annual Session and asked Herndon Friends to adopt it as well.

***In the spirit of peace and compassion, and with a deep concern for the rest of the living world, Herndon Friends Meeting encourages Friends to extend the circle of love to animals, and to consider their welfare when making food choices.***

Discussion followed about the sensitivity of the Minute and how it allows people to make decisions about food choices based on their own leadings. Friends spoke to their own experience with this concern. A question arose about the phrase "love of animals" and how that extends beyond the animals used for food or whether we can love animals in the same way we love humans. A suggestion was also made that we include the need for education around this issue. Although general approval of the Minute was expressed, **the Meeting decided to lay this over for more discussion and editing, before final approval.** The Meeting expressed appreciation for Margaret Fisher's stamina and persistence in taking this concern to so many Friends. Margaret asked that someone else clerk the threshing session on this minute, rather than herself. The Clerk agreed to arrange this.

As Representative to Interim Meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, **Harry Tunis** reported on the **Interim Meeting** June 9, at Frederick Friends Meeting, Frederick, MD. He highlighted the four Minutes brought forth for

consideration by the BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. One Minute was for support of the MLK Poor People's Campaign, going on during this year, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original campaign. There were also minutes on the "Back from the Brink" campaign, calling on the US to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. Draft minutes on the Civil and Human Rights of Transgender People and End of Life Options legislation were also presented. These will be further considered at Annual Session.

### ***Congratulations, Graduates!***



Rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders and First Day School teacher, Abbey Compton

On June 10, we honored six elementary school graduates and one high school graduate as they embark on their next journeys: **Lani O'Foran**, Potomac Falls Class of 2018; rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders **Finn Wilkins**, **Claire Williams**, **Kevin Williams**, **Kyle Benjamin**, and **Mina Garcia**.

### ***In Brief:***

**Family Emergency Fund.** The Clerk reminded Friends of this fund's availability. Needs should be brought to the Ministry and Oversight committee. Please contact **Liz Willson**, **Stacey LaRoy**, or **Weez Rothrock**.

**Student Peace Awards.** **Margaret Rogers** announced the Student Peace Awards was to be held June 10. Plans for future fundraising and other items were to be discussed. Representatives for other sponsoring organizations were invited to attend.

**M & O Announcements.** **Meg Wallace** reported that **Louisa Davis** has supplied a journal where Friends can enter thoughts under the heading, "What Canst thou Say?" It is available on the bookcase next to the fireplace in the meeting room.

## ***Highlights of June 9, 2018 Interim Meeting Held at Frederick Meeting***

***By Cathy Tunis and Harry Tunis***

The Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee proposed several minutes, described below. The full text can be found on the BYM site, the handout on the table near the guest book, or in the general email sent by BYM with the agenda and materials for Interim Meeting.

- A Minute of support for the Poor People's Campaign was approved.
- Sandy Spring Friends approved a minute on the use of nuclear weapons then BYM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee felt that it should have a wider hearing. There is a national campaign that originated by Physicians for Social Responsibility that was endorsed by AFSC and FCNL. Among other goals was the renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first.
- A Minute on the civil and human rights of transgender people was approved.
- A draft Minute on end-of-life options legislation was presented and discussed. It will be revised and brought before Annual Session.

**Margaret Fisher** presented the annual report of the BYM Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals. She highlighted her experiences in leading discussions and worship sharing at a total of 24 meetings over the past several years. **Weez Rothrock** often accompanied Margaret.

Interim Meeting Clerk **Marcy Seitel** mentioned in her opening remarks the

“Quakers Against Racism” banner that was prominently displayed on the clerk’s table. She mentioned **Louisa Davis’** great idea to have such banner and her thankfulness to Louisa for supplying the banner. It was used in a recent DC march against racism. Several others on the march were delighted to discover that Quakers were still alive.

A proposal to create a pastoral care working group under the care of BYM’s Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee was approved. The goal is to create a working group to supply support and nurture to Monthly Meetings so they can attend to the needs of their members and attenders both proactively and in response to challenges and difficulties that arise. Local Meetings are encouraged to send names of those interested in being part of this working group.

Reports were given by the Yearly Meeting Clerk **Ken Stockbridge** along with the General Secretary **Ned Stowe**, Development Director **Ann Venable**, and Treasurer **Tom Hill**.

Plans are under way by the Program Committee to shorten the length of Annual Session in 2019 by one day in the hope of increasing attendance and reducing expenses for attenders. The new format would mean that the session would start Wednesday afternoon and end after lunch on Sunday. The first plenary would be on Wednesday evening and the main lecture will be on Saturday evening instead of Friday.

Don’t forget to register for Annual Session this year that begins Tuesday, July 31, and runs through Sunday noon. Scholarships are available for first-time attenders and through Herndon Friends. Kids from birth through eighth grade get free registration. Herndon Friends has several vouchers for first-time adult attenders, or Friends returning after a long absence, that give you two free days at the Early Registration rate. Contact **Liz** for information.

## *Report on My Traveling Minute, June 2018*

**By Margaret Fisher**

Four and a half years ago, Herndon Friends lovingly released me to travel within Baltimore Yearly Meeting to lead discussions about the spiritual nature of vegetarianism. Since then, I have travelled the length and breadth of BYM and so far have led around 27 discussions.

In 2014, I led a workshop at Annual Session that was attended by **Mary Campbell**. She and I formed the nucleus of a group that has gradually grown and achieved official status as the Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals under the auspices of the Unity with Nature Committee.

Four of us are now travelling on our mission to stimulate thought and discussion about the effect on animals of our food choices. Another forty people have expressed interest in our work, and half of them are participating actively or by email. We are trying a variety of ways to get people interested, including providing vegan cookies at Annual Session and humorous skits at the Women’s Retreat, which we turned into videos and put up on our page on the BYM website.

It has been a tremendous blessing to me that **Weez Rothrock** has come with me to many of these discussions as my accompanying elder. What a joy it has been to have the opportunity to deepen our friendship. Her calming presence keeps everyone centered. In fact, the couple bad experiences I have had occurred when she was unable to be there.

I have been gradually learning ways to raise an uncomfortable subject without making people too defensive to listen. The most useful tools have been humor, self-deprecation, and personal narrative – people respond to stories, and who can argue with your personal experience?

The woman who edited my Pendle Hill pamphlet had me rewrite it so that it was structured around my personal story as a more effective and disarming way of presenting material. I have continued to follow

her advice and have found it useful, but I have very mixed feelings about having everything be about “me, me, me,” when what I want to do is direct our focus to the animals. I get tired of being on stage and hearing my own voice.

The reaction of people to the topic of eating animals is a case study in human psychology, in all its amusing, sad, and dangerous manifestations. It is almost impossible to get people to engage on the actual topic, which is whether we can justify the unnecessary killing of our fellow sentient beings.

Most commonly, people will deflect the conversation to some irrelevant point of my presentation. It is easy for discussion to degenerate into argument, which is why following my presentation, we go into worship sharing, a format that brings out our better natures and that encourages people to speak who might otherwise be afraid to jump in. In this setting, people have reacted with sincere engagement and thoughtful reflection as they wrestle with the difficult issues, even if they are dancing around the core of the problem. This is gratifying to us, as we feel we have accomplished our goal to stimulate thought and discussion

The occasional pushback that comes in the form of anger directed at me is unpleasant. I just see it as a small price to pay for the sake of the voiceless animals. The biggest challenge is convincing people to participate in the first place. Attendance has actually been best at the smaller meetings, where a high proportion of people will stay for the discussion. At large meetings, often only a handful of those present will stay, consisting of the organizer who had to be there and the folks who are already vegetarian. Several meetings have refused to issue us an invitation at all.

Between us, we have led 32 discussions around the Yearly Meeting and are hopeful that it is ready to endorse the following minute, which we plan to bring to Annual Session.

## **Cornerstones Summer Food Needs**

**By Melanie Stanley  
and Tim Stanley**

Summer can be a tough time for kids who get free or reduced meals at school during the academic year. Your donations to Cornerstones can help fill this gap when you give foods that kids can eat at home. Here are some items the kids could really use.

- Old Fashioned Plain Oatmeal (no instant: high contents of sugar and salt!)
- Jelly in jars (for PBJs).
- Pancake mix.
- Six-packs of apple sauce.
- Fresh fruits and veggies.
- Loaves of sliced bread.
- Other healthy foods.

Please continue to send peanut butter, toiletry items (shampoo etc.) and regular food contributions like rice and beans.

Questions? Contact Melanie or Tim, or any member of Peace & Social Concerns.

Herndon Friends Meeting  
660 Spring Street  
Herndon, VA 20170