

# THE HERNDON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING  
QUAKER, 660 SPRING STREET HERNDON, VA 20170

## LIVING OUR FAITH

There is no one way to be a Quaker. The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, is by definition inclusive of all as we believe that there is something of God in everyone and that each human being is of unique worth. Quakers grow and live out their faith through the experience of sharing the quiet presence of God. Over the centuries of experiencing this shared presence Quakers have come to share core insights, called testimonies: integrity, equality, simplicity, community, stewardship of the Earth, and peace. Quakers challenge ourselves to live out these testimonies and then review our progress by responding through deep reflection to queries. Each newsletter will pose a query and offer responses from Members of Herndon Friends Meeting.

Our query for this edition:

*How do our lives illustrate our understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?*

*As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace within and among ourselves?*



The Annual Herndon Friends Easter Portrait

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VISIT HERNDON FRIENDS WEBSITE FOR OUR  
MOST CURRENT INFORMATION .

[WWW.QUAKERCLOUD.ORG/CLOUD/HERNDON-FRIENDS-MEETING](http://WWW.QUAKERCLOUD.ORG/CLOUD/HERNDON-FRIENDS-MEETING)



## QUERY RESPONSES

What are the appropriate personal responses of Quakers to modern political turmoil? Quakers have long standing positions in American Friends Services Committee (AFSC) and Friends Council on National Legislation (FCNL). These do important work with constructive positions, political influence and practical local support. They are institutional and express collective, consensus values.

Yet, as an individual Quaker, I am concerned about my spiritual response to several issues I find disturbing and unsettling. In particular I find the increasing combination of politics and religion in the United States worrisome. I'm deeply concerned about Christian Nationalism, its references to Jesus, and selective quotes from the Old Testament affirming God's use of violence for political gain. I am disappointed when Christians reject the Sermon on the Mount as a guiding principle of the New Covenant.

I am confused about how to respond. Do I get angry, attend political demonstrations, donate to my favorite causes? Why not? But I find myself, as always when the going gets tough, speaking to myself in prayer. I find myself repeating an old mantra from Isaiah 26.3 "though will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee". And rely mostly from one line in the Lord's Prayer "Give us this day our daily bread", our sustenance not only in bread but an approach to life.

Is this too passive in 2024? What else can and should I be doing?

*Bob Fonow, Herndon Friends*

One of the things that appealed to me strongly about Quakerism when our family began attending Herndon Friends Meeting 17 years ago, was the Peace Testimony. For many years before that, or probably most of my life, I have believed in peace. And for many years, I have believed strongly in and have striven to live according to the Golden Rule - Treat others the way you would like to be treated. For me, this means to treat others (even people you don't like very much or disagree with on important issues) with respect, not with physical or verbal violence. I also think/hope that activities I participate in or support as a member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Antiracism Working Group and NAACP, contribute, at least in small ways, to peace. And I often ask God to soften the hearts of those who engage in violence anywhere in the world, (all forms of violence, including domestic, war related or otherwise) and thus end the violence.

*Tivonia Nagle, Herndon Friends*

In many ways I live a privileged life beyond the reach of war. I don't look at the images. I know that only a few degrees of separation put me in the horrendous circle of war, but I can (so far) keep myself out of that circle. Being in a loving community reminds me of the importance of and gives me the energy to face the need to work for peace in the small ways that I can, whether supporting a neighbor in need or being an ally to my international affairs colleagues who are most affected by today's horrors.

*Bert S. Curtis, Herndon Friend*

## WORDS ABOUT PEACEMAKING

Peacemaking does not mean passivity  
It is the act of interrupting injustice  
without mirroring injustice.

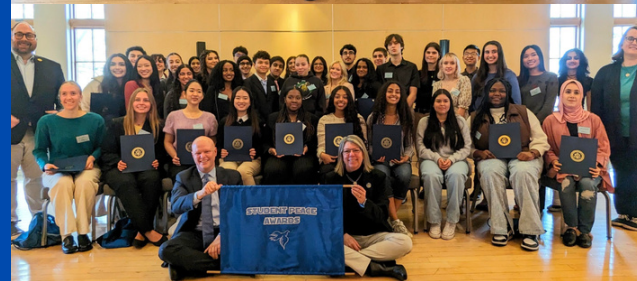
It is the act of disarming evil  
without destroying the evildoer.

It is the act of finding a third  
way that is neither fright nor flight  
but the careful, arduous pursuit  
of reconciliation and justice.

It is about a revolution of love  
that is big enough to set  
both the oppressed and the oppressors  
free.

*Shane Claiborne*

*Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary  
Radicals*



Herndon Friends and other County representatives (top photos) hosted the ceremony on March 10 to honor this year's Student Peace Award winners. Students from 26 schools (lower photo) were honored this year. The award was established by Herndon Friends in 2006 with just one school, Herndon High School. <https://fairfax.studentpeaceawards.org/>



## Committee list and Leadership

**CLERK:** Tim Stanley

### MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

*John Smallwood*

*Care Coordinating Sub-Committee*

*Priscilla Chamlee*

### FINANCE

*Harry Tunis , Fred Cresson*

*Terence McCormally-Treasurer*

### COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

*Matthew Lofgren*

### PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

*Katherine Cole*

*Anti-Racism Working Group*

*Marguerite Miller & Tivonia Nagle*

*Peace Awards Committee*

*Margaret Fisher & Margaret Rogers*

*Friends Committee on Federal Legislation*

*Mary Brandon*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Inga Erickson*

### HOSPITALITY

*Gretel Von Pischke*

### HOUSE AND GROUNDS

*Harry Tunis*

*Green Working and Landscape and*

*Habitat Working Groups*

*Margaret Fisher*

### NOMINATING

*Bert Curtis*

**COMMITTEE LEADERS CAN BE CONTACTED  
AT [HERNDONFRIENDSMTG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HERNDONFRIENDSMTG@GMAIL.COM)  
WITH LEADER'S NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE**

## COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Communication and Outreach:

Planning is currently underway to finalize Herndon Friend's participation in the Annual Reston Pride Festival. Watch weekly announcements for details. The Committee also welcomes input on how to expand awareness of and community connections for Herndon Friends. Please contact Matt Lofgren with ideas.

### Peace and Social Concerns:

On Saturday, April 20, 4:30 p.m. Peace and Social Concerns Committee will host a discussion led by Bob Fonow titled, "Jews in Palestine - Diaspora to Nuclear Deterrence - What's Next." The discussion will be followed by a potluck meal.

Peace and Social Concerns decided during its meeting in March to reach out to support our houseless neighbors in Reston. For more information on the program go to <https://www.restonisourhome.org/>

Cornerstones is grateful for our contributions of oats and other food, and warm clothing for children and adults. The needs for these things will continue, so remember our neighbors when you do your shopping. Drop your contributions in the donations box in the Meeting House.

### House and Grounds:

Spring has sprung and weeding has begun. Requests for assistance throughout the spring will be made via list serve mailings, weekly Meeting announcements and on the website.

### Religious Education:

Our weekly Godly Play sessions continue during Meeting for Worship with our youngest friends. All children are welcome. Additional adult volunteers are needed to lead Godly Play and tend to the baby room. Please consider offering your gift of play and care to our young friends. For further information contact Inga Erickson



Our youngest Friends found all the hidden Easter eggs this year.



# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO QUAKERS

## Quaker Leaders Reflect on Justice at Community Events

Peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of justice and social systems that address the root causes of violence, according to recent speakers at events sponsored by Friends organizations.

BlackQuaker Project founder and Wellesley Friends Meeting member Dr. Hal Weaver, issued a call Feb. 5 to put Justice front and center among the more commonly-acknowledged Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship (“SPICES”). In an online First Monday presentation Feb. 5 sponsored by the Quaker retreat facility Pendle Hill, Dr. Weaver and co-presenter Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Quaker UN Office Geneva Director, called for “restrospective justice” as a Quaker model for healing historical injustice and harms. “I come to you as a North American-born African Quaker activist functioning in a blatantly corrupt and racialized world with enormous gaps of inequality in almost every imaginable category,” Dr. Weaver began.

He and Madlala-Routledge went on to describe how systemic racism and structural violence have been embedded in our social, economic, and political systems for decades and that addressing the root causes of racism while pursuing retrospective justice are key to fulfilling the Quaker testimonies of peace, community and equality. The two speakers pointed out that some individual Quakers and Quaker-linked organizations propped up slavery and exploitation in various ways, and that an accurate telling of Quaker history needs to be part of modern-day racial healing and reconciliation.

Peace Studies educator Dr. Richard E. Rubenstein, the invited speaker at the recent Fairfax County Student Peace Awards ceremony, echoed Dr. Weaver’s remarks. In his keynote address, Dr. Rubenstein distinguished between “negative peace,” or the absence of overt conflict, and “positive peace,” which is the presence of social justice, equality, and mechanisms for conflict transformation and resolution.

In their own ways, all three speakers presented a common theme: that in order to achieve peace, you have to address not just the symptoms of violence but its underlying causes.

*Paul Murphy, Herndon Friend and program participant*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR MEETING AT 660 SPRING STREET  
SUNDAYS AT 10:15. A.M.  
TO ATTEND VIA ZOOM PLEASE CALL  
703-736-0592 TO ACQUIRE THE LINK

POT LUCK SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT NOON AT MEETING HOUSE

VIGIL FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND EQUALITY: SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M. AT MEETING HOUSE

MEN'S GROUP: SUNDAY, APRIL 14 AT 7:30 P.M. AND THEN BI-WEEKLY (VIA ZOOM)

SANDWICH MAKING (FOR LOCAL SHELTER): SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 10:30 A.M.

BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS 7:00 P.M. (VIA ZOOM)

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL) ADVOCACY TEAM: FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH 7:00 P.M. (VIA ZOOM)

ANIT-RACIST WORKING GROUP: FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM

THE SADDEST PART OF THE HUMAN RACE IS WE'RE OBSESSED WITH THIS IDEA OF 'US AND THEM,' WHICH IS REALLY A NO-WIN SITUATION, WHETHER IT'S RACIAL, CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL.

— DAVE MATTHEWS