

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Meeting Telephone: (410-573-0364)

Clerk: Barbara Thomas

Building Use Coordinator(BUC):Sky Elsbree (410-647-3591)

Annapolis Friends Meeting Website:

<http://www.quaker.org/annapolis>

AFNews: [e-mail removed from website]

Phil Caroom (cell 443-822-4988)

Meetings for Worship:

**Annapolis Friends Meeting House, 351 DuBois Road, Annapolis
First Days, 11:00 A.M.**

First Day School for children

11:15 A.M. (join meeting for worship from 11:00-11:15)

Nursery care for our youngest

11:00 A.M.

Meetings for Worship with a

Concern for Business:

1st First Day of month at 9:00 A.M.

Adult religious education:

As noted in calendar below

FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR

07	(1)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
			-	Potluck
08				Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 3)
14	(2)	8:00 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		9:00 A.M.	-	Adult ed. on worship sharing process, followed by annual "State of the Meeting" sharing for later report
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
21	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
28	(4)	8:00 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter items due: please email!

Care of the Meeting House for First Month: Ministry and Worship

QUERIES FOR SECOND MONTH: MEETINGS FOR BUSINESS

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the meeting? *Faith and Practice*, p.38

Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town or parish business ... but to wait upon the Lord. - George Fox, *Epistle 313* (1674)

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes

Third Day of the First Month, 2010

Elise Albert (Acting Clerk), Marcia Ormsby (Recording Clerk)

Present: S&N. Elsbree, C. Krafft, L. Pickens, E. Geil, L&D Johnson, M&W. Candler,

C&B. Kinzer, P. Meredith, R. Veloso, P. Singer, J. Rodkin, K. Pell, P. Caroom, L. Lougee, S. Blaser, N. Steetle, C. Mayer, M. Kniskern, S. Dapkunas, M. Baer, J. Christianson, S. Oliva, T. & R. Hawkins, D. McClellan.

Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Nominating Committee: Nan Elsbree reporting:

The second reading of the slate of officers and committee members for 2010, was distributed and discussed. A discussion about term definitions and recommended length of service ensued; further consideration of these issues is planned later this year. Our Ninth Month, 2000 Minutes read: "The Meeting approved a guideline, to be considered but not binding, that officers and clerks serve for two years and with approval of Business Meeting the term be extended for another two year term."

The proposed slate was approved.

Stewardship & Finance Committee: Mary Kniskern reporting:

All Committee expenses for 2009 need to be submitted to the S&F Committee by next First Day of this Month.

The budget concerns may be best managed by hiring a certified bookkeeper, which could require modifying the previously approved budget. Pass-through donations have complicated our accounting efforts, therefore this practice will now cease. So, all donations to AFM should be payable to AFM; donations to other should be sent directly to them. Off budget activities also are particularly troubling for Meeting finances. An invitation was made for committees to simplify their budget entries, reducing the number of line items. Further, all interested are encouraged to attend S&F Committee Meetings.

(NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTE: See p. 4 for a letter to Friends from Stewardship and Finance clerk, further explaining the committee's plans for future budgets.)

Ministry & Worship Committee: Marcia Ormsby reporting:

It is with great joy that the Clearness Committee for Membership recommends Nancy Jo Steetle for membership to AFM. Meeting delightfully found unity in her membership; she was warmly welcomed.

Our committee is working on a membership packet for those interested in applying, as well as for those interested in serving on a membership clearness committee.

Website: Elise Albert led the discussion:

Publishing our minutes on the website has been a topic of discussion within the Meeting for quite some time. There is a way to embed the minutes with a password option, knowing that privacy is not entirely perfect. Several other helpful options as to online minutes also were considered, including: only naming first name and last name initial; no name mentioned; and not publishing minutes at all.

As most of our newcomers find us through the internet, we are reminded of the importance of our visibility. Outreach Committee will meet regarding this issue and will report back to meeting for business, regarding these issues.

These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship.

*Respectfully Submitted, Elise Albert, Acting Clerk & Marcia V. Ormsby, Recording Clerk
(Minor editing is made to this AFM newsletter edition.)*

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

– PLEASE NOTE NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR & EMAIL ADDRESS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the deadline listed above in the calendar. Starting with this February issue, Phil Caroom is the new editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to him at [e-mail removed from website]
- Friends also are asked to watch your email for announcements of meetings and to listen for announcements at the rise of meeting.
- Event and activity organizers, please also post your announcements on the bulletin board for those who do not use electronic mail!

Announce List: [e-mail removed from website]

Discuss List: [e-mail removed from website]

LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER, ANCHOR HOUSE SHELTER, AND PANTRY

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday of each month (Feb.8th this month). Peter Meredith (410-647-2487) and Marcia Ormsby (410-280-5025) serve as our schedulers to identify Friends to coordinate monthly meals.

We also collect non-perishable food items to deliver to the pantry after each first First Day. These items may be placed in the container in the lobby of the Meeting House. Please contact Carol Brantley for an updated list of items especially needed.

YOUNG FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – January 3, 2010

With the snowed-out meeting on December 20, Young Friends' Christmas play of “Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer” was performed in January with caroling led by Beth Chandler, Martin Krafft accompanying on piano), and a Christmas potluck.



The belated Christmas program



The good Samaritan diorama in playdough



The diorama rolling up the hall to the circle

The new year was started off with elementary school Young Friends study, in playdough, of the Good Samaritan and with middle and highschool Young Friends ongoing study of Quaker history, ably guided by Dot Walizer and Mardy Burgess.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN STILL IN NEED

Jennifer DeLorge-McKeown works at a school in Silver Spring where many families have needs. The children at Jenn's school range in size from about 4 - 12. They need hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, coats, and boots. They always need pants sizes 4 -6. Items may be gently used. It is worth asking at your local thrift shop to see if they will donate any items. CREC can provide a letter of support for this project, if that would be helpful. Please place items in the labeled bin in the large classroom. This will be an ongoing project over the winter.

SPECIAL AFM PLANS FOR FIRST DAY / VALENTINE'S DAY – WORSHIP SHARING AND STATE OF THE MEETING

On 2-14-10 at 9am, Ministry and Worship Committee will present a meeting for learning regarding Worship Sharing, clerked by Marcia Ormsby. Please attend.

Also on 2-14-10, our Meeting will hold a Worship Sharing, following meeting for worship, for the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. Ministry and Worship Committee will record comments and compile a report to be sent to BYM, subject business meeting's approval. This annual process truly helps us to focus on Meeting's strengths and needs so all are encouraged to attend and participate.

MAY WE APPLY FRIENDS SIMPLICITY TESTIMONY TO OUR BUDGET?

Dear Friends,

1) Many of you are aware that we are in the process of updating our accounting software and simplifying our financial record-keeping process. Rather than limiting the number of line items within each committee's budget, as I proposed in Meeting for Business, in going through this process we've found that we'll be standardizing the chart of accounts for all committees and fitting your line items into those categories. This relieves committees of the need to make those modifications. I'll explain this more thoroughly to committee clerks in the next Clerks' meeting, and I'm glad to discuss it with anyone who has questions. Just let me know.

2) Of interest to all- as part of the simplification process mentioned in First Month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and approved by Stewardship & Finance in our committee meeting, we are ending the practice of pass-through donations. Pass-through donations are those, such as additional contributions to Quaker Cause organizations or other 501(c)3 corporations, that Friends include in their donations to AFM. We had incorporated the practice several years ago in the interest of creating a more complete picture of Friends' giving. The bookkeeping on such donations adds significant time and effort (and expense if a paid bookkeeper is needed) to the responsibilities of the Treasurer, and we are laying down this practice in the interest of Simplicity.

Please do NOT include donations to other organizations in your contributions to AFM. We DO encourage Friends to give to these other organizations directly as you are led. Information about Quaker Cause organizations and many other worthy causes is located in the rack in the foyer.

3) Stewardship and Finance committee is charged with providing fiscal oversight of Meeting's finances while supporting Meeting's spiritual and practical efforts. The Treasurer writes the checks and maintains the records of our financial activities. Meeting policy is that all expenditures require *committee* authorization. For clarity in the record-keeping process, please provide the following information with any request for reimbursement or other check writing needs:

- description of the expense (item or service)
- amount of check/reimbursement & name to go on the check
- committee authorizing the expenditure
- line item in approved budget

Include the receipt or bill with your request, and give it to the Treasurer.

If you are unable to identify the line item, the amount exceeds the budget approved by Meeting for that line item, or this is an unforeseen (therefore unbudgeted) expense, please provide this information to the Clerk of Stewardship & Finance.

DARFUR UPDATE – JANUARY 2010

by Sylvia Oliva

Last October the United States committed to a plan aiming to: (1) end the genocide and human rights abuses in Darfur, (2) fully implement the peace agreement between North and South Sudan, including both a fair national election in April 2010 and a self-determination referendum for South Sudan in

MORE QUAKER QUOTES FOR FEBRUARY

The belief that the Light is within all [people] means that every person is capable of taking an *advanced position and can be appealed to on these grounds. The same identical Light shines in every heart however obscured by selfishness and greed. Hence the nonviolent method of good will and confidence will sometimes produce unexpected results because it reaches something in the other person which responds in similar fashion. That of God in one person arouses similar capacity in the other. [People] tend to rise to what is expected of them. No human being is so depraved that nothing but force can appeal to him [or her]. There are many extraordinary instances in Quaker history in which an evildoer has been suddenly halted and transformed by the power of nonresistance combined with good will. These methods sometimes fail, but so also does the method of violence.*

Howard Brinton, "Peace Testimony of the Society of Friends," *American Friends Service Committee* (no date)

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3: 1-6

*The Quaker method is likely to be successful in proportion as the members are acquainted with one another, better still if real affection exists among them. Howard Brinton, *Reaching Decisions: the Quaker Method*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet Number 65*

*In a truly covered meeting an individual who speaks takes no credit to himself for the part he played in the unfolding of the worship. For the feeling of being a pliant instrument of the Divine Will characterizes true speaking "in the Life." Under such a covering an individual emerges into vocal utterance, frequently without fear and trembling, and subsides without self-consciousness into silence when his part is played. For One who is greater than all individuals has become the meeting place of the group, and He becomes the leader and director of worship. With wonder one hears the next speaker, if there be more, take up another aspect of the theme of the meeting. No jealousy, no regrets that he didn't think of saying that, but only gratitude that the angel has come and troubled the waters and that many are finding healing through the one Life. A gathered meeting is no place for the enhancement of private reputations, but for self-effacing pliancy and obedience to the whispers of the Leader Thomas R. Kelly, *The Gathered Meeting*, 1945*

Annapolis Friends (Quaker) Meeting
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