

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>

Newsletter ed.: Phil Caroom – contact at
[e-mail removed from website]

Meetings for Worship:

Annapolis Friends Meeting House
351 DuBois Road, Annapolis, Md. 21401
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

APRIL 2010 CALENDAR

04	(1)	7:00 A.M.	-	“Sunrise” meeting, nature walk and breakfast
		11:00 A.M.	-	BUSINESS MEETING set for next week.
05				Meeting for Worship
11	(2)	8:00 A.M.	-	Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 3)
		9:00 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
18	(3)	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship followed by potluck
		9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
25	(4)	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		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 Fourth Month: Peace and Social Concerns

INTERFAITH EARTH DAY CELEBRATION INVOLVING CHRISTIANS, JEWS, MUSLIMS AND UNITARIANS and cosponsored by AFM will be held for the second year on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 730 Bestgate Rd. The focus of the event will be water, food and transportation. Starting at 4:30 PM there will be a farmers' market, gardening demonstrations, green displays, and a film from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. At 6 PM there is a vegetarian dinner (RSVP to 410-266-9755) followed by comments from the "Green" Episcopal Bishop Eugene Taylor, & comments from Martha Johnson, newly appointed Director of the General Services Administration. Consider joining the interfaith choir, which will have only one rehearsal (contact Kitty M., 410-266-9755 or [e-mail removed from website]).

QUERIES FOR FOURTH MONTH: PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and so you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn? *Faith and Practice*, p.38.

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

Seventh Day of the Third Month, 2010

Barbara T. (Clerk), Marcia O. (Recording Clerk) and 29 other Friends and attenders present. Our Meeting began with centering worship. Harold, Phil and Sylvia held our Meeting in the Light.

Recorder's Report: Nan E. reporting: As of 12-31-09, we had 65 adult members and 16 associate/familial members. One adult, Melba B., transferred her membership to Princeton, New Jersey. The associate members who were contacted by Pastoral Care and removed are Eliot C., Anne and James S., and Jeb W.

Quarterly Meeting: Barbara T. reporting: Chesapeake Quarter (seven monthly meetings) will convene at AFM as we host breakfast & lunch. Last time, some 50 people attended. With daylight savings, the clock will be set one hour later then. Help for hospitality will be scheduled through a clipboard passed among us. There are flyers available on line and in print with the agenda.

Change of Fourth Month Meeting for Business to the 11th: Barbara T. reporting: Friends are in unity with this proposed change, so that our Business Meeting does not conflict with Easter.

Easter Sunday schedule: Sky Elsbree reporting: At [7 am] for sunrise, Friends will convene on the patio for 45 minutes followed by a walk around the ravine led by Phil C. A simple breakfast will be served. Friends are encouraged to attend.

Meetinghouse and Lands Committee: Bill K. reporting: Because MHL has experienced a reduction in members, some Friends may be asked to assist in tasks, when needed. The present hot water system in an 80 gallon tank has been emptied every 3 months, and refilled to reduce the sulfur odor; however this system needs replacing. On demand water heating seems to be an improved method; some \$3232 will be needed for replacement and instillation, which will come from the restricted replacement fund, of just over \$28,000. This system carries a 15 year warrantee. Carbon monoxide monitor will need to be installed and maintained. The drinking fountain has been used infrequently, therefore, perhaps unplugging the cooler will save some energy. Friends approved these additions and changes.

Outreach Committee: Peter M. reporting: Outreach has settled upon some website recommendations for the publication of Minutes from Meeting for Business: That the minutes continue the current practice of omitting unnecessary names and contact information; that the newsletter and minutes continue to be sent unabridged to AFM announce list; that our newsletter editor remove any unnecessary contact information (e.g., email addresses) or information sensitive for individuals or for our Meeting prior to sending the newsletter/minutes to the webmaster for posting; that Friends feel free to contact the newsletter editor to request something sensitive be omitted from a given newsletters or minutes; that the webmaster place use the robots.txt no search option when placing the minutes on the website (this will keep out the average Google search). The third and fourth recommendations require some extra work by the newsletter editor; the current editor, Phil Caroom, has graciously agreed to do this. The fifth recommendation contains a somewhat technical reference to a Web protocol called "robots.txt" Peter thought it might help Friends to add this link to a Wikipedia entry that makes the changes a little more understandable: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robots_exclusion_standard Friends found unity with these changes to be used for 6 months and then re-evaluated.

Ministry and Worship Committee: Marcia O. reporting: A recommendation from CREC was passed through the Visioning Session, and Clerk's Meeting regarding the participation of our children in our Meeting after
[MINUTES ARE CONTINUED AT BOTTOM OF PAGE 3.]

**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. 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 (April 5th 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.

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR BUSINESS from 3/10 - (continued from page 2)

much communication between CREC and M&W. M&W Committee is especially hopeful for unity in this effort as we are most anxious to encourage our young ones as much as possible in the most challenging tasks of prayer and meditation. They need to experience us in our most centered place of worship, not immediately upon settling, as in the first 15 minutes. They are our hope, our future and we need not forget that what they observe is as important as what we teach. Children will be invited into Meeting for Worship, the last 10 minutes, join closing circle and offer a report from their lesson, if so moved.

A discussion ensued, including some of the following comments: The amount of First Day school time will be limited; following the lesson, they will be invited to Meeting, perhaps the children will need to be further consulted. Perhaps the children's entrance will disrupt the Meeting for Worship. Is a Greeter really needed?

Friends reached unity with the proposal for 2 months to experiment, to be flexible and to collect reactions. This change will begin, following notification of all those involved. One Friend stood aside as, since the young Friends may not have been adequately informed, it seemed to be in violation with the equality testimony.

Nominating Committee: Leo P. reporting: In the life of the Meeting, we cycle through many Committee experiences. Now, MH&L is in need of more help. If some would volunteer to help, this immediate problem may be solved. We have 50 active souls in the Meeting, 13 Committees, and 13 individual functions for a total of 26 jobs. We lost 4 due to stress and disaffection, so that we have lost over 10% of our workforce. We are now asked: 'What is the critical mass of people needed for proper committee function?' Many questions were posed, that will be distributed throughout our community; we will take up this discussion at the next Meeting for Business or on the 25th of Fourth Month as time allows.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara T., Clerk, & Marcia O., Recording Clerk
(Minor editing is made to this AFM newsletter edition.)

A REPORT FROM CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING

Annapolis Friends Meeting hosted Chesapeake Quarterly Business Meeting and Program on March 14. Ken S., Clerk of CQM, reported he was recovering nicely from his recent surgery and follow-on treatment. He was clearly pleased to share that at long last his voice was returning to normal.

All present were reminded of two fledgling Quaker churches in Baltimore -- one serving Spanish Friends; the other Kenyan Friends--that would appreciate the encouragement of visiting Friends.

Finally, the AFM Rep reported how enthusiastically the AVP Workshops have been received and invited all present to consider participating in future offerings.

(A generous potluck lunch also was provided for nearly 125 Friends and attenders after Meeting for Worship. Thanks go to AFM's hospitality subcom. & volunteers.) - Minette C-S reporting.

DARFUR UPDATE: ELECTIONS & SOME RELATED NEWS FROM THE CONGO APRIL 2010

Will there be a turning point toward great opportunity or (more likely) plunge this African country into even more violent conflict and state failure? I'm referring to the national elections in Sudan this April and the referendum on South Sudan's secession next January.

The fact is that the Carter Center, currently in Sudan to assist and monitor the election process, is witnessing a lot of gross unfairness, threats, and manipulation. Sudan's President al-Bashir is trying to polish his international image before his expected reelection. Proclaiming that "peace" has come to Darfur, he signed a truce with the most powerful of the several Darfurian rebel groups – the Justice and Equality Movement – and pardoned certain of their members on death row. It looks like a huge number of ordinary, oppressed people whose lives are at stake here and who should be voting, will have no say in these elections.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, conflict and humanitarian crisis have caused 5.4 million deaths since 1998, according to the International Rescue Committee. Most of the deaths were due to disease and malnutrition. In the Kivus region brutal, violent attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), especially against women and girls, are on the increase. The LRA has also been making strikes in South Sudan, probably with the complicity of al-Bashir. Both the LRA leader, Joseph Kony, and President al-Bashir are wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide.

Now some good news: In March 2010, with the help of determined activists, our U.S. Senate passed the *Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act*, requiring President Obama to submit a plan to Congress to work with governments in the Congo, Uganda and surrounding areas to apprehend Joseph Kony and end his reign of terror.

Please hold the people of Sudan, Congo and all of Africa in the Light. – Sylvia O.

Nursery Caretakers Needed: Spending time with our youngest Annapolis Friends is a joy that we invite you to share. You get to play, read to the kids, play again, tell stories, play more and have a snack! If you forgot how to play, the kids will remind you. Please consider volunteering in our nursery and contact Sylvia O. at [e-mail removed from website].

Suggestions for parents from the BYM Working Group on Racism

THINKING ABOUT RACE: From the article, Teaching Young Children To Resist Bias: What Parents Can Do, by Louise Derman-Sparks, María Gutiérrez, Carol Brunson Phillips - National Association for the Education of Young Children

Recognize that, because we live in a racist and biased society, we must actively foster children's anti-bias development. Remember that in such an environment, we are all constantly and repeatedly exposed to messages that subtly reinforce biases. If we do nothing to counteract them, then we silently support these biases by virtue of our inaction.

Create an environment at home or at school that deliberately contrasts the prevailing biased messages of the wider society.

Provide books, dolls, toys, wall decorations (paintings, drawings, photographs), TV programs, and records that reflect diverse images that children may not likely see elsewhere in

- Gender roles (including men and women in nontraditional roles)
- Racial and cultural backgrounds (eg, people of color in leadership positions)
- Capabilities (people with disabilities doing activities familiar to children)
- Family lifestyles (varieties of family composition and activities)

Show that you value diversity in the friends you choose and in the people and firms you choose for various services (e.g., doctor, dentist, car mechanic, teachers, stores). Remember that what you do is as important as what you say.

QUAKER BIBLE STUDY – An invitation from Pat S. : *With sponsorship by the AFM Ministry and Worship Committee, I plan to lead a Bible study in coming weeks, starting March 28 and continuing for six weeks (skipping May 3). We will follow the Friendly Bible Study plan developed by Larry and Joanne Spears (<http://www.read-the-bible.org/FriendlyBibleStudy.htm>). This Quaker-friendly plan requires no advanced reading. We will read a very brief passage together, comparing translations, then journal our thoughts about the following questions:*

1. *What is the author's main point in this passage? (MAIN POINT)*
2. *What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage of the text? (NEW LIGHT)*
3. *Is this passage true to my experience? (TRUTH)*
4. *What are the implications of this passage for my life? (IMPLICATIONS)*
5. *What problems do I have with this passage? (PROBLEMS)*

Next we will share our thoughts in turn. There will be no expert presentations, just how we each understand and respond to the passage.

I plan to use the Gospel of Mark, because it is the shortest and earliest of the Gospels. However, in six weeks we will cover just a few passages. Friends will be free to read more if they wish, of course, but it won't be necessary.

Friends will be asked to make a commitment to the six sessions, and new people will not be allowed to attend after we get under way, so that we will develop trust and mutual understanding. After the six weeks, the group can decide if they want to continue, and on what basis.

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BIBLE STUDY?(continued):According to the authors, sessions can be accomplished in an hour. I haven't experienced this model, but I will try to keep us focused, and I will end the session in an hour unless the group decides they want to continue for a few minutes.

Given that many AFM folks live some distance from the meetinghouse, I think the best time would be after worship over a brown bag lunch. However, if Friends would be interested in Sunday evenings, I could do it then.

So far Andy K, Barbara T, Jennifer D-M, and Sylvia O have expressed interest, but I need to know if those people and others are willing to make the commitment to the six sessions. If you are, please respond to this e-mail. The authors of this method suggest 3-6 participants, so I will accept the first 6 who respond.

Thanks! -Pat S.

MORE QUAKER QUOTES FOR FOURTH MONTH

*...It is the will to pray that is the essence of prayer, and the desire to find God, and to see Him and to love Him is the one thing that matters. If you have desired to know Him and love Him you have already done what was expected of you, and it is much better to desire God without being able to think clearly of Him, than to have marvelous thoughts about Him without desiring to enter into union with His will. T. Merton, *Seeds of Contemplation*, 1949, p.143.*

Man will come to a spiritual dead end if he does not allow time apart and in solitude for things to happen inside him. It is possible to drown children and adults in a constant flow of stimuli, forcing them to spend so much energy responding to the outside world that inward life and the creative imagination which flowers from it becomes stunted or atrophied...In homes where silence is lived, the child finds it easy and comfortable to turn to it. In a large and noisy family (like my own) the period of hush that begins every meal sweeps like a healing wind over all the cross-currents that have built up in the previous hours and leaves the household clean and sweet. Times apart of special family worship, hard to come by in the daily routine, become ours to be remembered and valued for their very scarcity, and never fail to catch us up to another level of love and awareness....Some families must work harder than others to create the physical situation in which times of solitude become possible, but when silence is treasured, the quiet place is found. Elise Boulding, 1962

*There is a way of living in prayer at the same time that one is busy with the outward affairs of daily living... At one level we are immersed in this world of time, of daily affairs. At the same time, but at a deeper level of our minds, we are in active relation with the Eternal Life. Thomas Kelly, *Reality of the Spiritual World**

Annapolis Friends (Quaker) Meeting
351 DuBois Road
Annapolis, MD 21401