

## **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2014**

### **CALENDAR**

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m. on First Days
- First Day School for children: 11 a.m. (Joining meeting for worship from 11:45 a.m. to noon)
- Nursery care for our youngest: 11 a.m.
- Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business: 1st First Day of month at 9 a.m.
- Adult religious education: As noted in calendar below
- Early meeting for worship (weather permitting outdoors) at 8 a.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> First Days
- Meditation study group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the main meeting room
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

FEBRUARY 2: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

FEBRUARY 6, 8-9:30 a.m. A Winter Education Workshop: Solar Energy for Congregations

FEBRUARY 9: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

FEBRUARY 16: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

FEBRUARY 22: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Leadership and Clerking Training

FEBRUARY 23: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Pastoral Care

### **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)

### **A WINTER EDUCATION WORKSHOP: SOLAR ENERGY FOR CONGREGATIONS**

Hi,

The solar panels are up! We are hosting a Green Breakfast with the Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group (AFM is a member organization) on Thursday, Feb. 6, 8-9:30 a.m. Come hear Bob Bruninga's great presentation as well as from other experts on solar energy. Bonnie's breakfast menu includes baked oatmeal, fruit, quiche, bagels among other things. RSVP to me so we make sure we have enough seating and food. You will find it to be a fascinating program.

Presented by the Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group and Chesapeake Bay Foundation, this program provides educational information about the use of solar energy for congregational buildings. Examples helping representatives learn about this use and the decision making process is a major feature. See the new solar panels recently installed by Annapolis Friends Meeting. Visit the AFM website for additional details: <http://aprs.org/AFM-environment.html>.

Who should attend this session? Individuals involved with their congregations conservation and energy practices and leaders who want to gain additional information and insights. Includes tour of the AFM solar system, handouts and vendor information. For registration and schedule, visit

<http://www.chesapeakeig.com>. For call in registration/RSVP, phone 410-757-3457. Location: Annapolis Friends Meeting.

Careen M.

**DAYSPRING SILENT RETREAT: FEBRUARY 14-16**

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Friends, I hope you can share in the silence of Dayspring Retreat Center. The warmth of spiritual community in the heart of winter, amid nature's beauty--what a blessing! Love and LIGHT to you as you consider joining in this adventure.

The purpose of silent retreat is the deepening of communion with God, with other persons and with oneself. ... (W)e make space for... a time of waiting in silence, in solitude, to hear the voice of the One Who speaks in everything that is, and who, most of all, speaks in the depths of our own being. (Thomas Merton)

LOCATION: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20874 (Telephone, in case of emergency: 301-916-1131.) See [www.dayspringretreat.org](http://www.dayspringretreat.org).

DIRECTIONS: DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING RETREAT CENTER: From I-270 take the Damascus exit (#15-A), Route 118 to the north. Go 8/10 of a mile on Route 118 to MD Route 355. Turn left on MD Route 355 and go a VERY SHORT block. Turn right on Neelsville Church Rd. Continue 6/10 of a mile on Neelsville Church Rd. to Dayspring Retreat Center. OR From I-70 take Route 27 south at Mount Airy. It will merge into 355 (Frederick Rd.) continuing south. Turn left onto Neelsville Church Rd. (just before reaching Route 118) and follow directions above.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 1) Over 50 years ago, Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C. was led to establish Dayspring as a silent retreat center. Two simple buildings overlook meadows, woodlands and ponds filled with wildlife. The Inn (18 single rooms, each with Bible, bed, sink, desk and reading chair) and the Carpenter's Lodge (living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen and porch) are connected by a path.
- 2) Meals are vegetarian. A Dayspring cook prepares the food. Retreatants carry out final preparation, set-up and clean-up in silence.
- 3) Silence is maintained from Friday's opening meeting for worship through Sunday's closing worship.
- 4) Retreatants often bring devotional reading, personal journals, sketch books, knitting. Most importantly, we bring open hearts.
- 5) You will need toilet articles, warm casual clothes, walking shoes or boots and a flashlight. Bed linens, blankets, pillows, washcloth and towels are provided.

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REGISTRATION

Make check for \$210 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122. We need a minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum capacity is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot. Registration deadline is Friday, February 7. Checks will be deposited after the retreat. Annapolis Friends are encouraged to ask AFM for scholarship assistance if the fee is an obstacle. Feel free to email [jschristianson@gmail.com](mailto:jschristianson@gmail.com) or call me at 410-544-1912 with questions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Monthly Meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## **PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER MEETING**

There will be a Peace and Justice Center Meeting held on Thursday, February 20, from 7-9 p.m.

## **LEADERSHIP AND CLERKING TRAINING**

This is a reminder that AFM is hosting a one-day clerking workshop sponsored by BYM on Saturday, February 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There's still space, and we have Adult Scholarship funds available to help defray the \$50 registration cost.

Location: Annapolis Friends Meeting

Description: The Nominating Committee warmly invites you to Annapolis Friends Meeting for a one-day workshop to learn how to become an effective clerk and to assume leadership positions in Local Meetings, on committees, or with the Yearly Meeting. This very popular Leadership Training Seminar will again be led by Arthur Larrabee, Outgoing General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Arthur is highly regarded for his knowledge and the excellence of his presentations. Attendance is limited to 40 participants.

Karen C

## **AFM QUAKER CAUSES**

Each year the Peace & Social Concerns committee makes a nominal financial contribution on behalf of the Meeting to a small core of organizations serving Quaker causes. This year we plan to briefly highlight one of these organizations each month in the newsletter to help new members and attenders learn about some of the important work going on in these organizations, increase awareness throughout the Meeting of the organizations that are supported, and encourage additional individual involvement and financial support from those who are so moved.

HIGHLIGHT FOR FEBRUARY: ANNE ARUNDEL CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER  
[www.aacrc-md.us](http://www.aacrc-md.us)

Begun in 1993 with support and leadership from many individuals at AFM, AACRC offers "mediation, facilitation and community conferencing services to individuals and groups in conflict" as well as "training and workshops in mediation, anger management and other conflict resolution processes." AACRC relies heavily on volunteers and provides many of its services for free; many Friends have been among those who volunteer.

Some AFM contacts for more information: Wes J and Careen M.

## **THINKING ABOUT RACE (FEBRUARY 2014)**

ONE CHURCH / ONE BODY PLEDGE

By Jim Wallis, President of Sojourner's at <http://Sojo.net>.

"Because of recent events that demonstrate the racial challenges ahead, more than 70 Christian leaders (white, African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native American) are launching a pledge called "One Church | One Body." The pledge invites everyone to engage three commitments: first, to help build a multiracial faith community; second, to help fix an unjust criminal justice system; and third, to protect voting rights for minority citizens.

"Consider joining us in our pledge and do not shy away from seeing *12 Years a Slave*. It's the start of a conversation that's long overdue."

To sign the pledge (individuals can sign as well as congregations):

[https://secure3.convio.net/sojo/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=729&auto\\_login=true](https://secure3.convio.net/sojo/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=729&auto_login=true)

For the whole article, see: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jim-wallis/the-most-controversial-se\\_b\\_4157353.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=email\\_share](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jim-wallis/the-most-controversial-se_b_4157353.html?utm_hp_ref=email_share)

The BYM Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David E, david.etheridge@verizon.net or Pat S at pat.schenck@verizon.net or 410-263-4529.

### **UPDATE ON THE NEW JIM CROW STUDY GROUP (AND WHAT HAS COME OF IT!)**

By Pat Schenck

Starting in September, a number of Annapolis Friends joined with members of St. Phillip's Episcopal Church to read *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. A few weeks into this time, an item appeared in the Capital saying that the Anne Arundel delegation to the General Assembly was going to hold a hearing to learn what issues were of concern to their constituents. We signed up and asked that they support a bill to form a task force to study Maryland's entire criminal justice system and make recommendations to the 2015 General Assembly. Our own Barbara Thomas and St. Phillip's Rufus Norman spoke for the group.

Two organizations in Baltimore got wind of the hearing and brought a busload of people. After our presentation, when the speakers asked those in the audience who were there to support our issue, about 2/3 of the audience rose. Since then, we have met with those two organizations to explore common interests and ways to support each other.

Senator Joanne Benson from Prince George County heard about our proposal and e-mailed her interest. We met with her and she immediately said she would be the lead sponsor. A former school principal, she told about a boy in her school, a "good kid who worked hard." He went to Denver to try to make a connection with his mother, who was a drug addict. She kicked him out and he found himself homeless in a strange city. Some boys offered him a bed, but on the way to their place they robbed a man and in the fracas, they killed him. The boy, who was present, was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

She then said, "We aren't going to talk about this anymore, we're going to act." And she led us through the underground tunnel to another building to meet with a bill drafter.

The study group will need others to support this bill. When we find out which committee the bill is assigned to, we will need to start lobbying its members to be cosponsors and to vote for it to go to the General Assembly. If that happens, we will then need people to urge senators and delegates to vote for it. So we will need people to visit, call, e-mail, or send letters. We will keep you informed.

Some of the people in prison did nothing worse than get caught smoking marijuana. We can bring change to this broken system. And it's a movement that also may gain some momentum from national leadership, as U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and President Obama each have spoken in recent weeks about the needs for improvement to our criminal justice system and our drug laws so as to reduce the counterproductive impact of incarceration on our youth.

### **DECONSTRUCTING RACISM**

Dear Friends,

Our next deconstructing racism discussion will be Saturday, March 8, 2 - 4 p.m. in the meetinghouse library. The group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee. Friends gather every two or three months to talk about our recent experiences related to race and diversity. We open in silent worship, update each other on events in our lives, examine our own unaware racism, discern our individual and collective leadings for furthering equality and justice, and close in silent worship. Hope you can share in this exchange!

In peace,  
Jean

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

Attention PLEASE: We are unable to provide a review of the book we wanted to because there are none in the library. All copies are checked out and are overdue. Look around your home and see if there are books, pamphlets videos that belong to AFM. Please try to return items promptly. The library committee is very small. So it would be helpful not to have to worry about overdue items. If you are interested we could use more committee members.

New arrivals on the counter are: *The God We Never Knew* by Marcus Borg, *An updated Parenting For Peace* by Kathleen and James McGinnis and *Change and Preservation in the Same Current*, a lecture given at Southwest Yearly Meeting.

We will be circulating a survey to try to improve the library. We would like to have feedback so please fill it out and return it. If you have questions or comments tell Nan E, Phyllis S or Nancy K.

## **QUAKER QUOTES FOR FEBRUARY**

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)

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)

## **HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- Beth M is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to [annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com).
- 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: [announce@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto:announce@annapolis.quaker.org); Discuss List: [discuss@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto:discuss@annapolis.quaker.org)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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