

## **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — APRIL 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
- Pastoral Care is offering a monthly Meeting for Healing on first Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m. (April 3)
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

APRIL 6: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

APRIL 13: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 9:15 a.m. [Meeting for Learning](#): Current Quaker Initiatives; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

APRIL 20: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:15 p.m. [Easter Egg Hunt](#)

APRIL 27: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Workshop; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Peace and Social Concerns

### **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)

### **MEETING FOR LEARNING: CURRENT QUAKER INITIATIVES**

REPORT ON MAJOR CAUSES INVOLVING OUR COMMUNITY. April 13, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Jack L (FCNL Rep) and Barbara T (AFSC Rep) will share what our people are doing in the following areas:

PRISON REFORM IN MARYLAND. The Taskforce on Reducing Incarceration in Maryland (TRIM) legislation, a coalition of the Peace and Justice Center and others seeking reform of our prison and criminal justice system. Our work with National Religious Coalition against Torture initiatives on solitary confinement.

"SHARED SECURITY." Seeking peaceful resolution of social and military conflict. Google "Shared Security FCNL" for a website review of what issues are currently raised.

CLIMATE CHANGE. Change advocacy on confronting the effects of climate change, global warming, fossil fuel alternatives, Keystone pipeline issues, carbon taxation and related environmental challenges, through our Peace and Justice Center and coalition alliances.

MIDDLE EAST. The BYM Middle East Peace working Group's Initiative on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions to respond to illegal settlements and companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Please join us for coffee or tea, light refreshment, and a lively, informative discussion.

## **EASTER ACTIVITIES**

- EASTER EGG HUNT

On Sunday, April 13, the children will be dying eggs for the Easter Egg hunt. We ask the participants to bring a dozen hard boiled or blow eggs for dying.

On Sunday, April 20, an Easter Egg hunt for the children at the rise of Meeting. And then some cookies, juice and other goodies to share with the children and the community. All donations of goodies are welcome!

Many thanks!

- EASTER DINNER FOR HOLIDAY SHARING FAMILIES

Greeting Friends! Since we agreed to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner to two families in our community this year, we thought it would be a good idea to provide food for their Easter dinner also! We will collect all items for distribution no later than rise of Meeting, First Day, April 13, and they will be delivered then. The list of needed items will be circulated after Meeting once more on April 6. You are welcome to donate anything you wish. Pantry items will be welcome too!

Please contact me if you are interested in providing anything at [ruthbakes@msn.com](mailto:ruthbakes@msn.com)  
Thank you for you help!

ITEMS STILL NEEDED: (x 2 is due to providing for 2 families)

Salad (bag) and dressing X 2

Vegetables X 2 (we already have green beans)

Sweet Potatoes X 2

Desserts X 2 (we have pies already)

Milk (gallon ) X 2

Beverages X2

Pantry items X 2

Some suggested Pantry items are: Cereal, PB, Jelly, Speg. Sauce, Speg. Noodles, Mac and Cheese, Rice, Apples, Nuts, Onions, Tuna fish, Canned vegetables, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, TP

THANK YOU!

## **29TH ANNUAL PEACE, JUSTICE, & ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE**

Peace and Justice through the Generations: Passing the Torch for a Better World

Maryland United for Peace and Justice will hold its annual peace, justice, and environmental conference on Friday evening, April 25, and on Saturday, April 26, in Annapolis. This is the first time since the year 2000 that this statewide event has been in Anne Arundel County, providing a great opportunity for local folks to attend. Friday's program will be at St. Phillips Episcopal Church, 730 Bestgate Road, and Saturday's program will be at Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road (off Bestgate Road). This year's theme is "Peace and Justice Through the Generations: Passing the Torch for a Better World."

Friday's schedule will feature a pot luck dinner (bring a covered dish for all to enjoy) and a presentation by Paul Chappell of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Saturday's event includes talks by Kristi Casteel of the Joshua Casteel Foundation, Kathleen McClellan of the Government Accountability Project and NSA whistleblower W. Kirk Wiebe, and Maryland State Sen. Jamie Raskin. There also will be three workshop sessions with 14 choices, and entertainment by Max Ochs. A really great lunch (including vegetarian options) provided by Lighthouse Caterers of Annapolis is included.

Cost is \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families (\$35 and \$45 respectively after April 5). There are reduced rates for retirees and part-time students (\$15) and for full-time students (\$10) – five dollars more after April 5. Scholarships also are available for low income persons.

A whole new world of communication exists in the 21st century—texting, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Skype, among others. These new tools are being used everywhere by the younger generation while the older generation is trying to keep up. How can members of the older peace generation connect with those of the younger one and work together to more fully engage in the efforts needed to create a more peaceful, just and environmentally secure world? This conference will attempt to give us some direction towards that end. Please join us!

For more information, contact Paulette (443-418-5479 or phamm001@earthlink.net) or Tony (301-390-9684 or tonylang4peace@gmail.com).

**DAYSPRING SILENT RETREAT: May 30 - June 1, 2014**

True silence ... is to the spirit what sleep is to the body: nourishment and refreshment. (William Penn, 1699)

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Dayspring Silent Retreat for Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends. We will keep the silence from Friday evening through worship on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

SPONSOR: Annapolis Friends Meeting

FACILITATOR: Jean C

WHERE: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876  
PHONE: 301-916-1131

ARRIVAL: 3:30 - 7 p.m. Friday (Dinner at 7 p.m.)      DEPARTURE: 2 p.m. Sunday

BRING: Toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight.

MEALS: Vegetarian meals are prepared by a Dayspring cook. Friends share final preparation, set-up and clean-up.

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.

COST: \$210. The fee covers a single room, 6 vegetarian meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth, meadows, ponds, woods, wildlife.....

REGISTRATION: Deadline is Friday, May 23 (or when full). Minimum number is 9 participants. Maximum is 18. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

QUESTIONS? Call Jean C at 410-544-1912 or e-mail jschristianson@gmail.com

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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, with this completed form. We need a minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot. Registration deadline is Friday, May 23. Checks will be deposited after the retreat.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **QUAKER QUOTES FOR APRIL**

But in all these things, 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)

## **MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES**

SECOND DAY OF THE THIRD MONTH, 2014

Present were: Elise A (Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Nan & Sky E, Phil F, Wes J, Mardy B, Ruth S, Beth & Dave I, Joanna T, Kit H, Jack L, Marcia O, Jennifer D-M, Cairn K, Mary B, Jean C, Phyllis S, Bill R, Karen C, Sue P, Dot W, Will C, Kim F, Pat S, Martha O'H, Carl B. We began with centering worship.

### Announcements:

Bill H, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, thanks AFM for hosting February 6 Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group/Chesapeake Bay Foundation Green Breakfast. All were very appreciative of the lovely locale, the great program and, especially, AFM's "outstanding hospitality, which really made the event special".

Next week is Homewood Chesapeake Quarterly meeting. A program on fracking will be presented by Patuxent Friends about the proposal for a massive liquid natural gas terminal at Lusby's Cove Point. One Friend commented that local publicity has been limited to "this will bring jobs" without mention of connection to fracking. Because the only parking near Homewood is limited, carpooling to quarterly meeting will be coordinated by Jennifer D-M; we will need to leave Annapolis around 7:45 – 8 a.m.

A meeting for AFM committee clerks and officers will be held at rise of meeting on March 9. Other interested Friends & attenders also are welcome to participate.

Wes announced for MHL the proposed date for our annual spring clean-up / project day is April 26. A back-up date in the event of un-Friendly weather (as the next two Saturdays are not available) later will be announced.

Reminder: There had planned an informal meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 3 to discuss the possibility of considering building an addition to the Meetinghouse. Assuming enough interest, this will be the first of many opportunities for discussion and input. Friends unable to attend are invited to email their thoughts to Elise Albert.

Unfortunately, 6" to 10" snowfall is forecast for this date. Assuming the forecast accuracy, we agreed

to postpone this and another date will be emailed soon.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Interim Meeting at AFM is only two weeks away & some final preparations must be decided. For possible overnight hosting of distant BYM visitors, a few other potential hosts who reside near meeting (without pets if possible) are asked to contact Karen C to volunteer.

For other volunteer needs, we will have potluck (soups, salads & desserts) sign-ups coordinated by the Hospitality subcommittee, supplemented by some purchase of approximately \$1,000 sandwiches, some paper products, etc.; this cost largely may be defrayed by donations from attenders. A clipboard will be passed next week for more potluck sign-ups.

Possible rental of one or two portapotties was proposed for men, so that women could use both indoor bathrooms as 30-50 women often wait in line to use otherwise limited bathroom facilities during 15 minute breaks. (MHL will be invited to review possible improvements as to bathroom facilities in the future.) Meeting approved the portapotties available to all genders. The cost will be covered from AFM contingency funds.

Volunteers to assist with Interim Meeting set-up will be welcome: those with strong backs to set up tables around 1:30 p.m.; other times for volunteers with specific duties will be requested by email. We also will invite the Contra-Dance group to set up their sound system in the morning, so as to avoid a time crunch after Interim Meeting.

Spring Market update (Cairn K reports): The Market Committee is grateful for Friends many thoughtful suggestions for possible recipients of market proceeds. Our discernment process led us to the following recipients for this year's on May 10 Spring Market 2014:

The first \$100 will go to AFM's children to work through their own recipient discernment process, with the external 75% of proceeds split evenly between St. Philip's Quad E (Extended Educational Enhancement Experience) After-School Program in Annapolis and Madison Quakers' Vietnam Program, and the internal 25% of proceeds to support the remaining financial need for Ann R, as she winds down her tenure as Principal for Friends Theological College in Kenya.

We also hope to leverage market donations further by soliciting donations of women's business clothing for the New Opportunity School for Women in Appalachia. The committee hopes that Friends will mark their calendars for Spring Market on May 10, and we look forward to the community's support to help make this market a success.

Treasurer's Report (Sue P reports): We ended 2013 with a \$15,000 net of which \$4,000 will finish payment for our solar panels, \$5,000 will increase our committee contingency fund, and approximately \$6,000 will be held in reserve pending our delayed meeting as to possible expansion of the Meeting House.

Other notes: \$7,000 of this net consists of unrealized gains from stock market investments with Friends Fiduciary funds; our \$5,000 sufferings fund is at approximately \$6,000 as a Friend is making optional reimbursement payments to the account for funds received.

Ministry and Worship (M&W) Committee (Kim F reports): A first, 4-page draft of our 2013 Spiritual State of the Meeting report was distributed and discussed; it is compiled from Friends' and attenders' comments at our worship-sharing, our early meeting, and our committees.

One Friend suggested that a more abbreviated version should be sent to BYM. M&W responded BYM has suggested only that we omit committees' reports and we have not included those.

With revisions suggested at meeting for business, we concluded that Annapolis Friends are "optimistic for the future of Quakerism and this meeting. ...We are nurturing a healthy meeting community so we can be effective as we seek ways to encourage diversity, healing and constructive interaction in our meeting, our community and the world."

At a future Meeting for Worship With Attention To Business (MfB), M&W will offer proposed guidelines as to support of leadings.

Other concerns:

Annapolis Friends are distressed to learn from Quakers of the Great Lakes Initiative about the disaster of floods in the African regions of Burundi in general and Bujumbura in particular killing more than 1,000 and making more than 10,000 homeless. One Friend suggested, beyond individual contributions, there should be a contribution from AFM's emergent social concerns fund. Friends agreed this should be acted upon by Peace & Social Concern Committee as may be done, in such urgent circumstances, without further approval by MfB.

We held a Friend in need with renewed health difficulties in healing light.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Elise A, Clerk, and Phil C, Recording Clerk

Annapolis Monthly Meeting DRAFT Spiritual State of the Meeting

Annapolis Friends Meeting held a worship sharing on the second First Day of the Second Month, 2014 on queries suggested by Baltimore Yearly Meeting for our annual Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, and gathered other input within the meeting community in considering our past year.

SPIRIT IN MEETING:

How does the Spirit prosper among you? How is the presence of Spirit manifested in your lives individually and as a Meeting community? To what extent has your worship strengthened you in the healing process? How has such healing transformed you as a person and/or meeting? To what extent do you recognize worship as a pathway to transformation?

The Prospering of the Spirit: An attender asked: "The purpose of religion, according to Joseph Campbell, is to bring the individual into alignment with the eternal. Is that what happens here?"

Friends spoke of a positive, hopeful, and optimistic energy arising in the gathered meeting, which feels like a collective antidote in a dysfunctional world. We are filled with a future oriented spirit, which leads us to embrace and facilitate change. Friends responded to the concept of worship as a healing and transforming process. A Friend shared her spiritual mantra: "Transform me, so that I may transform the world." It is a modern challenge for individuals and meetings to pursue a vibrant relationship with the spirit. External pressures make it more difficult for us to flourish spiritually: time is short, modern life is complex, and daily activities leave us with less time for the spiritual. We need to be mindful that the worshipful focus of the Friends community is not lost in the busyness of projects and activities, within and outside the meeting, which distract us from the spirit.

Friends asked for more opportunities for spiritual sharing of individual worship experiences, and how that which is eternal affects us as individuals and as a group. We all benefit from knowing other's spiritual journeys.

The Quality of the Silence and of Vocal Ministry: We have made subtle changes to our worship practice which has encouraged the earlier settling of the meeting and a greater depth to the silence. Young friends now enter for the last 15 minutes of worship, when they experience and share deeply centered worship. Attenders find that vocal ministry that arises often speaks directly to the concerns they have carried with them to meeting and connects them to the community. Participants also spoke of the depth of the silence in early worship group, which is small and more intimate. The early meeting shared that vocal ministry, when it occurs, arises from a deep spiritual place and feels like the divine is speaking.

Opportunities for Worship: A range of worship opportunities are available under the guidance of individual leadings. Weekly sessions of Midweek Mindfulness provide spiritual nurture. A committed group meets bimonthly for early worship. The connectivity of the early worship group with the larger

worship meeting may require more careful attention to maintain communications and a sense of inclusion. Silent retreats are offered for all three times a year.

How does your Meeting ensure that ministry is nurtured, and that members and attenders feel valued and cared for?

Response and Support for Personal Leadings: Personal leadings continued to enrich our meeting, and have been supported both spiritually and financially in the past year. Guidelines for the Support of Embraced Ministries under development by BYM provided an opportunity for AFM to develop parallel guidelines for locally embraced ministries. Funds were added to the 2014 AFM budget to provide financial support for leadings.

Nurturing Spiritual Growth: A Friend spoke of their gratitude to the deconstructing racism group for supporting her spiritual growth. She found that by confronting the question of how as a white woman, she was to bring “that of God” into conversations about racism, she was led by Friends to begin by speaking her truth and to live her life with integrity.

Holding in the Light: The Meeting has adopted a practice of asking for the names of individuals to be held “in the light” to be placed into our worshipful circle near the end of meeting. This has become a valued custom, as Friends welcome the opportunity to bring forth names and have the circle hold individuals in the light.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: We are grateful for skillful facilitation of Meetings for Business. We are learning to use our committee structure and time more effectively. Silence is a frequent and appreciated tool in the decision-making process, which allows the Divine voice to be heard. To our amazement, Meetings for Business are shorter, and some months, have been canceled because of the lack of urgent business.

#### SPIRIT WITHIN THE MEETING COMMUNITY:

What supports the life of the Spirit in your meeting community? What challenges and troubles are you facing? In what ways is the Meeting less than you would wish it to be?

How can you learn to accept seekers in your meeting with different concepts of God and find ways to help them on their spiritual journey?

Welcoming Newcomers: An individual who has come into our community within the last five years found the meeting a welcoming, embracing and comfortable place, reflecting Quakers sense of embracing not just humans, but all life on the planet, and the treatment of all living things with respect. Another attender pointed out many new people visiting and continuing to come to meeting. After attending other local meetings she found Annapolis reached out as a welcoming and comfortable meeting to her.

A long-time attender (15 years) wondered about turnover in the meeting. She felt that only one-third of the individuals at the meeting were people who had been there when she first attended meeting, and asked us to consider where those people are now, and why they are no longer with us..

Diversity within the Community: An African-American Friend expressed that it is difficult for those who are of African descent in various meetings that he had attended, but he feels welcomed at AFM, which he was thankful for.

A Friend was moved to speak:

“This meeting has a great strength and a great weakness. It’s wrapped up in the word diversity. We have a great diversity in this meeting as . . . individuals and each one brings strengths. . . . But the weakness is we don’t have enough people of color. . .—the majority of Quakers in the world are black Africans. We have trouble attracting people of color with children to this meeting. . . . We ought to think about that. . . We thrive because of our differences. This meeting makes me thrive even though I’m a non-theist. . . . We need to find way to attract families of color. It will only make us more vibrant as a meeting.”

In response, another Friend spoke:

"To those who fret over lack of diversity of (the) meeting, clearly there is diversity in talent. As the Building Use Coordinator (BUC), I see how many people of color enjoy our space. We offer a welcoming spirit to those who visit and use our space and bask in what they describe as the warmth and spirituality of this place. There is more than brick and mortar here. It's palpable to others who use our space for their special events. They come when you're not here. ."

This issue is an ongoing concern, for discussion and further activity moving forward

Balancing the Work of Meeting within the Community: Distributing the work of the meeting so that individuals are invited and engaged in tasks suited to their time, life situation and skills, and feel valued for their contribution is a challenging task. Discussion continues on helping individuals to lay down work, to allow others to pick it up. Rotating committee memberships allow all to become aware of the range of functions which support vitality of the meeting, and expand our understanding of the whole.

Opportunities to Build Community and Interpersonal Relationships: The Meeting continues to offer a "bountiful buffet" of community based groups, including: a Spiritual Friendship group; a poetry and writing gathering; Quaker Dudes; outside speakers and workshops; a Deconstructing Racism group; the Alternative to Violence Program; involvement with the Peace and Justice center; Friendly Eights dinners; monthly potlucks; a couples group; a Buddy Program for support of individuals; community workdays and two annual fundraising markets.

New this year was a one-book project undertaken by BYM at the suggestion of an AFM member for reading "The New Jim Crow," This allowed us to partner with St. Phillips Church, a historically African-American congregation, for a series of discussions,

Life of the Community: Friends spoke of specific ways that they had been loved, supported and cared for by the meeting community in past years and in the past year.

A long-time member who is relocating said:

"This community has been a tremendous gift to me for healing for the last 13 years. Physically, emotionally and spiritually . . . Without the strength of this meeting, without the love of this meeting I would not have made it through as well as I have. This is always my home base when I need to worship with community."

Another Friend said:

"I want to mention the love that we share in this community. We do whatever we can do for one another. When I look around I'm reminded of the wonderful groups that we have . . . They bring us together as community. The depth of our worship is something that we try to have in all of our other meetings. We bring worship into whatever activity we are involved in."

Attention to Young Friends: We continue to have a vibrant community of young families, and joyful appreciation was expressed for the able guidance of CREC, and the benefits the community reaps from the seeds we sow among young friends. Parents felt fortunate in finding a community of like-minded individuals, their growing understanding of how to educate children and bring them into alignment with the eternal, and with developing a child's sense of whom god is and what he might be.

Gratitude was expressed for nursery and child care. Adding child care at meetings for business and committee first days was for parents with young children to increase their involvement.

Opportunities for Learning within the Meeting Community: A variety of learning opportunities support us in learning outside of silence, and then bring these lessons learned into the silence. Appreciation was expressed for members of meeting who worked to plan an innovative, collaborative and creative BYM women's' retreat when we gathered with a larger circle of Quaker women.

Environmental Harmony: After two year, our solar project is finally ready for installation in early 2014, and an Environmental Harmony webpage has been set up to record our progress as a sustainable community.

Communication: We are getting better with experience at using technology to enhance communication within the meeting community.

#### APPEARANCE AND ACTIONS OF THE SPIRIT IN THE WORLD:

How can you bring that of God of peace into political or other difficult conversations?

Carrying Spirit into the World:

The vibrancy of the Peace and Justice Center indicates the health of the meeting in carrying difficult conversation and differing viewpoints into the larger world Originally conceived of as bricks and mortar, in a "virtual form" it has successfully brought forward skillful leadership and original projects on challenging topics

Our meeting adopted a climate change minute and a newly formed interfaith Climate Change group was initiated, looking into issues conversations and future initiatives to expand involvement.

The BYM one-book project for reading "The New Jim Crow" lead AFM to a local initiative on mass incarceration, involving drafting and support for a task force to study the subject.

Prior work by AFM members on water rights in the Middle East lead to a press conference at the National Press Club on the Geneva Accord and peace initiatives.

The meeting is aware of the broader world of Quakerism and supports and contributes to a range of Quaker causes which carry difficult conversations into the world, including our support for Ann R ministry at Friends Theological College at Kaimasu, Kenya.

On-site sustainability demonstration projects such as our newest solar project, allow us to interact and provide guidance to a broad range of interfaith congregations over the common ground of the environment.

#### SUMMARY

We are optimistic for the future of Quakerism and the unique perspectives we have to share with the larger world. We are inspired to know that God is at work in us and our community and it gives us hope for the future. Over time, a growing number of leadings have sprouted, grown and flourished under the care of the Meeting, and found a footing in the larger world.

We are nurturing a healthy meeting community, so we can be effective in healing and transforming the world. Healing the world requires a commitment to healthy community.

We seek ways to encourage and support diversity; constructive interaction over diversity in our meeting; and outreach to diverse groups outside of the Friends community.

#### **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)

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