

## **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2014**

### **CALENDAR**

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m. on First Days
- First Day School for children will begin again after Labor Day.
- 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
- Pastoral Care is offering a monthly Meeting for Healing on first Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m.
- North County mid-week meetings: First Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 410-439-2319 for more information.
- Meditation study group will resume after Labor Day with Suzuki's "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind."
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

AUGUST 3: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

AUGUST 10: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

AUGUST 17: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

AUGUST 24: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

AUGUST 31: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Pastoral Care

### **QUERIES FOR EIGHTH MONTH: OUTREACH**

Do you as way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance? (Faith & Practice, p. 40)

### **DINNER WITH F/FRIENDS (MOM AND DAD'S NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING)**

AFM has contracted with B.E.S.T. catering, the workforce training program of the Lighthouse Shelter to serve us dinner at the meeting house at 5:30 p.m. on August 14. Buffet dinner with an Italian theme, cost \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. RSVP with contact information to Bonnie P at [peregoyb@yahoo.com](mailto:peregoyb@yahoo.com). Payment due two weeks before the event.

Make it "Dinner and a movie" - GAIN (Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network) will be showing the film "Ingredients" at 7:30 that evening up at the St John Neuman church.

OR for those with children, stay at AFM for bonfire and smores on the patio.

### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2014 – 2015: DO YOU SEEK A DEEPER SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE?**

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Program invites its participants into a deeper experience of God's presence through retreats, devotional readings, spiritual community and individual spiritual practices. Spiritual Formation provides a practical way for people in our busy culture to turn to God with their minds through spiritual reading, with their hearts through daily spiritual practices and with their human relationships through local friendship groups.

Participants attend retreat weekends at the beginning (September 5-7, 2014) and end (May 8-10, 2015) of the Program year. During the year, participants attend two meetings per month: (1) the Meeting of the local group to share reflections on a spiritual book that all have agreed to read; and (2)

the Meeting of the friendship group, a subset of the local group -- usually three to five people -- who meet to share spiritual journeys and to support one another in spiritual practices. In addition, each participant is encouraged to devote at least 15 minutes per day to a spiritual practice. Those who participate in the Program are rewarded with a closer relationship with God and an opportunity to form deep spiritual friendships.

If you would like to participate in the 2014 - 2015 Spiritual Formation Program, download the registration form to print, complete, and mail. Remember that registrations must be sent by August 10, 2014. The full cost of participation over the year is \$400.00, but adult scholarship is available from Annapolis Friends Meeting if needed for participation. Contact Kim F or Patty R of Ministry and Worship for additional information.

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

Pendle Hill pamphlets are great. They are thought provoking and instructive.

#427 titled **Radical Hospitality** by Lloyd Lee Wilson caught my attention as the first page had "Lucie Stone" in bold print. Sky and I knew her when we were attending Virginia Beach Meeting. She was a true Christian as is illustrated in the story that he goes on to tell.

This article pushes us to think not of ourselves and our possessions and how we can get ahead. There are several quotes that I could point out but I think you would be better off reading it yourself. His definition of radical hospitality is placing others before ourselves. "Radical" as at the root. "Hospitality" lived at the root says everyone is welcome, everyone has enough, no one has too much. A new word: "kenosis" meaning giving up power, possessions and privileges as a strategy or way of life.

I recommend this pamphlet. Don't overlook other pamphlets. The new ones and those on the query of the month are on the rack on the table.

Reviewed by Nan E

## **QUAKER QUOTES FOR AUGUST**

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

"Let me light my lamp," says the star "and never debate if it will help to remove the darkness."  
(R. Tagore)

What does love look like? It has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. (St. Augustine)

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment.  
And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.  
(Matthew 22:37-40, KJV)

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

SIXTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, 2014

Present were: Barbara T (substitute Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Nan & Sky E, Will and Margaret C, Kim F, Pat S, Bob B, Phyllis S, Jennifer D-M, Jack L, Mary B, Minette C-S, Careen M, Amy K, Carol B, Martha B, and Pat E.

We began with centering worship. Our clerk suggested a theme for our midsummer meeting of reaching inward and reaching outward towards the future.

1. Ministry & Worship (Patricia R)-

a. Our Ministry and Worship (M&W) Committee presented a second draft of proposed guidelines for Embracing the Ministry of Friends. Since M&W began its work, BYM revised its own guidelines. These have been adopted with addition of a more extensive glossary and some changes applicable to Monthly Meetings, including possible continuation of members from a clearness committee to a separate support committee.

One Friend suggested a comparison with the BYM draft & offered copies for this purpose. Another suggested more explicit explanation of the function of Meeting for Business in the process as in BYM's draft. With this and other comments, M&W will review the draft one more time and to return it later to Meeting for Business after further seasoning. Friends expressed appreciation for the committee's work to this point.

b. As to the embraced ministry of Ann R, M&W suggested that AFM should approve \$2,400 funds to support her ongoing work as Principal of Friends Theological College in Kenya. Friends approved.

2. Quarterly Meeting (QM) report (Jennifer D-M)- QM has formed a Fracking Working Group (FWG) in opposition to the proposed liquid natural gas facility at Cove Point which promotes fracking & fossil fuels over preferable renewable energy sources & which presents great potential risks to local residents. The group meets via monthly phone conferences & Jenn has agreed to be AFM's liaison this summer, but she seeks a substitute for the fall. Along with other groups, FWG will join a demonstration at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in D.C. on 7/13/14 at 1 p.m.

3. Future Growth of Annapolis Friends Meeting (Kim F)-

Kim and Bob B have been gently leading Annapolis Friends through information, email discussions, & listening sessions. One of two sessions (6/8 and 6/22) since our last Meeting for Business included our original architect Evan L. We have begun to identify our "Quaker core" functions and proposed vision for the Meeting House, as yet without reference to possible purchase of the neighboring property and to possible resolution of its boundary dispute.

Evan has submitted a proposed scope of services agreement for \$14,200 to work with AFM through further planning sessions, offering up to three design schemes with proposed costing & design leading to "a hopefully single vision" design document, preliminary to a final decision for expansion of the building.

One Friend suggested that participation in the process should be expanded as widely as possible before committing to this next phase of the process. Another Friend suggested, before deciding this existing property expansion, we should consider possibly acquiring the next door property. Kim told us that another local architect Joel P would evaluate the neighboring property structures, including zoning, building code & accessibility study meeting with appropriate local officials; for \$3520, he would prepare a report with possible layouts & cost estimates for use of the property. (Preliminarily, Plitt has told us that the existing building is structurally sound & of good quality.)

An appraiser, Brice W, would give us an approximate value for \$600-800.

Friends approved spending these amounts requested for the local architect and appraiser to be considered, so these reports may be considered together with a previously authorized report of an attorney's advice as to encroachment options in relation to the neighboring property.

The ad hoc Building for the Future Committee will consider Friends input and get back to Meeting for Business with simultaneously with all these reports.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara T, acting clerk, and Phil C, recording clerk.

EMBRACING THE MINISTRY OF FRIENDS  
ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING  
MINISTRY & WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Background and Acknowledgment

The Ministry and Worship Committee acknowledges the work of the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committees of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) for their consideration of this topic. These Guidelines have followed, as appropriate, the BYM-approved October 19, 2013, Appendix E: Guidelines for Embracing the Ministry of Friends.

This document offers guidance to Friends who ask to have a leading or ministry "embraced" by Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM). An outline of the sequence of steps to be followed by an individual Friend is found as an appendix.

The term "embraced" is defined as "taking or receiving gladly or eagerly" In these guidelines "embraced" and/or "embracing" mean affirmation and support provided by Annapolis Friends Meeting to Friends, and as a "minister"

may be defined as a "servant", "ministry" may be defined as "service". The term "embraced" was selected for its positive connotations and it would be less likely to be misinterpreted, as such terms as "affirmed," "recorded," and "recognized" have a history of use by Friends in other contexts. Beyond the immediate condition of having one's specific ministry embraced for a specific period, the term "embraced ministry" confers no special or lasting status.

Embraced Ministry

Friends may seek to have their leadings embraced by Annapolis Friends Meeting when the Friend wishes oversight, institutional support, working support or financial support for a ministry Being embraced by AFM means that the Meeting through the clearness/approval process:

Has prayerfully studied and considered the ministry;

Unites with the ministry and feels it is led by the Spirit;

Identifies a support group for care and spiritual accountability and reviews the work of this committee. This can be an existing committee or a specially appointed committee, as determined most appropriate based on the leading.

Approves and disburses funds designated to support the embraced ministry.

Issues and reviews travel minutes, are needed.

Ministry & Worship Committee provides oversight in conjunction with the support group.

Embraced Friends ministry may be granted financial support for a specific period of time from the Ministry and Worship budget for Leadings for Friends Restricted fund for an amount not to exceed \$500/year. Requests for funds over \$500 will be brought before AFM Worship with a Concern for Business for approval.

Nature of the ministry to be embraced

The Religious Society of Friends has been described a "priesthood of all believers". Among Friends, each and every Friend is called to exercise appropriate ministry. Friends have a long history of discerning and supporting individuals' ministries. Ministries can involve gifts of speaking, teaching, discerning God's word or service, such as healing or peacemaking. If rightly led and ordered, these gifts have as their wellspring God's Spirit. The test for an embraced ministry is whether the Meeting concurs it is rightly ordered and can unite with it.

These guidelines speak to a covenant made with God and clarified through individual and corporate discernment. At the heart of the covenant is the experience of being called forth to perform God's service and responding to this call with faith, love and truth. Prayerful consideration, including both individual and corporate discernment is required to test whether an individual is rightly led.

Discerning and embracing a ministry- overview

The process of discerning, seasoning and embracing a ministry includes:

1. Individual discernment
2. Corporate discernment- the clearness process
3. Support Group
4. Oversight

Individual Discernment

A Friend's Ministry begins with a leading. Friends are urged to study examples of leadings and how they were tested, from the writings of Friends, such as John Woolman, Samuel Bowans and Lucretia Mott. A Friend must seek the still, quiet center and see what the Spirit teaches, and then assess how these actions accord with Scripture and the testimonies of Friends. If the sense of being led in a ministry persists, a Friend may further test the leading through corporate discernment.

Corporate Discernment: the Clearness Process

A Friend will seek clarification of the leading or ministry in the clearness process or demonstrate clarity by a pattern of engagement in activities consistent with the leading, such as taking on significant roles in activities related to the leading, or published writings on the topic of the leading. The status of affiliation with Annapolis Friends Meeting will also be considered.

The overriding questions addressed by the Clearness Committee is whether the individual is right in believing that the action or service required by the ministry has been laid upon them through spiritual discernment and whether AFM unites with the ministry. The Clearness Committee explores with the Friend what he or she feels called to do, probing to ascertain the spiritual roots of the leading, its depth and clarity, and whether there are considerations that might weigh against pursuing it. Clearness Committee questions might focus on:

1. The nature of the Friend's gift.
2. The Friend's understanding of what he or she is called to do.
3. How the leading fits with Friends' testimonies, values, and practices.
4. Resources available to the Friend.
5. Resources needed to carry out the leading.
6. The amount of support likely to be available from the Meeting, other organizations, host communities, and/or interested individuals.

Haste is not recommended. The Committee may suggest the individual do further preparatory work, or may consider that the time is not yet ripe.

The task of the clearness committee is to reach clarity, not to give support. It may be that the Friend may be led in this ministry but in the absence of unity with AFM, the ministry may need to be laid over. However, if the Friend with the concurrence of the clearness committee determine the ministry

should be embraced by AFM, a support group is then formed for the ministry. Members of the clearness committee may continue in the support group and/or will help identify other Friends qualified and willing to help the Friend carry the ministry forward. Alternatively, the embraced Friend may be supported by a standing committee of AFM.

The support group with oversight from Ministry and Worship Committee will:

1. Encourage the embraced Friend to maintain a daily spiritual practice.
2. Help the Friend with discernment and use of his or her leading, skills and judgment.
3. Help the Friend in handling adversity
4. Serve as traveling companions to the embraced Friend whenever impossible
5. Ensure the ministry is carried out in good order, in accord with Friends testimonies and practices.
5. Verify the resources supporting the ministry are well-used and accounted for.
6. Review and present travel minutes to Ministry and Worship.
7. Report periodically on the program progress. Reports to be forwarded to Ministry and Worship.
8. Embraced Friend will meet with Ministry and Worship annually and prepare reports as appropriate for the scope of the work. The reports will address program progress and financial information. and will be shared with Stewardship and Finance Committee, if AFM financial support was granted.

Clearness committee and support group focus on the person's gift and ministry, In this context, the Clearness Committee and a Support Committee concentrate on whether and how to go forward with the ministry. . Oversight function focuses on the task and accountability.

#### Benefits of an Embraced Ministry

A ministry embraced through AFM will be supported by:

Providing a support group for the Friend and his or her ministry

Using discernment to test whether Friends within AFM feel called to support the ministry by directly providing resources, such as time, money and energy.

Giving Friends the ability to make appeals to Friends through use of the AFM distribution lists.

Requesting financial support from the restricted fund Support for Leadings.

Discerning in conjunction with the support group that the ministry may need to be restricted or laid down

#### Conclusion

The embrace of Friends leadings requires discernment of God's will. All of these guidelines are subject to Friends' discernment. These guidelines themselves may be adopted, practiced and amended as the Spirit and experience require.

July, 2014

## **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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