

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — NOVEMBER 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 2nd, 4th, and 5th First Days
- The North County mid-week meeting: First Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 410-439-2319 for more information.
- Meditation study group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the meeting room
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20th of the month

NOVEMBER 2: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 11:45 a.m. Child Welcoming Ceremony

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

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

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

NOVEMBER 30: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Stewardship and Finance

QUERIES FOR ELEVENTH MONTH: EDUCATION

Do you provide religious education, including the study of the Bible and of Friends' history and practices, in your Meeting? Do you ensure that schools under the care of Friends exemplify Friends' principles? Do you support and strive to improve the public schools? (Faith & Practice, p. 41)

CHILD WELCOMING

Child Welcoming Day will occur this year on Sunday, November 2. This is a joyous annual event at which children are welcomed into the Meeting. Children of both members and attenders can be welcomed. The children and adults from First Day School will enter Meeting for Worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. The children who are being welcomed will have the opportunity to share thoughts or artwork with the Meeting, and there will be a worship sharing. Each child who is welcomed will be presented with a certificate of welcoming, and those in attendance will be asked to sign the certificate of each child at the rise of Meeting. We will also have cookies and drinks to share with the children and their families following meeting. Any family who wishes to have their child or grandchild welcomed this year, or has additional questions, should feel free to get in touch with one of us.

Looking forward to a wonderful day!

Kimberly B and Joanna T, Co-Clerks
Children's Religious Education Committee

LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER BEST DINNER

Don't cook on November 13—join Annapolis Friends for dinner at the meetinghouse at 5:30 p.m. The Lighthouse Shelter BEST program that trains homeless clients to become chefs will prepare a delicious meal for us. All are welcome: you, your spouse and kids, your neighbors, your friends and relatives!

If you wish, stay for a meeting of Maryland Alliance for Criminal Justice in the same room, or go to the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network meeting up the street at the St. John Newman Church. They are having a program on the push to increase the amount of green energy to 40% by 2025. Some folks from each of those programs will be joining us for dinner.

Dinner will feature oven-baked classic meatloaf with BBQ glazed, skillet sautéed mushroom jus, with a vegetarian option of gluten free penne pasta tossed with braised artichokes, sautéed wild mushrooms and baby spinach.

The cost is \$15 for adults and half that for kids. Pat S must have your money by November 4 to secure your place. Put your money in the Outreach mailbox in the meeting office or send it to her at 604 Greenbriar Lane in Annapolis (or hand it to her at worship!).

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM DISCUSSION

Dear Friends –

Our next deconstructing racism discussion will be Saturday, November 29, from 2 to 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

THINKING ABOUT RACE – PERSONAL OBSTACLE OR SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION?

Seeing images of successful black people makes others think racism doesn't exist. That's hardly surprising. Not much is when it comes to racism. But it underscores what's so frustrating about our "national conversation on race." People come to the table not understanding what racism is.

It's not entirely their fault. Race Forward's "Moving the Race Conversation Forward" report from January [2014] showed that "two-thirds of race-focused media coverage fails to consider how systemic racism factors into the story, instead typically focusing upon racial slurs and other types of personal prejudice and individual-level racism." The result is the understanding of racism as a personal obstacle to be overcome, rather than a system of oppression rooted in white supremacy.

If we're having trouble getting to the first step acknowledging racism as a system of oppression, the prospects of actually undoing and replacing that system appear bleak.

From The Nation, blog by Mychal Denzel Smith entitled "Surprise! Study Finds People don't Understand How Racism Works," June 12, 2014

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 410-263-4529 or pat.schenck@verizon.net.

LIBRARY CORNER

TWO PENDLE HILL PAMPHLETS

Nonviolence and Community, #322

This Pendle Hill pamphlet discusses the Alternatives to Violence Project. Volunteerism, teamwork, and feedback are some of the strategies it uses to achieve its ends of attaining peaceful community. Moreover, it uses transforming power, a spiritual resource, to dissolve barriers between people. This pamphlet is clearly written and easy to understand.

Waging Peace, #410

This pamphlet discusses personal ways to practice peaceful skills. Practicing hope, grief, courage, and listening are all included. Examples of practicing each skill are given. This pamphlet gives a thoughtful inventory of peace practices.

Nancy K

QUAKER QUOTES FOR NOVEMBER

In the stillness you will find your true being. In the silence you will hear the breathing of your soul. (Neale Donald Walsch)

Seek for yourselves and for your children that full development of God's gifts which is true education. Realize that it should be continued throughout life and that its privileges should be shared by all. Study the Bible intelligently, using the help available from modern sources. Make every effort to understand the Christian faith. Be ready at all time to receive fresh light from whatever quarter it may come; approach new theories with discernment. Remember our testimony that Christianity is not a notion but a way. (Advices, London, 1964)

To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us. A care hath lived on my mind, that more time might be employed by parents at home, and by tutors at school, in weightily attending to the spirit and inclinations of children, and that we may so lead, instruct and govern them, in this tender part of life, that nothing may be omitted in our power, to help them on their way to become the children of our Father who is in Heaven. (John Woolman, 1758)

"A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Samuel F. Pugh

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hunger;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have
no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer.
And, remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency,
bestir my compassion
and be concerned enough to help,
by word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

(As reprinted in The Thanksgiving Ceremony, Edward Bleier, Editor, Crown, 2003)

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

FIFTH DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, 2014

Present were:

Present were: Elise A (Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Mardy B, Cairn K, Mary B, Nan & Sky E, Jennifer DM, Kim F, Kit H, Barb T, Joanna T, Kimberly B, Karen C, Careen M, Jack L, Pat S, Will C, Dot W, Marcia O, Sue P, and Minette CS.

We began with centering worship. Our Clerk invited Friends to recognize, while all our business relates locally to topics of AFM's future, we should see these questions in the light of Friends' larger peace testimony.

1. F.U.M.: Our clerk read a letter of thanks from Friends United Meeting for AFM's generous ongoing support of Ann R's longtime work at Friends Theological College in Kenya.
2. CREC Report (Kimberly B, Joanna T): First Day School ("FDS") resumed September 7, 2014 with a group of largely elementary children, though some are entering middle school. We have no regular high school participants.

Our FDS theme this year is "leadership." Attached to these minutes is a full report with a more comprehensive description of the ideas and activities that emerged from a survey we circulated to the children and their families.

AFM sponsored 4 children at BYM camps this summer and "a good time was had by all." Notably, Ceili M, age 5, also went to Yearly Meeting for the first time where she enjoyed ice cream and much attention.

CREC asked MFB for two approvals: The first is that we hold our annual Child Welcoming Day on Sunday, November 2. The second is that the children present their annual Christmas program, using the last 20 minutes or so of Meeting for Worship, on Sunday, December 14. Friends approved both requests.

CREC will offer a homeschooling update in November.

3. Stewardship and Finance (Karen C): S&F presented a draft for our 2015 operating budget for a first reading in a one-page format showing committee totals that business meeting will be asked to approve in December. Within this budget, S&F recommends creation of two new restricted funds for Camping and Embraced Ministry. (One Friend suggested "Embraced Ministries" should be labeled "Embraced Leadings.")

Karen also presented a two-page budget that shows committee spending details, and a summary of restricted fund activity to-date and current balances. Recent notable expenditures by committees included S&F's use of \$350 for updated Quick Books software and Pastoral Care's use of \$200 for flowers and cards. AFM also approved use of \$1500 from the committee contingency fund for MHL's initial payment of attorney's fees as to boundary issue.

4. Quaker Market Committee (Cairn K): The Market Committee has worked hard to gather community members' delicious recipes, favorite inspirational quotations, and bits of AFM history that will be incorporated in a community cookbook. Thanks to hard work from Kit H, aided by ace proofreader/editor, Mary B, Beth V on quotations, Bella F on gorgeous cover collage, and many contributions from the community, the cookbook will soon be ready to print so that we can have it in time to sell at Holiday Market on 6 December.

The committee requested approval for costs to print 100 cookbooks, which will be sold for \$15 each either through pre-order or starting on 6 December. (Friends commented that the community-building of putting the book out probably is more important than the profit margin.) Friends approved the print cost to come from the Committee Contingency Fund.

5. Building for the Future Committee (Kim F): Kim suggests, for a future meeting, AFM might add to our budget the equivalent of a monthly mortgage payment to again acclimate ourselves to this cost.

Two more listening sessions will be held including: 1) a listening session at the Elsbree's on 10/13 or 14 will discuss AFM's future generally; and 2) another session for young Friends and their families, including food. A date for this will be announced soon.

On 9/17, we held a meeting focused on the neighboring Dubois property. After many discussions of the issues, we deferred action pending other consultant reports. Unfortunately, our current architect advisor withdrew due to a death in the family; our BFF committee has considered some alternate architect and now has selected a family-owned architectural business-- "the Drawing Board"-- to substitute for the original architect at the same \$4,200 price.

Our parking requirement for AFM currently is 31 cars &, theoretically, we can fit 52-56 cars on our lot. It might be possible to expand this to the low 60s. Theoretically, we have enough parking already to almost double our building capacity, even without street parking which is permitted. One Friend commented that we also should consider actual parking needs, rather than only legal requirements. Kim suggested that we also might later discuss shared parking with neighbors.

Kim also reviewed our "conceptual expanded footprint" for the current Meeting House and campus which would include: reorganizing between a) a "worship wing" with an enlarged worship area, including library, that collectively would accommodate 150, and b) a "Kid Quake Zone"/classroom area adjoined by c) a central social-core functions area including expanded restrooms, other classrooms, an office & more.

An additional larger classroom (or two with a movable partition), connected by a breezeway, might include 35-40 capacity beyond our current space. This new classroom structure also might include a small kitchen and additional restrooms possibly even with showers. This also might permit greater rental use and income.

One Friend raised the question of whether Quakers could wait in line for restrooms rather than spend \$100,000s for additional restrooms; a response suggested that the needs may not be ours alone but may be related to our ability to serve the community better. Other Friends asked whether improvements could be divided into different phases, and suggested that we encourage our architect to think creatively to "bring more Light" into our Meeting. Kim suggested these are possible options and that we only are beginning with an "ideal conceptual plan" for revisions as our concepts evolve.

Kim asked if Friends now can approve retaining Evan Lippincott for a \$2,000 contract to assist with this design process. One Friend asked clarification as to whether the Lippincott contract potentially includes use of the next-door property and Kim says that it does not. Another Friend raised the concern that as AFM members age, our facility should not be larger than we can support. Kim B pointed out that, currently, we do not have enough space for one existing committee to meet on committee day & we are challenged by inadequate space for FDS to separate our children into developmentally different age groups. Friends again deferred approval of this contract to permit continued discussion before having our architect commence this next stage of work (which, in any event, does not commit Friends to go forward with the expansion). We will give this issue priority at our November meeting for business.

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

LISTENING SESSION FOR FUTURE GROWTH MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2014

Present were: Kim F (facilitator), Doug M, Marcia O, Elise A, Bob B, Peter M, Amy K, Diane FE, Nan E, Sky E, Nancy Jo S, Tricia R, Bonnie P, Wes J, Will C, Margaret C, Careen M; Regrets: Jean C

The session began with a period of silence holding Jean in the Light.

A handout reflecting recent activities of the working groups was distributed by Kim.

Joel Plitt, the architect engaged to do a scope of services review of the property at 345 DuBois Road, has had to withdraw due to family needs. The Drawing Board, a father and son architectural firm, recommended by Martha and Phil F., was selected by the working group to replace Joel. Doug will get information about SIG, a firm that provides information on sustainability.

The following ideas were expressed:

- What is the value of the encroachment and can a 100 year lease be given with the money going towards growth of the AFM building?
- Growth of Meeting and the purchase of 345 DuBois are competing ideas. The speaker feels he is a fiscal conservative.
- Initially the speaker felt confused by all the options, but now sees the growth of the spiritually focused AFM building as different from an outreach tool and community building the 345 property could provide. We need to move forward because of space considerations.
- We are using a good process to make our decisions. We should move forward by engaging Evan Lippincott to do the initial scope of services for the AFM building.
- Speaker uncomfortable with the 345 property because it was not designed for our purposes. Thanks were given to the people who have done so much work and exploring our options there. We need to focus on better classrooms.
- Thanks were expressed to Meeting for being wonderful people. Can a new worship room be used for concerts, dancing? Storage of a portable stage for the contra dance group would be helpful. There is no place in First Day School to give a child a nap.
- The 345 land is important, but focus should be on our Meeting House.
- We are ready for growth and the needs of First Day School should be paramount.
- There is a need for more info on the 345 property. It would involve a lot of money and time. Do we want to take on the burden of all these projects? How are we going to use it? Can we do two big projects? Still we should be open minded. Speaker more comfortable with expanding the Meeting House.
- Can building at both ends of the Meeting House be done at once? A concern about cost and human power was expressed. Growth means taking on more responsibilities. The Nominating Committee is struggling now with replacing three people on Meeting House and Lands and Minette would like to rotate from the BUC position.
- Hope was expressed that Evan Lippincott could present at least one design not involving the use of brick in order to reduce expenses. Future storage space needs to be larger.
- Concern was expressed about the encroachment, and the amount of money leasing it would bring. We can't do both projects at the same time. Decisions about 345 property need to be made first. The Meeting House could grow in stages.
- Decide what we want to do about 345 property first. The idea of partnering with the Unitarian Universalist's or others is good. Concern was expressed about the building design at the 345 property.
- The energy and discussion of a possible peace center next door has energized Meeting. Work cannot be done on both projects simultaneously. It is a good idea to spend money researching our options. Let's explore community wide and intergenerational living at 345. It could be a good place for AFM and renters. Our process has been good, and the right questions are being asked.
- A speaker likes the separation of projects. Comments were repeated from a member of Friends Meeting of Washington that their purchase of a building (Quaker House) has put them in the property management business and has burnt out several volunteer coordinators. They now have to pay taxes on the income. New classrooms for us would provide a good meeting place for students being home-schooled. This space would probably pay for itself quickly. Suggestions made include: a bathroom in the foyer, walk in storage and an expanded office.
- We should check with other Meetings to see how they expanded. In reference to leasing the land involved in the encroachment we should research ground rents, which are illegal in MD. More bathrooms may create septic tank problems. We should make our decision on 345 property first. Having the 345 property could increase our rental income and it is a form of outreach. Support was given to a multi-tiered Meeting for Worship room. Using brick may not be the most sustainable material.
- We should move forward with the scope of services contract with Evan Lippincott.

From the closing silence:

- Many thanks to Kim for her work and leadership.
- Phasing building growth is a good idea.
- Using two architects expands our visioning ability.
- Concern for the many problems that may arise with the 345 property. It is not wise to take on too much. Perhaps the Unitarian Universalist's will buy the property.
- Thanks to Nan and Sky for all the work they do at AFM.
- What happens to the multi-purpose room if we build a worship room? Can it be used for more peace functions.

Session adjourned.

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the 20th 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.
- 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; Discuss List: discuss@annapolis.quaker.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Address: 351 DuBois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Telephone: 410-573-0364

Website: www.quaker.org/annapolis

Clerk: Elise A (e.albert1656@gmail.com)

Building Use Coordinator: Minette CS (minette3@cs.com or 410-544-5838)

Newsletter Editor: Beth M (annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)