

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2015

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

FEBRUARY 1: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

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

FEBRUARY 15: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

FEBRUARY 22: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 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)

DAYSRING SILENT RETREAT

Dear Friends:

Our beautiful winter Dayspring Silent Retreat will take place February 6 - 8. I hope you can take this opportunity to hear the Still Small Voice while walking in the meadow or warming at the hearth. Registration form is attached and pasted below. Please share this information with your meetings. Annapolis Friends will be joined by other Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends, space allowing. In the past there has been ample room! I look forward to our sacred time together in the SILENCE.

In peace,

Jean

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING SILENT RETREAT AT DAYSRING

February 6 - 8, 2015

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.

Details about the retreat follow, starting with excerpts from the Retreat Center's welcome letter:

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](tel:301-916-1131).) See 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.

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, January 30. 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 or call me at [410-544-1912](tel:410-544-1912) with questions.

Name _____ E-mail _____ Monthly
Meeting _____
Address _____ Preferred
phone _____

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING

Friends,

Happy New Year. On February 8, 2015, the Ministry and Worship Committee will conduct the annual Spiritual State of the Meeting session. We will end our Meeting for Worship at 10:30 a.m. and begin the Spiritual State of the Meeting worship sharing. We will end when everyone in the Meeting has an opportunity to participate.

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting 2015 Queries are:

- 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 does your Meeting nurture the spiritual life of members and attenders? How does your Meeting help Friends live into right relationship, "a state of harmony and balance with ourselves and our families, our communities, our government, and the world that sustains us all."
- Is your Meeting as diverse as you would like it to be? How do you prepare newcomers for full participation in the life of the Meeting? What do you do to actively encourage and support the ministry and community participation of Friends of all ages—from Young Adult Friends, to families and young children, to elder Friends?
- How do you reach beyond the boundaries of your Meeting to strengthen Meeting practices and share the wisdom your Meeting has to offer? Do you have relationships with other Monthly Meetings? A Quarterly Meeting? Do you reach out to BYM or other Monthly Meetings when facing a challenging situation?

The Ministry and Worship Committee looks forward to your participation. Thank you for your willingness to participate.

Ministry and Worship

BEST DINNER

Dinner will once again be served to Annapolis Friends on Thursday, February 12, at 6 p.m. in the meeting room. The Lighthouse 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! This is always a nice, relaxed way to break bread together.

If you wish, after dinner, go to the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN) meeting up the street at the St. John Newman Church at 7:30 p.m. They are having a program on the experience of "returning citizens" when they return to the community after incarceration, and an update on how the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform is attempting to bring about change in the criminal justice system. Some folks from GAIN will be joining us for dinner.

Dinner will feature Tuscan-style minestrone Soup with fresh spinach and smoked Virginia ham; fresh-baked artisan olive & rosemary bread, seared breast of chicken with Chesapeake sherry cream and bell pepper confetti, Cajun-dusted Atlantic salmon accompanied by herb rice pilaf and roasted tomato-onion relish, and sautéed squash, zucchini & tender carrots.

The cost is \$18 for adults and \$9 for kids. Pat S must have your money by February 1 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

Our next deconstructing racism discussion will be Saturday, February 28, 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

AN APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH WINTER RELIEF

Dear Friends,

For several years, Annapolis Friends Meeting has partnered with Magothy United Methodist Church on Mountain Road in Pasadena to provide shelter under the umbrella of Winter Relief, a program run by the nonprofit Arundel House of Hope to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in North County. Friends have also helped Winter Relief in other ways, most recently through a generous gift from Meeting in 2014 to provide a portable shower unit.

Like many other area churches, Magothy UMC has signed up to house the homeless in its church offices for an entire week, which this year runs from Monday evening, March 9, through Monday morning, March 16. The church, while historic, is small and not very wealthy, and by helping out we are making it possible for its congregation to provide a service that they could not offer on their own.

Please consider helping with this effort, towards which Friends have shown remarkable generosity over the years. Volunteers are needed for three roles:

1. Evening/overnight supervision. There are two shifts each night, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. and 1 a.m.-6 a.m., and you will never be working by yourself.
2. Preparation/serving of Sunday dinner on March 15; children welcome. Dinner time is 6 p.m.; there is a full kitchen onsite.
3. Dropping in to visit with guests Saturday, March 14, or Sunday, March 15, (very ad hoc--the recommended time is to allow 2 hours, but if you can make it, just do it; most of the guests are at a loose end on weekends)

Please let me know if you are willing to help in any of these roles, particularly the evening or night shifts -- the latter are hard to fill.

Peace,
Peter (410-647-2487)

THINKING ABOUT RACE

Through Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) legislative initiatives in 2015, let's make a difference in:

- Alternatives to incarceration (mediation, restorative justice, diversion)
- Screening of low-risk offenders for more effective corrections
- Prisoners' employment and rehabilitation resources
- Pre-release support for jobs and re-entry services at detention centers
- Employer incentives for post-release job placement
- Awareness of collateral consequences re: guilty pleas
- Second Chance--shielding records for misdemeanors
- Parole Board final decisions for "lifers with parole"

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, MAJR (www.ma4jr.org), is promoting 8 bills in the 2015 MD General Assembly, bringing together legislation under one umbrella from varied organizations: Annapolis Friends Peace and Justice Center, Job Opportunity Task Force, MD Restorative Justice Initiative, Uniform Laws Commission. Alliance partners include interfaith groups, churches, Quaker meetings, and criminal justice reform organizations such as: Committee of Concerned Citizens, Maryland CURE, Out for Justice, People for Change, Friend of a Friend, Interfaith Action for Human Rights, and the Community Conferencing Center.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaisons at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting for publication in their newsletter or other means of dissemination. The WGR 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, pat.schenck@verizon.net.

LIBRARY CORNER

Learning to Walk in the Dark, by Barbara Brown Taylor (HarperOne, 2014, 200 pages), is a beautiful, nourishing, thought-provoking book. The author is a former Episcopal parish priest and current professor of world religions who moved to a remote farm in rural Georgia to experience the dark.

She writes, "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me—either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out."

Barbara Brown Taylor's exploration includes topics of nightfall, blindness and caving. She examines literal and metaphorical darkness from spiritual, Biblical, psychological and scientific perspectives. She writes with humor and humility. The piece flows like poetry.

Learning to Walk in the Dark complements our Quaker focus on the Light. Drawing on both ancient wisdom and modern knowledge, it invites us to reflect upon our own experiences of adversity in new ways. I highly recommend it.

Jean C

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)

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

FOURTH DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH, 2015

Present were: Wes J (Clerk), Phil C (Recording Clerk), Pat S, Will & Margaret C, Peter M, Bill K, Kimberly & Carl B, Kimberly & Carl B, Phyllis S, Martha B, Phil F, Sky E, Jennifer D-M, Barb T, Mary B, Cairn K, Kim F, Bonnie P, Doug M, Joanna T, Patty R, Joanna T, and Martha O'H.

We began with centering worship. From the silence, our new Clerk invited Friends for advice and wisdom as he begins service as new clerk of Meeting, seeking unity, joy & fun in the process. As a nontheist Friend inclined to the scientific and spiritual, Wes will strive to be honest with friends and true to himself, thanking friends for trusting him with this responsibility.

1. Meeting House & Land (MHL): Wes J reminded Friends that, last July, we approved a rental increase across the board of 5%, effective Jan.1, 2015. Our last increase was in 2012; even with this current increase, AFM's meeting space rate still is below market.

Coincidentally and not related to the rent increase, Wes also noted that two longtime renters have left. This means both that we have more storage space, but also that we will seek to replace the users, missing their financial contribution.

Finally, Wes also reported, MHL approved of purchase of a second wood shed, 8'x8', proposed for use near our existing/reconditioned shed after consideration for the children & other committees' input. The new Amish-built shed costs approximately \$1,000 plus a fee of \$125 to haul and set in place. Due to its small size, Anne Arundel County government will not require a building permit.

2. Pastoral Care (PC): Jennifer D-M reported on various items:

a) Friends approved this memorial minute for Erica B: Erica B, 31, passed away on October 16, 2014, after a sudden illness. She was born in Hammond, Indiana, and lived in South Bend before moving to Annapolis at age eight. She attended Annapolis High School, then participated in Providence Center programs for the past ten years. Erica was a child of goodness and grace, despite her fears and anxieties. By her charming smile, her funny remarks, her playful games, and her divine spirit, she raised up those who knew her. She led others to express joy, love, and generosity. In short, she made us better persons.

Erica is survived by her parents André and Mary B, her brothers Benjamin and Anthony, her sister-in-law Jessica H, her nephew Anthony B, Jr., her niece Katherine B, and her special friend Eloise H. She was predeceased by her grandparents, Charles and Helene B of New London, Connecticut, and Barbara G of Farmington, Maine.

b) PC also asks for Meeting's input into our Friendly 8s dinner program: PC did not call for AFM to restart Friendly 8's this year and, in default, last year's groups have stopped. PC asks: What are people's experiences with 8s? Do we want to resume it or should we lay it down? Are there alternatives we should consider?

Friends responded with insights including: 8s offers a good way for new attenders to get acquainted with AFM members and offers other Friends the opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level. One Friend suggested a multi-generation "game night" or other child-friendly option also could help build community; CREC volunteered to work with PC on this. Another Friend suggested that the every 3-months BEST dinner & Outreach lunch meetings after Meeting for Worship at Whole Foods may provide a similar opportunity. One Friend pointed out that the continuity of Friendly Eights throughout a year adds a benefit. An update on Quaker Dudes also was provided. PC will consider all these comments.

c) Jennifer also reported that PC would like to rename our "Suffering Fund" to be a new "Emergency and Suffering Fund for Individuals" to better represent both the historic background of the fund and how the fund is currently used. Friends made comments about the choice of names & agreed to trust PC to make the selection of a new name & report this back to Meeting for Business.

Relatedly, a Friend asked how Meeting may decide to rename funds, such as "Quaker Causes." Another Friend suggested that these should be initiated by the other committees involved.

3. Building for the Future (BFF): Kim F reviewed our recent history as to possible expansion of our meeting house and as to the neighboring property going back to 3/14; both issues have been moving forward on separate but concurrent tracks. (Wes suggested that we ultimately may wish to divide our consideration into four issues-- a) AFM expansion, b) the neighbor's boundary encroachment, c) possible purchase of the neighboring property and d) if purchased, what would we do with the neighboring property-- although all these questions are interrelated in logistics and budget. Another Friend suggested we must treat committee member with tenderness when they take on many responsibilities for issues on the behalf of the Meeting.)

As to possible plans for expansion of the existing meeting house ["351"], numerous meetings have been held, discussing possible functions, concepts, basic floor plans, bathrooms & possible phasing. Soon, perhaps in February, BFF will call another meeting with the assistance of architect Evan Lippincott to finalize three alternate conceptual plans with a range of estimated costs. One Friend urged that we should provide for green & sustainable design as part of these plans, perhaps seeking a second opinion. Other Friends suggested that we have committed to this architect for the planning phase & that we can raise green design concerns with him.

As to possible plans for the neighboring property ["345"], Kim reported that an attorney for AFM issued a "notice of encroachment" to reset our adverse possession clock for a new 20-year period. The owner responded that he had thought there was an informal agreement that "this would not be a problem," but now he hopes in the new year to resolve this problem, either selling the property to AFM within the next 45 days or, at a later time, to a third party. On behalf of AFM, Kim has advised him that Quakers probably would be unable to respond with 45 days, but asked the neighbor to exclude AFM from any realtor's listing so that private purchase negotiation could continue. AFM has received a \$350,000 appraisal but, it should be emphasized, this does not include any adjustments for the neighbor's encroachment, multiple building violations & other permit difficulties. BFF also has obtained rough building estimates for possibly completing work on this neighboring property, including its garage & garage apartment.

How should we decide about the neighboring property? Kim suggested that Friends should consider whether AFM's current land is all we will foreseeably need, or whether we might benefit from the added values of the neighboring property's additional land & floor space. But, such greater opportunities would bring greater responsibilities. Another Friend suggested we consider what drawbacks might exist from a new neighbor with the same encroachment issues and legal problems. She suggested that AFM might we consider acquiring the property for its land & repurposing any usable buildings for other purposes. Other Friends asked, without current full rental of the present Meeting house, should AFM acquire more vacant property?

With these issues in mind, BFF invites interested Friends to gather this Wednesday, 1/7/15, at 7 p.m. for a special meeting to discuss the potential values and possibilities for AFM, if we acquired the neighbor's 345 Dubois Road property. Friends thanked Kim for all her efforts to keep this process moving forward.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Wes J, Clerk, and Phil C, Recording Clerk.

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)