

**Yearly Meeting #33 of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**

June 6, 2003 - Sixth Day (Friday) 9:30 am

1. Opening

After a period of worship, John Geary, assistant clerk, welcomed Friends. He explained that Clerk Sharon Annis was recovering from surgery and asked that Friends hold her in the light.

2. Introduction of Visitors

The clerk introduced the following visitors and asked that Friends welcome them:

Nils Pearson and Barbara Hirschowitz, Friends General Conference
Rosa Packard, Friends Peace Teams
Chuck Fager, Quaker House
Amanda Thompson, Friends World Committee on Consultation
Ruth Seely, American Friends Service Committee
Errol Hess, William Penn House
Rebekah Rojcewicz, Junior Yearly Meeting Head Teacher

3. Roll Call and Census Report

Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun read the roll of meetings and worship groups. The following were represented at the beginning of this session: Asheville, Athens, Atlanta, Berea, Boone, Brevard, Celso, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Crossville, Foxfire, Greenville, Huntsville, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon, Oxford, Royal, Swannanoa Valley, West Knoxville.

A list of yearly meeting attenders is included as Appendix A. Separate lists are not included for particular yearly meeting sessions. State of the Meeting reports are included as Appendix B.

Mary Calhoun presented a report from the 2002 census. The census report is attached in Appendix C.

4. Epistle Committee

The clerk asked for volunteers for the epistle committee. Barbara Esther, Peter Buck and Edie Patrick volunteered.

5. Nominating Committee

Penelope Wright, clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's preliminary report. She began by expressing gratitude to those whose terms of office are completed and who are stepping down.

She brought forward the following names of Friends who have agreed to serve in the positions listed through the year listed:

Clerk, Sharon Annis, 2004
Assistant Clerk and Personnel Committee Clerk, Kristi Estes, 2005
Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerk, Susan Carlyle, 2005
Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerk, Kathy Johnson, 2004
Faith and Practice Revision Committee Member, Nancy Beecher, Indefinite
Finance Committee Clerk, Chris Berg, 2005
Finance Committee Member, Dick Houghton, 2005
Nominating Committee Clerk, Penelope Wright, 2004

Nominating Committee Member, Perry Treadwell, 2004
Nominating Committee Member, Jane Goldthwait, 2004
SAYF Steering Committee Member, Chris Duke, 2005
Local Arrangements, Bob Welch, 2004
AFSC Corporation Representative, Sallie Prugh, 2005
AFSC Corporation Representative, Carol Lamm, 2005
AFSC-SERO, Debra Johnson, 2005

A complete list of positions of responsibility, the individuals serving in them and their terms as of the end of Yearly Meeting 2003 is included in Appendix C.

Penelope Wright reviewed the question of the position of web manager. Kendall Ivie originally volunteered to set up the web site and carried the responsibility for some time but is unable to continue. Tim Lamm has stepped forward to maintain the site for the coming year. Over the longer term, the question is whether the web manager might need to be a paid position. If it is a paid position, the position would come under the purview of the personnel committee; if it is a gift-filled position, it will come under the nominating committee. A Friend raised the issue of whether the web site is actually needed. Other Friends spoke to the importance of the site, but that it is only as useful as it is up-to-date and accurate. Barbara Esther presented a draft description of the position developed by the handbook committee, which initially raised the issue of the need for a web manager position.

Friends approved Tim Lamm to serve as the web manager through 2004, with Ceal Wutka and Kendall Ivie (if available) as an ad hoc oversight committee with Chris Berg of the finance committee as an advisor if needed. The ad hoc oversight committee will come forward with a recommendation about the continuation of this position.

Penelope Wright reported that the nominating committee has been unable to find Friends to take leadership of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee established by Yearly Meeting 2002. In the light of this difficulty, the Nominating Committee presented a proposal that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee be comprised of SAYMA's representatives to American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, Friends Peace Teams, Right Sharing of World Resources and Quaker House. This proposal will be considered further at the Saturday business meeting session.

The Nominating Committee asked that the yearly meeting reconsider the issue of the location of yearly meeting. For many years SAYMA has had a goal of alternating the location of yearly meeting east and west of the mountains. The Nominating Committee has had the responsibility of identifying a site selection committee to find sites west of the Smoky Mountains. However, after years of work, no site west of the mountains has been found, and it is difficult to find Friends to carry out what appears to be a fruitless task. Perhaps the yearly meeting is ready to agree to meet at Warren Wilson College indefinitely and make the effort to hold representative meetings in varied locations that relieve the burden of travel from peripheral meetings. The site selection committee would be laid aside until it is no longer feasible to meet at Warren Wilson. Friends agreed to take up this matter again later in the yearly meeting session.

Penelope Wright reviewed the positions still to be filled and asked Friends to bring to the nominating committee the names of possible candidates.

6. Logo Committee

Carol Lamm reported for the ad hoc logo committee. The committee hopes to bring forward a recommended design for consideration at September representative meeting. Friends who wish to help with the development of the logo were invited to participate in a Saturday evening meeting with the committee.

7. Ecological Concerns Network

Susan Carlyle presented the report of the Ecological Concerns Network. The report is attached in Appendix C.

In response to a question about the rationale for a second representative to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, several points were made. This yearly meeting has a strong ecological witness and could share this strength with FCUN. Having a second representative would allow more continuity through staggered terms. The appointment of a second representative would amplify SAYMA's strong concerns on these critical issues. The Ecological Concerns Network has identified a Friend who is willing to serve as a second FCUN member.

Chris Berg, clerk of the finance committee, reported that the yearly meeting has somewhat, though not greatly, overspent this year's budget for wider Quaker organization representatives. A concern was raised about adding a new position when we are having difficulty filling positions to which we are already committed. Other Friends spoke to the non-interchangeability of positions, that is, that a vacancy in one position cannot necessarily be filled by a Friend with gifts for another position. Several Friends spoke to the importance of funding any position to which we appoint a representative.

Friends did not reach unity on the appointment of a second representative to FCUN at this time. The matter will be considered at a later time.

A Friend spoke to the importance of Friends traveling on ecological concerns receiving the kind of support traditionally given to Friends traveling in the ministry, such as prayerful oversight.

8. Handbook Committee

Barbara Esther presented the following report for the ad hoc handbook committee:

The committee has only met, in its entirety, once this past year. (I was brand new to it in December of 2002.) As a first step, we undertook to get suggestions for changes in job descriptions from various Friends who had recent experience in SAYMA. Perhaps half of these Friends have responded to date. Our thanks go to all who did so. Our goal was to put a more recently updated version of the job descriptions in the hands of every officer and committee member or representative this weekend, to make clear information regarding the yearly meeting's expectations of those who undertake the real work of SAYMA, both for use while serving and as a tool for recruitment.

Our April meeting was not fully attended. That combined with the incomplete responses to the job description revision requests has caused a delay in our work. As we are able, we will send various officers and representatives descriptions as working drafts. No plan is currently entertained to print the handbook in full for each officer or representative. Instead, we would like to have it posted on the yearly meeting web site for any interested with only a few copies made on paper and requests for sections made available through the SAYMA office for Friends not using the Internet. The fluid nature of the handbook

(it will change as SAYMA's work changes) and the fact that each person needs only a small portion of the handbook, led us to recommend that course of action.

The second half of our work this past year was that of formulating questions regarding the experience of each officer stepping down from an appointment. We hope to glean information to check against the existing descriptions for accuracy. This, too, will depend upon responses. The handbook will only be of service if it reflects current practices.

At the April Representative Meeting the Ad Hoc Handbook Committee requested that the yearly meeting appoint or hire a web manager. I submit the following general description of the position, with details being left to those actually carrying out the work. We have been very fortunate to have had Kendall Ivie and Tim Lamm offer to work on the web site without having been appointed. Their gifts and time have made us aware of the need for a position within the yearly meeting structure.

The web manager of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association will add material approved for posting during yearly meeting business meetings to the web site and will keep current postings that are time-sensitive for Friends. Our web site will be maintained as a source of information for all those interested. A committee will provide oversight and assistance in carrying out the work of the web manager.

9. Quaker House

Chuck Fager, director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, spoke about the work of Quaker House, which is next door to Fort Bragg. Quaker House is a manifestation of Friends' peace witness to Fort Bragg and the region. The organization's staff members counsel GIs wanting to get out of the military. In 2001 Quaker House handled 3200 calls; in 2002 it handled more than 4000 calls; and so far in 2003 the number of calls is breaking records each month. Quaker House also does peace work in cooperation with other citizens of the area. Quaker House is financially supported almost entirely by Friends, including SAYMA. Quaker House is a co-sponsor with several other groups of a GI rights hotline. Quaker House handles calls from 11 states. More phone counselors are needed. This is a job that can be done from other locations; interested Friends should contact Chuck Fager.

10. Additional Members and Visitors

The clerk asked Friends from meetings not represented at the opening of the meeting to stand. The following meetings and worship groups were recognized as being present: Anneewakee Creek, Birmingham and Clemson.

The clerk also welcomed several visitors from outside SAYMA who had not yet been introduced:

Lloyd Lee Wilson, Rich Square Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)
Mike Arnold, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Nancy Gideon Clark, Homewood Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Tom Munk, Chapel Hill

The morning session closed with a period of worship.

June 6, 2003 - Sixth Day (Friday) 2:30 pm

The afternoon session opened with a period of worship.

11. Budget

Chris Berg, clerk of the Finance Committee, presented comparative balance sheets for the past several years. A copy is attached in Appendix C as "SAYMA End of Fiscal Year Account Balances Report." He explained that SAYMA has deliberately reduced its cash balance over the past several years by running a deficit budget. However, the yearly meeting is getting close to the target cash balance of \$10,000.

Chris Berg presented a budget for expenditures. If the current assessment is maintained, these expenditures would result in a deficit of about \$13,000. The finance committee has not yet determined whether to recommend an increase in the assessment to reduce this deficit. Chris invited Friends to address questions to the committee as they continue their work at this yearly meeting in preparation for further consideration of the budget.

12. Faith and Practice

Geeta McGahey presented the report of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. The report is attached in Appendix C.

Friends turned to consideration of the revisions of the Introduction and Part One: Continuing Quaker History presented by the committee. Several Friends spoke to the importance of monthly meeting consideration of all changes to SAYMA's *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*, with various individuals pointing out the attention required by monthly meetings and by the revision committee to this process.

Friends approved the changes as proposed by the committee with one friendly amendment. The approved version is attached in Appendix C.

13. Newsletter

Kim Carlyle, co-editor with Susan Carlyle of the *Southern Appalachian Friend* newsletter, presented the editors' report. The report is attached in Appendix C.

14. Oxford Monthly Meeting

The clerk read a letter from Oxford Monthly Meeting requesting membership in SAYMA. The letter is attached in Appendix C. Kristi Estes of Memphis explained how Oxford Friends worked with Memphis Friends Meeting, following the process outlined in *Faith and Practice* to move from being a worship group through preparative meeting status to becoming a monthly meeting.

A concern was raised about extending SAYMA's boundaries beyond a workable geographic area. A suggestion was made that a quarterly meeting system could address the difficulty of travel and foster ongoing communication about yearly meeting issues.

Friends united in welcoming Oxford Monthly Meeting as a member monthly meeting of SAYMA. We hope to send a delegation to visit and welcome Oxford Friends as SAYMA members.

15. Ministry and Nurture

Kathy Burke presented a report for the Ministry and Nurture Committee. The report is attached in Appendix C.

16. Personnel Committee

As clerk of the Personnel Committee, John Geary presented the following report:

The Personnel Committee meets during every representative meeting of SAYMA. Discussion this year centered around SAYMA's administrative assistant's job description and duties. The committee reviewed job descriptions from two yearly meetings, Baltimore Yearly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting. Drafting of a comprehensive job description by members of the committee is in progress. Some form of performance evaluation will be required for merit increases. This would be in addition to cost-of-living adjustments. The job description of the SAYF administrative assistant is current but may need revision in the near future. It was noted that the SAYF administrative assistant has also taken on the responsibility of treasurer of SAYF. Time sheets for both positions should be consistent and simple. The problem of health benefits was considered.

Models for pay raises were reviewed but no decision was made. The committee agreed that the preparation of the payroll should be outsourced to an accountant to relieve the SAYMA treasurer of this responsibility.

Since no comprehensive performance evaluation method exists at this time, the committee decided not to give merit increases. The committee did submit a cost-of-living adjustment and health benefit increase to the Finance Committee.

17. SAYF Steering Committee

Dick Houghton presented a report from the SAYF Steering Committee. The report is attached in Appendix C.

18. Site Selection Committee

Larry Ingle reviewed the history of SAYMA's attempts to find a site west of the mountains. Eight or ten years ago SAYMA set the goal of alternating two years on the east of the mountains and two years on the west. Attempts over these years to find an affordable site west of the mountains have not been successful. It is possible that Shorter College in Rome, Georgia might now be a possibility. He also reminded Friends that SAYMA has a reservation at Warren Wilson for the weekend of June 10-13, 2004.

Memphis and Oxford Friends expressed support for Warren Wilson as a location; the journey is a day's drive for them whichever side of the mountains is selected. A Friend from North Carolina expressed two concerns about the role of area Friends. Many local Friends do not choose to stay overnight at Warren Wilson, thus missing the benefit of the residential retreat offered by the yearly meeting. Second, we may be wearing out our welcome, as local Friends bear a heavy burden for arrangements.

Friends approved meeting at Warren Wilson College June 10-13, 2004, as scheduled. Friends asked that the Nominating Committee continue to identify members for the Site Selection Committee to keep an eye out for other possible sites.

19. Friends Peace Teams

Rosa Packard of Friends Peace Teams expressed her gratitude for the blessings she has received through visiting among us. Friends Peace Teams encourages participation of Friends in peace teams, both Quaker-sponsored and others, through small grants and encouraging monthly meetings to support such work through the traditions of gospel order.

Friends Peace Teams is asking monthly meetings to explore the meanings and possibilities of the challenge of "Every Meeting a Peace Center," a challenge brought to us by Elise Boulding and Mary Lord, the first co-clerks of Friends Peace Teams. Rosa Packard referred to a set of queries around conscientious objection for monthly meetings to consider and invited Friends to discern whether they are led to work in this area as a peace team project.

20. American Friends Service Committee Southeast Region

Debra Johnson, one of SAYMA's representatives to the American Friends Service Committee Southeast Region (AFSC-SERO), presented highlights of her report. The full report is attached in Appendix D. Three staff members were present at SAYMA, available to talk with Friends about their work: Samir Moukaddam with the Middle East peace program; Angela Henderson with the youth program HIP (Help Increase the Peace); and peace educator Sarah Gill.

21. Friends Committee in Unity with Nature

Kim Carlyle, SAYMA representative to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, presented highlights of his report. The full report is attached in Appendix D.

22. Quaker House

Dick Houghton presented a report from Geoff Pratt of Nashville Monthly Meeting, SAYMA's representative to Quaker House. The report is attached in Appendix D.

23. Compact Fluorescent Bulb Project

Susan Carlyle reported the following results from the Ecological Concerns Network's project to encourage SAYMA Friends to replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. Friends reported installing 163 new compact fluorescent bulbs. Conservatively estimated, these light bulbs will result in a reduction of 475 pounds of sulfur dioxide (which contributes to haze and acid rain); 258 pounds of nitrogen oxides (which depletes the ozone layer and contributes to acid rain); and 69,989 pounds of carbon dioxide (the leading "greenhouse gas") in the atmosphere.

The afternoon session closed with a period of worship.

June 7, 2003 - Seventh Day (Saturday) 9:30 am

The meeting began with a period of worship.

24. Nominating Committee

Penelope Wright, clerk of the Nominating Committee, spoke of her joy and gratitude in being able to bring forward an almost complete slate for the positions that were unfilled yesterday. The names brought forward and the years in which the terms will end are:

Treasurer, David Ciscel, 2005
Recording Clerk, Lee Ann Swarm, 2005
Faith and Practice Revision Committee Member, Errol Hess, indefinite
Nominating Committee Member, Errol Hess, 2005
Personnel Committee Member, Judy Prince, 2005
Personnel Committee Member, Lee Ann Swarm, 2005
SAYF Oversight Committee Member, Cathi Watkins, 2005
SAYF Steering Committee Member, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, 2005
Workshop Coordinator, Ellen Johnson, 2005
Co-Registrar, Beth Myers, 2005
Co-Registrar, Barbara Conant, 2005
AFSC Corporation Alternate, Barbara Esther, 2005
AFSC Corporation Alternate, Colin Sukioga, 2005
AFSC-SERO, Hector Black, 2004

Friends approved these appointments. A complete list of positions of responsibility, the individuals serving in them and their terms as of the end of Yearly Meeting 2003 is included in Appendix C.

The committee is awaiting further information on a Friends World Committee for Consultation position.

Larry and Becky Ingle offered to serve a two-year term on the Site Selection Committee. Friends gratefully accepted this offer asked the Site Selection Committee to work with the Handbook Committee to develop a description of the criteria needed and the committee's role in site selection. Dick Houghton offered to assist the Site Selection Committee in exploring a site in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Friends returned to the question of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. As reported yesterday, the Nominating Committee has been unable to identify Friends led to serve as clerk and assistant clerk for the committee.

Friends considered factors that may have contributed to the difficulty of finding leadership for the committee. Friends reconsidered the purpose of the committee and considered a variety of options for changing the committee's charge and structure. Friends also considered alternative ways of meeting the needs for which the committee was formed.

Friends agreed to relieve the Nominating Committee of the responsibility of continuing to search for leadership for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for the current term. However, if Friends come forward, the Nominating Committee will consider their offer.

Friends agreed that over the course of the coming year, the charge of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be revisited by an ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee will communicate with

monthly meetings in revisiting the charge. The clerk appointed Steve Livingston, convener, Anne Welsh and Dennis Gregg. Penelope Wright will serve as a corresponding member.

Penelope Wright reported that the matter of whether the Junior Yearly Meeting coordinator should be a paid or gift-filled position in the future is still under consideration. A recommendation from the Ad Hoc Junior Yearly Meeting Committee will be forthcoming at September Representative Meeting. Friends who are under the weight of a concern on this topic are encouraged to contact Clerk Sharon Annis before the September meeting.

25. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kendall Ivie presented the following report:

SAYMA currently has \$12,213 in available funds plus \$8,244 in dedicated funds. See the Account Balances Report for details.

For the fiscal 2003 year to date SAYMA has income of \$63,365 and expenses of \$67,717 leaving a net loss of \$4,352. Details of income and expense to date are included in the FY2004 Proposed Budget.

The Treasurer has two requests:

- 1) that reimbursement requests be submitted in a timely manner,
- 2) that assessments be sent in quarterly.

The treasurer reviewed the comparative balance sheet showing FY 2000 forward. He also presented a year-to-date budget report showing actual vs. budgeted expenses. Copies of both appear in Appendix C.

26. Finance Committee

Chris Berg, clerk, reported that the Finance Committee has on its ongoing agenda: setting up payroll tasks with an outside vendor; liability insurance; and gingerly approaching the possibility of applying for 501(c)3 status with the IRS.

After consideration, the Finance Committee did not recommend a change in the assessment for the coming year. A question arose about whether the Finance Committee had considered an increase in wider Quaker organization contributions to cover inflation. The committee had not given this issue consideration. Friends were reminded that requests for budget additions should be submitted before April Representative Meeting.

A question was raised about the proposed contribution to Rural Southern Voice for Peace. Friends asked that the Finance Committee, with the assistance of Celso Friends, reconsider the contribution to RSVP and recommend to September Representative Meeting a reallocation of some or all of the RSVP contribution to a wider Quaker organization if appropriate.

A Friend asked whether the budget could cover an additional FCUN representative. The treasurer replied that the line for delegate travel has been increased from \$5350 to \$6500, but it is difficult to forecast delegate expenses with precision.

Friends approved the budget as proposed by the Finance Committee, with no change in the assessment of \$55 per person.

27. Ad Hoc Committee for Advancement

Kristi Estes reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for Advancement established by April 2003 Representative Meeting is still in the process of formation. This committee's charge is "to draft text that describes rightly ordered process for worship group/monthly meeting relationships and the process for a monthly meeting becoming a member of SAYMA." The committee is also charged "to review the issue of the geographic boundaries of SAYMA."

28. Language

A visiting Friend suggested that SAYMA Friends consider our use of terms in distinguishing between positions of responsibility that are paid and unpaid. The use of the term "gift-filled" may suggest that Friends who are paid are not using their gifts. He suggested using the term "released Friend" to describe the situation of Friends who are remunerated by the yearly meeting to allow them to bring their gifts in service to the yearly meeting. They are released from the need to support themselves financially by other work.

A Friend pointed out that SAYMA has a Released Friend Fund for other purposes, and that as we seek terms that express the truth we need to avoid confusion in that direction.

29. Visit to Oxford Friends

Friends who are led to travel to Oxford, Mississippi to welcome Oxford Monthly Meeting as a member meeting of SAYMA should contact Kathy Burke, clerk of Ministry and Nurture.

30. Faith and Practice Copies to Young Friends

Chris Berg announced that the Faith and Practice Revision Committee is working with the Finance Committee to provide copies of SAYMA's *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice* to the participants in the Southern Appalachian Young Friends group at this yearly meeting.

June 8, 2003 - First Day (Sunday) 9:30 am

The meeting began with a period of worship.

31. Junior Yearly Meeting

Ron McDonald told how the parable of the Good Shepherd, the theme of this year's Junior Yearly Meeting, had been lived out in relationships among JYM participants this weekend. Rebekah Rocjewicz, JYM lead teacher, led the children in sharing some of the wisdom drawn from the stories of the Good Shepherd, the pearl of great value and the mustard seed. The children sang a song full of images of the kingdom of God and another about the kingdom being above us, in all the earth, and inside of us. They concluded with a spirited rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Ron McDonald thanked the many adults who had helped with the program.

32. Southern Appalachian Young Friends

Southern Appalachian Young Friends presented the following epistle:

To begin the year and plan before the first retreat, the Oversight, Nurturing and Steering committees met at Nichole Rennie's house in Atlanta, Georgia during August 2002.

The September retreat was held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. It was a service-oriented retreat, and the major project was the cleaning of the river. One of the highlights of the September retreat was the dance that was held on Saturday night.

As per tradition, the October retreat was at Penn Center in South Carolina. At that retreat, Young Friends enjoyed the beach, a service project, and a local community potluck.

West Knoxville, Tennessee hosted the November retreat. The theme was physicality; this theme was explored through participation in a yoga workshop, a contradance, and physical games such as the ever-popular game called "wink."

To the disappointment of Young Friends and FAPs alike, the January retreat was snowed out. Although Asheville was unable to host the January retreat, it was the location of choice for the February retreat for the Nurturing, Steering and Oversight committees. Friends met in the spirit of worship to discuss regulations concerning handheld electronics, the respect guideline, and signing up for Nurturing Committee at SAYMA.

Beautiful Cloudland Canyon, Georgia, hosted the March retreat. Friends experienced guided meditation at a waterfall and learned how to build wilderness shelters. They also performed a talent show and enjoyed a very successful business meeting.

The theme of the April retreat, which was at the West Knoxville meetinghouse, was nonviolent conflict resolution. A workshop was held on the topic. A group of experienced nonviolent protesters who wanted to close down the Y-12 bomb plant hosted it. Friends also worked on a meetinghouse-oriented service project and joined Knoxville Friends in meeting for worship.

Friends gathered at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina to attend the SAYF program within yearly meeting. We attended workshops with the themes of music therapy, games about tradition, and building a labyrinth. We also held a successful

business meeting in which we discussed joining Nurturing Committee, handheld electronics, and the respect guideline. Young Friends led and participated in a talent show with the wider community. Thank you to all of the Friends of the wider community who assisted and educated the SAYF program.

33. Young Adult Friends

Young Adult Friends introduced themselves as they individually moved to the front of the room and created a human pyramid. They reported that this yearly meeting has been a time of building a structure for their group. They had their first meeting for business ever; got up at 8:30 am; did worship sharing around embers of Quaker tradition; talked about many, many topics; appointed a clerk and planning committee; continued the tradition of welcoming new SAYF graduates by “covertly” kidnaping them and helping them transition into the YAF community through a game of wink, chatting and hanging out; and decided to build more bridges between the YAF group and the wider yearly meeting.

34. Registrar's Report

Carol Gray, co-registrar, presented the following report on numbers of participants:

	2003	2002	2001
Total	260	233	248
JYM	23	13	18
SAYF	47	33	45
YAF	10	10	5
All MM & WG	36	36	33
Non-SAYMA MM&WG	8	6	

35. Nominating Committee

Penelope Wright, clerk of the Nominating Committee, expressed her joy in bringing forth the following names, including two young adult friends, for service:

- Nominating Committee Member, Trina Farmer, 2005
- Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Member, Jonah McDonald, 2004
- Faith and Practice Revision Committee, Barbara Esther, indefinite

36. FCUN Representative

Friends continued their consideration of the proposal to appoint a second representative from SAYMA to the Friends Committee on Unity with Nature.

FCUN has requested two representatives from each yearly meeting. FCUN has recently affiliated with Friends Committee on National Legislation, which requires that its member organizations have 50 percent of their governing bodies appointed by yearly meetings. Friends spoke to the importance of SAYMA's witness on behalf of the earth. Concern was expressed about the ongoing budgetary requirement. A Friend spoke to the importance of monthly meeting work on issues related to the earth, and that we not take the appointment of a second representative as a way to avoid the hard work we all need to do.

Friends approved the appointment of a second representative to FCUN.

Penelope Wright brought forward the name of Alice Wald to serve as the second SAYMA representative to FCUN. Friends approved.

37. Appreciation to Recording Clerk

Friends minuted their appreciation to Carol Lamm for her service as recording clerk.

38. Concern about Junior Yearly Meeting

A Friend expressed a concern about the use of a "hireling minister" in the junior yearly meeting and asked that Friends seek among us for a Friend with the needed gifts.

39. Friends General Conference

Penelope Wright, one of SAYMA's two representatives to Friends General Conference, recognized Nils Pearson, FGC visitor, and Barbara Hirschowitz, FGC publications manager, who have been among us this weekend. In addition to our second representative, Julia Sibley Jones, Penelope called attention to other SAYMA Friends who also serve FGC:

Sharon Annis, Central Committee
Mary Ann Downey, Friends Journal board
Priscilla Ewen, invited to Ministry and Nurture Committee
John Geary, Assistant Clerk, Publishing and Distribution
Tom Kenworthy, Development Committee
Perry Treadwell, Clerk, Long-Range Planning Committee
Robin Wells, invited to Religious Education Committee

Penelope Wright encouraged Friends to support FGC financially as individuals and monthly meetings. She modeled a hat with banners representing FGC programs and invited Friends to learn about these many programs.

The report from our Friends General Conference representatives is attached in Appendix D.

40. FCNL

Joe Taylor reported that at the end of this month FCNL staff will be moving out of their building for its renovation. About 75 per cent of the funds needed for this renovation have already been raised. More money is needed; request letters will be coming to Friends.

FCNL yard signs with the message "War is not the answer" have had the effect of almost doubling the number of people using FCNL as a resource. Joe has handled the distribution of about 20,000 signs from Atlanta to other parts of the country.

41. AFSC

Ruth Seely, AFSC associate general secretary, spoke of her gratitude for the warm welcome she has experienced from SAYMA Friends. AFSC appreciates SAYMA's financial contribution and also the many contributions SAYMA makes through individuals who serve both through AFSC-SERO and at the national level. An epistle from AFSC is attached in Appendix C.

42. Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns

Annie Black expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to attend the FLGBTQC mid-winter gathering and her willingness to serve SAYMA in any other way she can. She explained that the group's new name reflects the importance to many Friends of having all the various groups named. Her report is attached in Appendix D.

43. Right Sharing of World Resources

Geeta McGahey shared some excerpts of her full report on the Right Sharing of World Resources program, which is attached in Appendix D. She is willing to travel to monthly meetings and worship groups to share her experiences with RSWR. A video is available.

Kay Parke, who has been involved with RSWR on a personal basis for many years, recalled the history of the organization, which began as the "One Percent More Project." She encouraged Friends to return to this vision of contributing one percent of their income to projects in the developing world.

44. Friends World Committee for Consultation

Rachel Weir reported that Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas has a new director. Rachel looks forward to a new blossoming of FWCC after a period of cutting back due to financial constraints. The Quaker UN office has been upgraded from "special consultative status" to "general consultative status," permitting Quakers to speak to the United Nations on a wider variety of topics. A southeast regional gathering is in the works for this fall. The FWCC report is attached in Appendix D.

45. Epistle

Barbara Esther presented the epistle prepared by the Epistle Committee. Friends approved the following:

Loving Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) returned for its 33rd annual gathering to the beautifully wooded campus of Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina, on June 5-8, 2003, also the site of our first yearly meeting in 1970. Under the theme of Flames of Faith from Embers of Tradition: How Our Traditions Inspire Our Practice, we experienced a vital engagement with our Quaker roots as Lloyd Lee Wilson spoke to us on two evenings. He spoke from his experience of encountering God, allowing himself to be transformed and inviting us to practice authenticity. He described Friends' theology as the spirituality of subtraction wherein we listen for the guidance of the Inner Teacher, unmediated; but are grounded in our faith community, past and present. He reminded us of the strength of a "threefold cord" (Ecclesiastes 4:12) and the importance of each thread in a woven fabric to its strength and wholeness. So, too, can we find strength in unity with God and our fellow seekers of Truth.

In our meetings for business we wrestled with our yearly meeting's work: who has come forward to do the work, what committees and support are needed to sustain the work and how do we allocate the financial resources we are given to assist in that purpose. Friends responded to the call to serve the yearly meeting positions in a spirit of carrying forward God's work. As a witness to our concern for the Earth, many documents were not copied in great number, but instead were posted for review, saving the use of a great quantity of paper. We paused for times of worship, food, lining up for ice cream, workshops, fellowship and holding in the Light of remembrance. We welcomed a new monthly meeting, Oxford, Mississippi, a meeting formed under the care of Memphis Meeting in Tennessee, to SAYMA. We especially held our clerk, Sharon Annis in the Light as she recovers from surgery, knowing that she is holding us tenderly in the Light, as well. We are thankful for the patient and able job our assistant clerk and recording clerk have done in shepherding us through a full agenda. Reports from yearly meeting committees and representatives as well as from wider Quaker organization guests enriched our

understanding of opportunities for service and gratitude for the dedication of these organizations and individuals. Three new centers were available for Friends: a women's center, a nurture center, and a center for Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns.

Our children were provided an opportunity to know and express their spirituality through stories and queries with the guidance of Rebekah Rojcewicz, a leader in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of instruction. More than twenty children ages 3-12, and several under three, participated, also hiking, swimming, boomeranging, and playing together. A favorite spot for the children was an old-fashioned swing under a spreading oak tree.

Two other age groups: thirteen Young Adult Friends, or YAFs, and 45 Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) switched among joining in adult/youth activities, separating for their own programs and leading the yearly meeting talent show. Their part in our annual gathering is always a joy and inspiration to both older and younger Friends.

We go forth encouraged by the knowledge that, like the tall redwood, our roots are long and entwined with Friends who went before us and with our contemporaries. We ask for God's guidance to strengthen and support us as we spread out across the southeastern United States, that we may let the stirrings of the Spirit flame up in our hearts.

Barbara Esther will translate the epistle into Spanish.

Friends expressed appreciation to the epistle committee for its work.

46. Thanks to Warren Wilson

Friends were reminded that SAYMA met at Warren Wilson College during its earliest years as a yearly meeting. Friends asked the clerk to convey the yearly meeting's gratitude to Warren Wilson College for its warm and cordial hospitality.

47. Appreciation to Administrative Assistant.

Friends minuted their appreciation to Mary Calhoun for her service as administrative assistant.

48. Approval of minutes

Friends approved these minutes throughout the course of the Yearly Meeting, subject to final editing by the clerk and the recording clerk.

John Geary, Assistant Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

App. B, SAYMA, 11, 199

Asheville Monthly Meeting
Athens Monthly Meeting
Atlanta Monthly Meeting
Berea Monthly Meeting
Birmingham Monthly Meeting
Boone Monthly Meeting
Brevard Monthly Meeting
Celo Monthly Meeting
Charleston Monthly Meeting
Chattanooga Monthly Meeting
Cookeville Preparative Meeting
Crossville Monthly Meeting
Foxfire Monthly Meeting
Greenville Monthly Meeting
Huntsville Monthly Meeting
Memphis Monthly Meeting
Nashville Monthly Meeting
New Moon Worship Group
Swannanoa Monthly Meeting
West Knoxville Monthly Meeting

**State of Society Report
Asheville Friends Meeting
2003**

In the past year our Meeting has paid specific attention to its growth as a spiritual community. We have recognized that we are in a time of transition as many of our former leaders age. The Meeting is now in the hands of the “younger generation”. We recognize as well that the formation of the Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting has had a great impact on our community as we lost some of our most experienced elders to the new Meeting. We celebrate the growth and vitality of our sister Meeting and our own regeneration.

As we attend to the life of our Meeting we have found it essential to commit ourselves to building firm connections with our children and young people. To this end we have introduced periodic intergenerational worship for which we suspend our usual First Day school activities and met for worship as a community. Our First Day School focus has been on Quaker Testimonies. We continue our Summer Youth Internship program, bringing youth and adult Friends together in community service. We have also grown in our support of our college-aged Friends. This year the meeting celebrates and supports the enrolment of six Friends in Quaker colleges and one Friend at Earlham School of Religion. We have begun the practice of writing to our college-aged Friends to offer our support in their continued educational, spiritual and personal development.

As we grow we find we are continually challenged with how to welcome newcomers and sustain a sense of community. Our newsletter continue to flourish, we have established a meeting internet list serve and web site, www.Ashevillefriends.org. We take time for fellowship after our Meetings for Worship, on sandwich Sundays, during our annual campout and picnic, youth celebration, and holiday party.

With attention to the spiritual life of the Meeting, our Spiritual Enrichment Committee helped to organize dinner gatherings earlier in the fall. These were centered on specific themes, such as a book discussion or for friends interested in membership in the Religious Society of Friends. We have seen the reinitiation of a mid-week meeting for worship with a specific focus on prayers for world peace, followed by a “stone soup” meal. We have had an active Spiritual Formation Group, after the model of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting program, and several Spiritual Friendships at work

We continue to nurture the spiritual development of attenders and members through the offering of retreats and forums. This year we have been blessed with several opportunities to gather with Friends from Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting to explore topics related to our continued development and formation as Quakers. These events included a retreat led by Michael Birkel of Earlham College on the work and life of John Woolman, “Quaker Basics” led by Beth and Mel Keiser and Elizabeth Kirk and “Experiment with Light” led by Rex Ambler. We have an ongoing discussion and worshipsharing group focused on unraveling racism. We held a residential retreat in May at Bonclarken in Flat Rock, NC. Jan Hoffman of New England Yearly Meeting led us in the theme “Encouraging faithfulness: listening to the Spirit and each other.”

We look forward to the changes that will come out of this time together. We seek to grow in our faithfulness to the Spirit by developing guidelines for the support of Friends Traveling in the Ministry, including financial support. We currently have three friends working under a traveling minute from the meeting.

As must be true in so many communities, the ongoing war on terrorism, the war on Iraq and increasing conflict around the world have served to bring our community together. Once again, the work of the Spirit in leading Friends among us brought us the opportunity to discern corporately a statement on the war with Iraq. Our process was deeply enriching, and helped us to reaffirm our commitment as individuals and a corporate body to the Peace Testimony. Many of our Friends have been working for peace locally, nationally and globally. As a meeting we have sent health kits to Iraq through AFSC and seen the development of the Peace Resource Service to focus on issues related to youth and militarism in the wider Asheville area.

As we look to the year ahead there is a sense of going “back to Quaker basics” for guidance. We recognize a need to continually nurture our meeting for worship and vocal ministry as well as our meeting for worship with attention to business. We are aware of a need to look at the role of eldering in our community as we seek to grow in our ability to love each other, including how we handle conflict as a meeting community. We seek to make explicit our guidelines and procedures for membership and marriage, including a deep consideration of the meaning of membership in Asheville Friends meeting and of same gender marriage and union.

We have witnessed a wealth of physical changes and improvements to our meetinghouse this year, including the refinishing of the hardwood floor in our meeting room and new paint and carpet upstairs in our First Day School rooms. A complete overhaul of the upstairs bathroom is underway. Our House and Grounds committee, with the help of so many others, has created for us an outward manifestation of the revitalization that we feel corporately. Work on expanding the meetinghouse to include a new worship space was quiet this year. It is unclear when we will be led to move forward on this idea.

We welcome this year six new members to our meeting community. Two Friends became members of Asheville Friends Meeting and four Friends’ memberships were transferred to Asheville Friends Meeting. One Friend became a sojourning member of Green Street Meeting, in Philadelphia. We transferred the memberships of two Friends to Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting. We record no deaths and no marriages in our community during this past year.

State of the Meeting Report
Athens (Georgia) Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting of S.A.Y.M.A.
Sixth Month, 2003 (year 2002-2003)

Athens Friends spent much effort improving and promoting our monthly meeting this year. Beginning with a “State of the Meeting” discussion last July, we have explored ways to invite and welcome new attenders. We are now listed on UGA’s Church Directory/Map. We put notices in the local paper about special events. We have signs in the Meetinghouse to guide visitors to the worship room and restrooms. We brightened the meetinghouse by a thorough cleaning last fall. Finally, we are considering holding a retreat about growing our meeting. We would like to have an outside facilitator for this retreat.

As part of our outreach, we shared Quaker literature and passed out cold water at the Athens Human Rights Festival in May. Our participation in local anti-war activities also provided outreach opportunities. At protests, rallies and forums Friends shared literature promoting peace, and passed out “War is Not the Answer” yard signs and bumper stickers. We were pleased to see them displayed throughout the area.

Also as part of our focus on improving our meeting, we increased our attention to nurturing members and attenders. We continue to send greeting cards for celebrations and healing. We kept in touch with a former attender who was homebound for several months and had a small luncheon at her house. The Meeting was thrilled to receive a beautiful handmade “comfort quilt” from Nancy York. This quilt will hang in our worship room, and can be taken home by those in need of comfort.

Another area of great emphasis this year was on promoting peace with Iraq. Our activities included publication of a Minute on Iraq in the local paper last August. Several Friends’ anti-war editorials were also published in the local paper. Frieda Hammett gave a talk about the Peace Testimony at a Town Meeting on the Iraq conflict. We also signed two different petitions to state legislatures requesting a moratorium on the death penalty in Georgia. Friends sponsored a peace demonstration and walk in the fall. We participated in community based protests and rallies, particularly events sponsored by Doubts about War and Women in Black.

Athens Friends Meeting is grateful for the service of our co-clerks Betsey Collins and Deb Weiler. Deb Weiler stepped in as co-clerk when Patricia Ridley moved to Colorado. The meeting is enthusiastic about our new website (<http://athensga.quaker.org>) which was developed, and continues to be maintained, by one of our youth, Tommy Pulliam. A monthly newsletter is sent to Friends, mostly via e-mail, and is also posted on the Website. We have a listserve that provides for informal discussion, reminders and announcements among those active in the meeting.

Weekly attendance at meeting for worship ranges from 5 to 15. We welcomed one new member and several new, regular attenders. We were sorry to lose two long-time regular attenders, who both moved far way and whom we continue to miss.

Our First Day School has been inactive this year. One older youth participates in SAYF retreats. Bill O’Connell, who traveled from Alabama to meet with us, facilitated a discussion about conscientious objection. Four youth participated in this program.

The meeting increased its attention to the budget this year as we have had increased contributions, requiring new decision-making. The availability of funds brought out thoughts about saving for a meetinghouse. The meeting is exploring thoughts about our own building and is developing a savings plan. We are also increasing our donations to national and local charitable organizations, as contributions allow.

“Second hour” programs are held regularly and include discussions, worship sharing, letter-writing and projects. Many peace/anti-war discussions and activities were held throughout the year. Jean Gowen presented an informative session on restorative justice. We spent one second hour assembling AFSC hygiene kits for Iraq. Thanks to Betsey Collins’ planning, the meeting took several ‘field trips.’ The Sunday afternoon trips included tours of the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta and the Wrightsboro, Georgia historic Meeting House grounds.

Celebrations and potlucks were held to say good-bye to departing Friends, for the Christmas holiday, and just for fun. We held a candle-lit Christmas Eve Worship. Our traditional Easter worship and picnic was held at the State Botanical Garden, while the rain held off just long enough.

In cooperation with Oconee Methodist Church, our neighbor, the meeting sponsored the second annual neighborhood ice cream social. This free event includes children’s activities, music and ice cream. We are pleased that local politicians have come to this event to meet neighborhood residents. We have already begun planning for another ice cream social this summer.

We continue to support Frieda Hammett’s pre-kindergarten Montessori classroom at Fowler Drive Elementary. The meeting has set money aside to help construct play equipment at the school, we made Thanksgiving turkey treats for the class and we collected children’s books for Frieda to give to the class at the end of the year. The meeting is partner in Family Connection, and a member of ARK, both local coalitions that provide for community support and action on issues affecting children and families.

We were overwhelmed with requests for holiday assistance this year, and decided to focus on gifts for the family we have supported for approximately 10 years. Friends made individual donations to other organizations requesting assistance.

State of the Meeting Report, 2002

Atlanta Friends Meeting

“Life from the Center is a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It is amazing. It is triumphant. It is radiant. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time. And it makes our life programs new and overcoming. We need not get frantic. He is at the helm. And when our little day is done we lie down quietly in peace, for all is well.”

Thomas Kelly, Testament of Devotion

How was the Spirit moving through the life of Atlanta Friends Meeting in 2002? All was surely not well in the world. We worshipped in the midst of a nation that was saddened, frightened, and angered by terrorist attacks. We moved from shock and disbelief to action, learning to speak out together against answering violence with violence. We grew this year, deeper, stronger, and more loving. As war neared, our peace deepened.

Our role in the peace movement in Atlanta expanded over the year. We continued our active participation in the Interfaith Atlanta Coalition for Peace and Justice in the World, and joined in support for the Georgia Peace Coalition. Fridays at noon, many of us gathered with others at a street corner outside the office of our least-listening Senator, and welcomed the many honks for peace from the street. Two of our members were eventually arrested there, part of “the Atlanta Five,” for asking for an appointment with the Senator or his staff, and staying until they got one. Our involvement in peace has taken us out of the Meetinghouse to work with the larger community, and has brought more of the community into the Meetinghouse as well. Students at the Friends School have begun their own street corner vigil.

A Friend was led to raise the issue of a banner for the Meetinghouse to make our testimony visible. As we stopped to consider the feelings of the resident manager, we felt the danger that speaking out posed, and realized that other members did not have banners on their homes yet, either. So the yard sign project was born. In orders of 50, 100, 250 and eventually the thousands, we gave Atlantans a way to make their views visible, with Martin Luther King’s words, “War is not the answer.” FCNL asked us to distribute the signs nationally. The Meeting’s own large banner now faces a busy street.

Another moment of shock and deep spiritual searching came when a staff member resigned, citing the racism she had encountered in her work in the Meeting. Meeting expressed a desire to make this right and to heal, but we lacked a clear collective sense of how we needed to change to do so. A special committee has been holding a series of listening skills sessions around the various ways we are divided as a Meeting, including religious differences, race, sexual preference, and class. A group of parents has been discussing how to raise a non-racist child. Nearly every Meeting committee has explored queries on whether its practices include everyone in the Meeting community, especially African Americans. Yet the gap remains large between our spiritual ambition to make Meeting a safe place for everyone and our ability to see and uproot racism in ourselves. Martin Luther King asked, “How long?” and assured his listeners, “Not long.” Nearly fifty years later, we must acknowledge, “Too long.”

Other kinds of diversity also continue to challenge us, including diversity of religious language, and diversity of expression in Meeting.

There were many moving gatherings in the Meetinghouse over the year, times when we joined with the larger Atlanta community in the spirit of a day. We gathered in grief at the death and celebration of the life of Laura Murphy, a beloved member of our community who had kept her own spirit alive, and ours as well, through years of the progressive degeneration of ALS (Lou Gehrig's syndrome). We gathered with our coalition partners in a celebration of peace on September 11, 2002. We gathered in joy at the marriages of Althea Sumpter and Jerry Immel in the Meetinghouse, and of Gwen Davies and John Wuichet at Hard Labor Creek State Park.

A long-standing and difficult issue for the Meeting has been how to include children in Meeting for Worship. Way opened for us this year, and a new commitment to having families worship together in the Meetingroom at the start of Meeting for Worship has settled into a Light-filled pattern.

With the various flows of the life of the city into and out of the Meeting community, attendance has remained strong and new people have joined us in worship. The Advancement Committee has been active in advertising the existence of the Meeting and representing us at community events.

The economic downturn has affected many members of the Meeting community, and we were concerned for much of the latter part of the year about a drop in donations. For the first time in many years the meeting reported a deficit for 2002. Fortunately this was offset by a surplus from prior years, but forced us to consider issues of simplicity in the life of the Meeting. We reduced our budget for 2003.

Six people joined Meeting during 2002. One transferred membership out. The Meeting had 100 total active members in 2002, and an additional 21 members living out of the area.

Reports submitted by Meeting activities and committees follow.

Care and Counsel Committee

In keeping with the mission of the Care and Counsel Committee, our committee members focused on being available to meet needs of individuals who attend Atlanta Friends Meeting. We began the year by reviewing our responsibilities and discussing how we would handle each one.

The recruitment of volunteers was one of the main concerns we addressed. Since there is a certain number of volunteers needed each week to take care of such duties as set-up, clean-up and greeting, we wanted to encourage members/attenders to sign up for these duties. We held two volunteer sign-ups during the year at potlucks and had a fairly good response. To show the appreciation for people who have volunteered, we held a volunteer appreciation party in March. It was well attended and the response to it was positive.

Our member, Jane Wellborn, wrote several short articles describing the various services available from Care and Counsel. These articles appeared in the newsletter and the announcement sheet, depending on the length and subject. We hoped that this information would bring awareness to

the different areas in which Care & Counsel can assist Members/Attendees. We plan to rerun the articles to remind people of the different ways we can help.

To promote socializing among the Meeting population, we planned and scheduled a Fall Fun Night. Unfortunately, the event was poorly attended - perhaps due to a number of events scheduled for the same evening. We will review and try to come up with new ideas to increase participation for 2003. We also conducted a sign-up to form Friendly Eights groups. Several groups did form and are meeting regularly, but quite a few groups were unable to find someone to set up the initial get-together.

The photograph taken of the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration was copied and put out for people to identify themselves and others they knew to help preserve the Meeting's history. A large number of the people in the photograph were identified.

We took time in six of meetings during the year to reflect upon the queries of O.R.A.I.I.A.R.H. and how we, as a committee, function in terms of racial matters. Several of the queries brought about searching and thought as to how we can do a better job to our relations with African-Americans. Even though it was difficult at times, we felt as though we came away with better understanding for these matters.

Central America Committee

The Meeting's relationship with El Sitio, El Salvador, began with the formation of the village in 1991 as part of the settlement at the conclusion of the civil war in that country. Carol Cummings joined a delegation attending the ceremony of formation, and she and her husband Frank have maintained that relationship. Carol and Frank have established residence there as part of the assistance. The Meeting in the past has assisted the local school through the provision of computers. The request of the community is for assistance to graduates of the local elementary school to attend secondary and post secondary schools in other cities through tuition and lodging. The Meeting is raising funds for this assistance, based on a three-year commitment to enable students to complete their studies.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

FCNL legislative action messages were announced at the close of most Meetings for Worship during 2002. Atlanta Friends responded to FCNL calls for action with hundreds of phone calls, e-mails, faxes and letters to the President and Congress during the year. The majority of actions focused on the war in Afghanistan, the development of new nuclear weapons, and the war on Iraq. Our Meeting contact person met with the FCNL staff at the national office in Washington, D.C., in April and conducted lobbying visits at the offices of Senators Cleland and Miller and Rep. John Lewis. Our Meeting sponsored the attendance of Amy Sol-Seigfreid at the Young Adult Friends lobbying training session in Washington, D.C., April 5-8. Atlanta Friends conducted lobbying visits to the local offices of our Senators and Representatives to express their opposition to war on Iraq. Several Friends attended the FCNL training workshop on effective lobbying sponsored by the Atlanta AFSC office on Oct. 29. Susan May attended the FCNL national meeting in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 8-10. An "Iraq Action Update" was prepared by members of the Social Concerns Committee using information provided by FCNL and was distributed after Meeting for Worship from September through November. Two Atlanta Friends

(Courtney Siceloff and Joe Parko) were arrested on Nov. 4 after they staged a sit-in at the Atlanta office of Senator Zell Miller in protest of his refusal to answer questions about war on Iraq.

Green Friends

After 25 Atlanta Friends toured the Southface Energy Institute in Sept. 2001, we arranged for an energy audit to be done of our meetinghouse in spring of 2002. Some sizable changes & repairs were recommended which are gradually being addressed. The most serious one - inadequate roof insulation- is unlikely to be remedied until summer brings light use of the meetinghouse.

Environmental Justice forum (Feb. 02) sponsored by Green Friends & ORAIIARH - A well-attended, interesting dialogue focused on linkages between justice, poverty, racism & environmental degradation & dangers.

In cooperation with SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network, an Energy Use Survey was conducted by eight Friends during January - March resulting in 76 individual surveys being completed & added to the tally of all SAYMA groups. These indicated that Atlanta Friends have made some significant efforts to live more ecologically but still there is much room for improvement.

Growing out of the survey an Energy Saving forum led very ably by Peggy Barlett, was held in Sept. 02. This very well-attended discussion focused mostly on use of electrical energy in compact fluorescent bulbs, computers, easy & economical energy saving tips, etc.

Several members are serving as liaisons with the green power movement in GA, now growing in a newly formed interfaith coalition, GA Interfaith Power & Light.

The Green Friends e-mail listserv of 41 Friends continues to network & communicate our various concerns & serves as one conduit for action.

Ministry and Worship

The Ministry & Worship Committee worked to nurture a vibrant, inclusive spiritual community that provides persons with differing and deeply held beliefs an opportunity to worship together and seek the unity of the Light and a sense of common purpose. The Committee continued its efforts to welcome new members and attenders who find our worship and community a place to begin or continue their spiritual search. We continued to work to assist newcomers to learn more about Quakerism and to become part of our spiritual community. We encouraged vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship as led by the Spirit.

During the year, Amy Lighthill, Patricia Williams, Elizabeth Valera, Diane Rowley, Chris Mason, and Georgia Lord were welcomed into membership. Elizabeth Hendricks' membership was transferred to the Newtown Friends Meeting at her request. The marriage of Gwen Davies and John Wuichet took place under the care of the Meeting. A memorial service was held for Laura Murphy.

Ministry & Worship encouraged the formation of a spiritual nurturing group organized & facilitated by Daphne Clement. M&W members participated in the vital meeting study conducted by Earlham College and sought to understand and utilize the results in improving the Meeting. M&W considered ideas for additional meetings at different times and/or locales.

M&W worked with the Religious Education Committee in considering participation of the Meeting's children in Meeting for Worship and in seeking ways to increase their participation. This led to a change in the latecomer policy which did lead to increased participation. M&W sought to encourage increased attendance at Meeting for Business. Ideas included more emphasis that Meeting for Business is important and open to all, explaining its importance to new attenders, and announcing the issues of to be addressed at the next Meeting.

M&W sought to develop a set of queries specific to M&W that would effectively challenge us to action on the issue of racism. The Committee began to answer these queries throughout the year, recognizing that racism is an issue that will require its ongoing attention. The committee also recognized a need for increased efforts to welcome newcomers and the need to foster a greater sense of community within the Meeting. The Committee encouraged increased discussion between persons with differing ideas about how to heal racial divisions.

Two of our members, Perry Treadwell and Mary Ann Downey, are recognized and supported by the Meeting for their gifts of ministry and are part of the Traveling Ministries program of Friends General Conference (FGC). In 2002 Perry's ministry took the form of serving as clerk of the Long-Range Planning Committee of FGC, rather than visits to individual meetings. Mary Ann led one retreat, Landsdowne (PA) Meeting, in 2002 with more scheduled for 2003.

Our Roles As Individuals In America's Racial History

Our Roles as Individuals in America's Racial History (ORAIARH) has continued to meet every week during the year, for accountability, sharing, and business. While accountability and sharing seem to take up all of our time each week, and are at the center of the value of this group to us, we also undertook a number of activities in the Meeting during 2002. We hosted Vanessa Julye to speak on her experience at the World Conference on Racism. We held a Saturday workshop for churches in Decatur around "The Color of Fear." Two members witnessed against racism in Gainesville, GA, with a silent vigil in front of the Meetinghouse. Two members planned a workshop for the Meeting on the book Forty Ways to Raise a Non-racist Child, co-sponsored with the Ad Hoc Group. We also continued our education, through monthly readings, including Friends and the Racial Crisis, Souls of Black Folk, and short stories on African and Asian American lives.

Oversight Committee

The beginning of the year 2002 found the Oversight committee interviewing for a new secretary. We accepted with regret the resignation of Renda McCaughan and expressed our thanks and appreciation to her for her three years of service. DeCourcy Squire accepted the position and began in February.

The committee continued looking at the effects of racism on the employees, residents, tenants and contractors of the Meeting. We were particularly discouraged and saddened that the Young Friends Coordinator felt led to resign because of racism. The committee reaffirmed that it is the primary source of support for the employees of the Meeting and urged employees to bring issues/problems to the committee. The committee will also regularly inquire about concerns around which employees may need support.

The committee also undertook with Green Friends to have an energy audit of the house performed by Southface Energy Institute. The ensuing report became the basis for lengthy discussion about changes and repairs to the structure to assist with general upkeep and energy conservation. During the audit process, one of the Southface engineers used racially insensitive language with the resident. The committee followed up with the director of Southface to work toward resolution. Southface followed up through discussion with its employees around racism.

In late summer two of the three air conditioning units were replaced in the Meeting room because they had ceased functioning. All units in the building were serviced. Other repairs to the building were undertaken by the Meetinghouse committee.

Religious Education

An estimated 65 students attend First Day School with an average of 45 students on a Sunday. Class topics included Quaker values, the Old Testament, and current events. RE sponsored activities included the Easter Egg hunt, Youth Sunday, the Holiday Party, and service projects such as the Souper Sunday. Religious Ed developed a survey on how to make the First Day program more welcoming to all.

A major focus this year was to bring children back to the larger meeting of worship on Sundays. Religious Ed sponsored a forum on children and worship. Activities which lead to our goals included standardizing worship times, dismantling Little Meeting for Worship, publicizing helpful newsletter information, and promoting a meeting policy which allows attenders to enter worship at any time.

Social Concerns

The Social Concerns Committee has found no shortage of work this year. We awarded 3 public education grants totaling \$1080 for special projects in less affluent schools. We supported and worked with many local groups on issues as diverse as securing a living wage, Coca-Cola's role in the violence in Columbia, and shelter for the homeless. We held an observance on 9-11 titled "A Call to Peace Instead of to Arms" with Dances of Universal Peace and others.

We also devoted considerable energy to supporting peaceful alternatives to the "war on terrorism" and war in Iraq. We developed Iraq Update education sheets to pass out after meeting for worship each week in August and September. These urged meeting members and attenders to write to the President and various representatives to urge peaceful alternatives to war in the Iraq crisis. We worked with the Interfaith Atlanta Coalition for Peace & Justice and other groups to hold marches and weekly vigils to encourage our government to use diplomacy and to not go to war in Iraq. The Social Concerns Fund is being used to underwrite the distribution of yard signs saying "War Is Not the Answer". Over 800 have been distributed.

Green Friends, ORAIIARH, the FCNL liaison, and the Central America Committee all work under the care of the Social Concerns Committee, and have prepared their own reports.

Young Friends Support Committee

The Young Friends Support Committee had a turbulent year but is moving forward briskly now. Several members resigned due to time constraints. Then in June, the Coordinator resigned after experiencing racism in the Meeting community. The Committee's report to Meeting for Business led to the creation of an Ad Hoc committee to prevent repetition of the Coordinator's experience. Heather Barbour and Sally MacEwen also at this time felt led to clerk the committee, and several other members were also added. As it transitioned, the Committee moved to hire Jeremiah Gold-Hopton as the new Coordinator. He quickly set to work on new activities and also brought the committee up to speed on the program. He met with the young Friends and made a schedule of events that have been growing in participation and support. Almost twenty new Friendly Adult Presences (FAP's) were added to the list of those available. He was also able to reduce his number of hours and increase the budget for programming.

The Committee also revised the Guidelines for FAPs and authorized additional funds to pay for a van to take young Friends to SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) retreats.

Two concerns have been preeminent over the last year. One was the political situation in Iraq and, more generally, the need for peacemaking in the world. Individuals in the Meeting have been active in local and national peace demonstrations, we have cooperated with local churches on building “peace cairns” to show symbolically the way to peace, and we have held discussions on the meaning of the Quaker Peace Testimony. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been active in other areas as well---organizing local forums on the death penalty, for example. When it appeared that hate activist Fred Phelps was coming to Berea, we joined other Berea churches and the college community in a United and Diverse rally. And we delivered cookies and Christmas cards to the inmates at the county jail in December, as we have for many years.

The other preeminent concern has been over finding a better place to meet. We took a major step when we decided that Berea Friends will actively seek to own a meetinghouse, but so far no suitable property has become available. Meanwhile, we are working toward incorporating and building the financial resources we need to build or buy a place.

Highlights of the year include the December wedding of one of our members, and the birth of two babies to families in the Meeting. We rejoice in these life-affirming events.

Our annual membership review took the form of small sharing groups in which we drew timelines of our lives and talked about the experiences that have made us who we are. Interesting discussions during the year have included thinking about the role of young people in the Meeting and a seminar on evolution versus creationism requested by one of our youth.

Our young Friends have been active. There are more children attending First Day School than last year, and our teens have continued to be active in SAYF and the local ecumenical youth group. With a little adult help, the children built a lovely path in the woods by the creek for all to enjoy. We are very proud of our young people and their growth as Friends. Our current meeting space poses significant problems for the youth program, since we don’t have suitable rooms for different age groups. The teens meet in a Friend’s home and seldom have contact with the majority of the adults.

Currently we have 60 members, including 53 adults and 7 youth, about half of whom live outside of Kentucky. Attendance on First Days averages about 25 adults and 7 children. We are experimenting with the use of e-mail to distribute our monthly newsletter.

---Tim Lamm
Berea, KY

Birmingham Friends Meeting State of the Meeting, June 2003

1. As in past years, a number of Friends have departed and others have joined our Meeting Community. Two members moved out of state. One member stopped attending for reasons we do not fully understand. In the same period, three new people have begun attending on a regular basis, so that attendance at Meeting on a typical First Day (about 10-12) remains fairly constant.
2. We continue to advertise our presence (through a newspaper ad, community outreach, and personal contact) in the hope our Meeting will grow in number.
3. We seek to nourish the Meeting Community. Birmingham Friends meet at "Simple Suppers" held at Friends' homes on one Friday evening each month. We also deepened our connection with one another, and increased our appreciation of the value of listening through a "creative listening" project, held on six successive 2-hour Tuesday night sessions.
4. We have reached out to the surrounding community. We invited neighborhood children and their parents to an "ice cream social" in our lovely back yard one First Day afternoon. Folk music was provided by two Friends. A Celtic dance demonstration was offered by a group of children who used our Meeting House for practice. This spring, a "Peace Festival" was staged in the back yard by students visiting from the New Garden Friends School (located outside Greensboro, NC). Women Friends meet regularly at the home of one BFM member, and invite women from outside the Meeting Community.
5. We are chagrined by the violence and war taking place in the Mid-East. This prompted us to dedicate an unused room in the Meeting House to serve as the "Birmingham International Peace Center". The Center has promoted letter writing and the attendance of Friends at peace vigils that occur each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon here in Birmingham. During the Christmas season, we assembled 26 hygiene packets for distribution in Iraq by AFSC. The Peace Center facilitated the distribution of "War is Not the Answer" bumper stickers and yard signs from FCNL:
6. Two 4-year-olds attend Meeting on a regular basis with their mothers. We recognize the need to implement a First Day School curriculum to meet these children's needs.
7. Our Social Concerns committee meets on a regular basis. Under its auspices, we gathered at a downtown church one First Day to provide lunch for about 200 homeless and low-income people. We donated a sum of money equivalent to the Meeting House property tax we are not required to pay to a local public elementary school. We hoist a black banner from a staff attached to the Meeting House whenever someone is executed in the U.S. The banner reads "Today We Mourn the Execution of a Fellow Human Being". Sadly, the banner has been displayed many times in the past year. (This is part of the "For Whom the Bells Toll" campaign.) Several Friends participated in an ecumenical service held near the Civil Rights Institute in downtown Birmingham inaugurating (gay) PRIDE week.
8. During Second Hour we read and discussed a book entitled John, the Maverick Gospel. We have also met for Worship Sharing during Second Hour, and offered a series we call "Simple Gifts". During these Second Hours, Friends have spoken about activities and pursuits that have had a deep impact on them. We have learned about the healing power of music, how dogs can be trained through positive feedback, and about how the scientific method might be applied to the search for spiritual meaning. Still to come are hours on meditative gardening and feminist theology.
9. Rent from two tenants who occupy the second floor of the Meeting House provides funding that helps offset Meeting House expenses (including our mortgage, which has another 12 years to run). The Meeting House and grounds have been maintained over the past year by the Meeting House Committee. The yard has been glorious this spring, with an array of flowers and shrubs. A Japanese maple has been planted as a memorial to the mother of one of our members. We await a bountiful harvest of pecans in the fall.

State of the Meeting Report

Boone Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Sixth Month, 2003

Attendance at the Boone Meeting have remained relatively steady are around ten members and regular attenders. Miriam Toepel has moved to Jacksonville, Florida near a daughter. Lucy Edgemeyer is now a student at Westtown School. Marian Edgmeyer will be attending Guilford College in the fall. We continue to meet in a room in the office suite of attorney Gail Fannon, 184, N. Water St. Boone, NC 28607.

Outreach programs for the past year have continued with our regular "Sale for Service" at the Boone Mall, a sale of crafts and foods that, this year, yielded \$375 for a donation to RSVP. We participated with Appalachian Interfaith Alliance for Peace and Justice and other area churches in providing hygiene kits for Iraqi refugees through the American Friends Service Committee. A program at our monthly Quaker Forum by Loren Raymond, who spoke to Friends about the work of EPIC, an organization that sponsors projects aimed toward peace and sustainable development in many places in the world, but is based in Boone – led to a decision to make a meeting contribution to this organization and membership for several meeting individuals.

Hickory Ridge Homestead, an outdoor museum with authentic restored log cabins adjoining the Horn in the West Outdoor Drama has become a favorite alternate site for meeting events. We met there for worship and a potluck in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Quakers in North Carolina and for a couple of other events. We plan an "homecoming" of any former attenders of the Boone Meeting at this site for later in the summer.

Prepared by: Judy Geary

BREVARD (NC) FRIENDS MEETING: Report to SAYMA Yearly Meeting: June 5, 2003

Members: 16 Adults

Attenders: 14

Average attendance at Worship: 15

Our Meeting was saddened by the deaths of **Grace Freeman** on October 28, 2002, and **Jim Scott** on March 10, 2003. Both were active attenders for the past several years, enriching our Meeting by their presence, wisdom, love, and grace. They are deeply missed.

Lee Scott transferred her membership to our Meeting from the Asheville Monthly Meeting.

Average attendance at Meeting for Worship has remained steady, with occasional visits of students from Brevard College and yearly visits of the high school students from Eagle's Nest Foundation. Most of our member/attenders continue to be older adults, with a few middle-agers, and an occasional teenager. We have had no children attend, and hence have no First Day School, although we have leaders ready to lead. We continue to have a number of visitors throughout the year.

Activities beyond Meeting for Worship include: our monthly "Meeting for Eating"; Adult Forum, a small group which meets twice a month discussing various Pendle Hill pamphlets; and one Friendly Eights group which meets occasionally. Our only committee to meet regularly is Ministry & Oversight.

Our Meeting Newsletter, published by Jesse Mock after each Mtg. for Business keeps everyone in touch. In addition, we strive to stay connected through e-mail, telephone, and one-on-one visits.

Events of particular note:

In Sept. a called Mtg. for Bus. approved, and published, a minute against the war in Iraq.

In Oct. the Greenville MM, and Clemson WG visited us for worship and potluck dinner to celebrate the tenth year of the Greenville Meeting, which our Meeting sponsored.

Efforts to erect a permanent Meeting sign where we meet, or on a public street, were unsuccessful.

Many of our Meeting joined with others in the community for Saturday noon vigils (from October to the "end of the war") in front of the county courthouse to protest the war in Iraq.

We had a called Meeting for Business, on a Saturday, to discuss the "State of our Meeting" and listing goals for how we can make it stronger and more effective.

In March we announced to the community that our Meeting is a resource for counseling those who are considering conscientious objection to participation in the military, and related issues.

Danny Keller, a teenager attender, formally declared to the Meeting that he is a conscientious objector.

Members of the Meeting (especially Dorothy Mock and Joan Williams, tireless workers on behalf of the Moratorium of the death penalty) rejoice at the NC Senate vote to establish the moratorium.

Our Meeting led a community worship service, in the manner of Friends, during Lent.

Most of our members and attenders are active in a great variety of local and national issues and causes, providing a Friendly presence and witness as they do so.

Our Meeting is strong in spite of our small numbers and advancing ages. We continue to work for adding numbers and variety to our membership.

Grace, Peace, and Love

[Approved, Meeting for Business, May 18, 2003]

CELO MONTHLY MEETING

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT-MAY 2003

In Meeting for Worship we continue to seek a balance between our outward (action) and inner spirituality in the Meeting. Celso Monthly Meeting has had another spiritually rich and active year.

Activities Related to Iraq-Celso Friends Meeting has participated in and organized a variety of events relating to the war in Iraq. In response to the threat of war we participated in vigils and demonstrations at the national, regional and county level. We had a workshop to make banners for peace and several from our meeting and the county went to Washington, DC in October and Jan. 17. One family went to New York in March and then helped organize aid to be sent to Iraq at AFSC in Philadelphia. We helped organize vigils at the county level with 10 churches. The first was held Sept. 11 and it was dedicated to prayers for peace. We took part in this at the First Baptist Church. A prayer vigil was held on the town square in March. Two more prayer services for peace were held in March at the Presbyterian Church before and after the war in Iraq began. The Meeting House was open for prayer vigils every day. One member made hundreds of peace cranes. These were handed out at the prayer vigils and placed in public buildings. Some also participated in a daily candlelight vigil on the square in Burnsville during the war. Conscientious Objection to the Military-We obtained brochures and the Draft Counselor's Manual from the Center on Conscience and War. In July 2002 we sent CO information to 18 young people from our meeting offering conscientious objector counseling. We sent a representative to a press conference held by a local high school student who publicly registered as a CO and facilitated a newspaper article in the local paper about this.

Hiroshima Day Vigil - We participated in a program in Asheville on Hiroshima Day. Children from Camp Celso made a backdrop banner. We floated lanterns made in First day School and passed out hundreds of paper peace cranes to passers-by.

Immigrant Project and Harassment-The Meeting continues to facilitate the connection of local immigrants with services and information through offering interpretation, transportation and research. During the past year harassment of immigrants became more blatant when someone put up signs on telephone poles with racial slurs, including statements targeting those who had written letters to the editor with opposing viewpoints and other statements. The Arthur Morgan School helped collect the signs and reports were made to the police. One person involved was eventually arrested.

HIP - members of CFM participated in a 'Help Increase the Peace' (a conflict resolution program for students developed by the AFSC) project in Yancey County Schools for a third year. All freshmen at the Yancey County High School participated in a week long session of workshops. Herb Walters of RSVP, working with staff from other organizations, continued to provide leadership. He and others from the Meeting worked as facilitators for the sessions. The project needs additional facilitators if it expands to include middle schools and Mitchell County schools.

School of the Americas- some members joined Asheville Friends and participated in the School of Americas protest in Georgia.

Ministry and Care shared joys and concerns with many Friends over the past year. We acknowledged the deaths of several family members. Sue Snider has moved to Barnardsville and attends our meeting whenever she can. Both of her sons became fathers this past year so Sue is delighting in being a grandmother. The proud grandfather is Lyle Snider in Kentucky. Mike and Nancy Emily adopted a daughter from Russia. Support was given to Don and Fuller McLeod with a workday to build a ramp for accessibility and outside work.

Eighteen letters were sent to all our associate members over the age of 16 years apprising them of their options for membership within the meeting. The letter also included information on conscientious objection to war.

A member of our community, Adam Colby, is in the Army in Afghanistan. The children in First Day School collected items to send care packages to Adam and the other men in his unit.

The Adult Education Committee organized a series of forum discussions. "What Is A Quaker?" These were led by members of the Meeting. It was a five part series and the topics were History of Quakers, Testimonies, Quaker Values and Family, Meeting for Business and Quaker Decision-Making Process and Meeting for Worship. These were well attended, especially by new attenders.

The First Day School has had a very active program this past year. Several parents have participated in teaching the classes. Recently they had a comparative religion course for the elementary age students. They attended some other churches and had individuals come to the class to learn about the Bahai faith, Shintoism, Buddhism, Judaism, other Christian churches and Humanism and Ethical Culture. The children have been involved in service projects and had an ongoing fund raising project to raise money to send to the Heifer Project in Afghanistan and Iraq. They made ceramic ornaments and magnets to sell and also asked for everyone to bring their loose change to contribute. They have raised \$300. The parents undertook a major renovation to the First Day School building. The rooms are very pleasant with the new improvements. We have a small but dedicated group of middle and high school students who often participate in the Meeting for Worship or meet on their own. They collected food for Reconciliation House and participated in our workdays. Many adults have worked with these groups of children.

Building Campaign - We are pleased to report that we have met our goal of \$75,000 for a new Meeting House. We have had monthly meetings this winter to finalize our plans. We started the campaign to build Margithaus (hospitality and caretaker apartment) and the new Meeting House ten years ago. We want to thank all in SAYMA who have contributed to this. We sincerely appreciate your support.

We have worked through concerns in a caring way, giving support to those who shared their needs and concerns with the Meeting.

State of the Meeting 2003

Charleston, WV

War overshadowed all other concerns of Charleston Friends this year. We worked and prayed for a peaceful resolution to the confrontation between the United States and Iraq. During the summer of 2002, we supported three Friends in their travels to the Middle East. We hoped that these visits could contribute to peace and understanding. Dick Whitham and Carlie Numi visited the Occupied Territories with the Christian Peace Teams. John Humphries went to Iraq as part of a Quaker/AFSC delegation, which included a member of SAYMA (Debra Johnson, Memphis). They returned with stories of the hardships faced by Palestinians under occupation, by Israelis threatened with suicide bombings, and by Iraqis suffering under economic sanctions. Their pictures and recollections helped Friends appreciate the urgent need for peace and reconciliation in that troubled region, while better understanding the difficulty of achieving it.

Friends have been active in organizing to try to prevent the Mideast war and in seeking peaceful lives. Many of Charleston's members and attenders participated in the numerous antiwar demonstrations here, including weekly vigils at the Federal courthouse and occasional larger events such as the celebration of Martin Luther King Day. A few have traveled to larger cities to witness for peace. There are also small "peace seeds" groups springing up whose focus is on the immediate and personal response through inner peace and peaceful living.

For several years we have held Meeting for worship in offices of a community development organization in the middle of bustling, multicultural area of the city. After several frustrating years of dealing with the telephone company, we at last have our own telephone listing in the business pages, and appropriately categorized Yellow Pages entries.

As more young Friends go to college, marry, or move away and our median age rises, we have become increasingly concerned with outreach. In late summer we discussed the Friends General Conference Outreach Review. We concluded that, for our size, we are achieving significantly in outreach efforts, while recognizing areas where we could make progress. We agreed to revise some of our outreach materials and to pursue opportunities to invite younger people to meeting.

We continue to have infrequent attendance by families with small children, though we have an active youth group. The young Friends have separate discussions, and join meeting for the last few minutes of worship and organize intergenerational activities for meeting.

This year our adult discussions have focused principally on state legislative matters and international affairs, with special concern for the impending war in Iraq. While not initiating peace initiatives in Charleston, Friends have been active participants, both locally and nationally. Our social ministry has continued to draw in Friends who want to help others. We continue to organize a breakfast in a local women and children's shelter, and a dinner at a men's shelter in the winter. Because our Peace and Social Concerns Committee Clerk is also a lobbyist at the state legislature, we are one of the smallest religious groups with a presence there. We celebrated Martin Luther King's birthday again this year by placing an exhibit in the state capitol featuring Reverend King's writings on peace and social justice. We continue our support of the American

Friends Service Committee's West Virginia Economic Justice Project and other Friends concerns as way opens. A twice monthly Bible Study group meets in Friends' homes.

Charleston Friends helped organize the September 2002 West Virginia Friends Gathering, a weekend of worship, fellowship, and outdoor recreation, held at a nearby Ohio camp. This year we are planning the gathering around the theme of outreach. We welcome SAYMA Friends to join in this year's gathering September 6-7, or to visit at other times during the year.

Chattanooga Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report, 2003

Chattanooga Meeting's year has been exceptional--and this assessment comes from a clerk prone to look for the darker side. War in Iraq and its threat have overshadowed everything we have done, but we have risen to the opportunities presented. Meetings for worship have often been gathered and covered by Christ's spirit, enabling the group to reach depths that we are pleased to experience. Attendance at our meetings has increased, so that we occasionally find that on a Sunday thirty people, including children, are crowded inside our rather small meeting room. We have welcome three new people to membership, two by transfer and one by conviction, and planning has begun for a new Quakerism 101 series. Our First Day School has continued on an even keel, although this year's theme of Quaker history did not turn out to be as gripping for the students as last year's exploration of the Bible; still they have engaged enthusiastically in preparing a series of skits on that topic. We have begun and had two of a quarterly Arts and Spirituality series that explore a sometimes neglected option for Friends. We reached agreement on sending a representative to SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee. Friends noted the principled stand of a Roman Catholic sister, formally living in Chattanooga, who was arrested and imprisoned for her protest against nuclear weapons production at Oak Ridge; one member especially expressed the meeting's interest. We continue to be a support congregation for the local Interfaith Hospitality Network. We also have learned something of the discipline required in meetings for business, so that they have continued to proceed expeditiously and with unity.

We offered leadership to the wider community in witnessing for peace during what turned out to be a mercifully brief, if tragic and unbelievable, conflict in Iraq. We wrote to invite our congressman and George Bush to worship with us and experience the unity we had found; we heard only from the president. As part of a world-wide protest, we sparked a march through downtown on March 15 that attracted almost four hundred participants, a huge turnout for Chattanooga. Members participated in regular weekly vigils near the federal courthouse, as well as a candle light witness on a Sunday evening, and we planned and organized a vigil for the day the war commenced. Individuals have also responded in their own ways but have returned to the meeting community for its guidance and Friends' insights. We are still struggling with tensions caused by the war and justifications offered by its supporters and plan a presentation on a possible draft and counseling by Chuck Fager immediately following yearly meeting.

Chattanooga Friends Meeting, deepened by the experiences of this past year, eagerly awaits next year for its challenges and our responses.

State of the Meeting Report Cookeville Preparatory Meeting. June 2003

We have continued to enjoy using the Wesley Foundation for Meeting on Sundays. The kitchen facilities, central location and modest rental charge make it very useful. It also allows for drop in visitors.

Our Vigil for Peace was our most sustained effort as a group. For six months, beginning in November, we kept a weekly vigil at the Courthouse in Cookeville. We were joined at times by various interested people, from high school age to W.W.II veterans. Sometimes the group was as many as 30 people. Some came for one Sunday, others joined us regularly. Our "vigil" was not particularly silent - we were rather boisterous at times, waving at passers by and shouting "Thank you" to those who waved or honked their horns.

The response was mixed, but we did get more positive than negative on average. After the invasion of Iraq, we noticed a group with "Support our Troops" signs and flags standing on a corner near us. We attempted to help people understand why we were there after several hostile letters to the editor about our vigil appeared in the Cookeville newspaper. There was some interesting dialog with people from the other group.

We invited Kim and Susan Carlyle of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature for a weekend and set up a nature walk, potluck, talk and discussion period with them. We were joined by a number of people from the community in a very interesting evening discussing the relationship between "peace on earth" and "peace with earth". Unfortunately, Susan did not make it but we're glad Kim did!

With a little nudging from Nashville, our caring Meeting, we requested and received a change of status from a Worship Group to a Preparatory Meeting. . We have been acting as such for a few years and we are happy to declare our growth in this way.

Four times a year we have an Ecumenical Sunday where members of other faiths can share their journeys, faith and history. This concurs with our potluck Sunday and we shorten our Meeting for Worship to a half hour in order to give our visitors time for a presentation. So far we have heard about the Unitarian/Universalist and Muslim faiths, and look forward to meetings with Hindus and Buddhists later in the year.

We have enjoyed fellowship with other Quaker groups this year having visited Crossville Meeting and Nashville Meeting a few times and had a visit from the Murfreesboro Worship Group. A few of us have attended Crossville Spiritual Center workshops and had a great time. It is a joy to welcome Hazel Hall to full membership in Friends.

We are a small group with attendance of 5 to 14 people. Serious consideration is being given to outreach and the necessary changes that would mean. Of primary concern is our program and space for First Day School.

As individuals we continue to be active in many different causes and concerns. Our Meeting supports and carries us in these endeavors. Our great comfort during these difficult times has been the support we have been able to give and receive in our witness for peace.

Annual Report of the Crossville Monthly Meeting of Friends to SAYMA - May 2003

1. The Crossville Friends Meeting continues to hold weekly Meetings for Worship on Sunday mornings usually at 10 a.m. but in the winter sometimes at 10:30 or 11:00 to make it easier for some older members to attend.
2. The Obed Headwaters School continues to use the Meetinghouse facilities during the week under the leadership of Friend Dennis Gregg.
3. The facilities of the Meetinghouse are also made available to the Grace United Church of Christ which meets on Sunday evenings.
4. At the initiative of Meeting members, up to 40 others of the wider community participated in Wednesday afternoon silent peace vigils at the County Courthouse from October through March.
5. The Meetinghouse was also used as the workshop space for the Quaker Spiritual Practice Center, a Meeting-sponsored activity that sponsored three experiential seminars this past year. These workshops were well-attended and the sponsorship of additional workshops will continue.
6. Meeting member Elizabeth Gregg completed a year as an intern at the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC.
7. The annual Easter weekend retreat at the Cumberland Mountain State Park was held with members and friends, funded by a trust fund for the use of the Meeting for such social activities by deceased member Mary Rhodes.
8. Meeting members continue to communicate with state and national legislators on issues of peace, capital punishment, education, and related issues. Special efforts were made to foster peace between Israel and Palestinians as well as to express our strong opposition to the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Foxfire Friends Meeting of the Holston Valley
State of the Meeting Report
Spring 2003

Foxfire Friends Meeting moved into its new Meeting House at 731 East Maple Street, Johnson City, TN 37601, in the summer of 2002. In October we invited nearby meetings to join us in a dedication of our new space with silent worship and a friendly feast.

We continue to enjoy our space, which is furnished with simple gray benches borrowed from the old Quaker Church in the Fairview Community near Jonesborough. That church ceased to be sometime in the fifties. We also have a mountain view and a fenced in play yard.

Slowly new attenders are finding us.

Five of us joined the world wide peace vigil in March. As we stood on our corner lawn with our candles in the twilight, we seemed to have a calming effect on the busy corner traffic.

On the fifth Sunday, we continue to write postcards to government officials, guided by information from FCNL.

The Meeting continues to keep in our thoughts two members who can no longer attend, and Ministry & Nurture continues to coordinate visitation and worship.

We celebrate the arrival of a granddaughter of two members of the Meeting; the baby's parents were married under the care of the meeting.

Our youngest member, like our Meeting, is taking baby steps.

Greenville Monthly Meeting Annual Report for June 2002-June 2003

We are proud and excited by our growth in attendance at Meeting for Worship and fellowship activities. A singing program, Bible study, and monthly potlucks add greatly to our cohesiveness. We plan to increase our fellowship activities and have created a committee to promote such opportunities.

We have also noted an increase in vocal ministry, stimulated by the many problems facing our nation and, in turn, our community. War with Iraq, fear of terrorist attacks, and an economic downturn (that has caused hardship and unemployment) have caused anxiety and uncertainty. We participate as individuals in responding to these concerns as we feel led by our heart and spirit. We also provide community services for the homeless, prisoners, and needy families at Christmas time.

We started a mid-week worship group at Furman University, gathering each Tuesday from 12:00-12:30 in the Chapel of the university. Several Furman faculty, former faculty members and their spouses, a few students, and Greenville Meeting attenders made up the group. We intend to continue this worship group in September 2003, and hope to promote more visibility for this educational and spiritual opportunity among the Furman community.

The Furman worship group also took the opportunity to sponsor and moderate a forum on March 6, 2003, entitled "America and Iraq: Collision of Cultures?" This forum was attended by approximately 120 members of the local community, including a large number of students. Three Furman faculty members presented various perspectives on the escalating tensions between America and Iraq; furthermore, one of these faculty members, Dr. Albert Blackwell--though not a Quaker himself--provided an eloquent plea for non-violence. As of this writing, the forum sponsored by the Furman worship group is the only campus-wide event at Furman that has addressed the war with Iraq.

We send meeting representatives to Palmetto Friends programs and participate in SAYMA Yearly Meeting. We recognize that we would benefit by more involvement in SAYMA committees and programs.

Although we have a small number of members and attenders who come from distant points, we possess much talent and potential for spiritual growth and leadership. We pray for opportunities to serve God, to render love and compassion within our community, and to continue to find joy in the Light and among ourselves.

We are happy and proud that Scott Henderson, one of our attenders, joined the Religious Society of Friends through Greenville Monthly Meeting in June 2003.

Presented by Scott Henderson and Norman Goerlich, Clerk

Huntsville Area Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
June 2003

The Huntsville Area Friends Meeting (HAFM) has experienced some growth over the past year. Last year, we reported 13 members/attenders, with an average attendance of 6 persons. This year we have 13 regular attenders/members, plus 7 other persons who join us intermittently. Our attendance during this reporting period has averaged 8 to 12 persons. HAFM continues to meet in members'/attenders' homes.

Highlights from our **corporate** and **individual** activities include:

Corporate:

- Participating in SAYMA and FGC gatherings, *e.g.*, representatives' meetings, meetings of the Ministry and Nurture Committee; and the FGC Traveling Ministries Program Consultation of Affiliated Yearly Meetings;
- Sponsoring a community-wide meeting at Holy Cross-St. Christopher Episcopal Church on "The On-Going Humanitarian Crisis in Iraq," with Debra Johnson speaking about her experience in Iraq with the AFSC delegation, and HAFM members/attenders sharing Quaker and other perspectives on peace-making;
- Participating in the local "Community Intergenerational Peace Festival," at Oscar Mason Community Center, once again bearing witness to Quaker and other perspectives on peace-making.
- Participating in the AFSC's Emergency & Material Assistance Program for the people of Iraq, preparing and shipping 30 health kits;
- Gathering and delivering blankets, clothing and other items for homeless persons as part of an interfaith & Huntsville Police Department collaborative project;
- Currently, working on a fund-raising effort to benefit the Lakota people.

Individual:

- Participating in peace demonstrations and other activities of the North Alabama Peace Network;
- Participating in on-going work and periodic community "speak-outs" about family violence;
- Advocating with/for people with disabilities;
- Helping Hispanic persons to gain access to community services;
- Singing in a local chorus (Huntsville Feminist Chorus), which lifts up themes of "thinking globally and acting locally," related to environmental, human rights, and other peace/social justice concerns;
- Participating in organization of and weekly vigils of "Women in Black";
- Attending Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling Gathering and the Willson Lectures at Earlham School of Religion

Memphis Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting
June 2003

We seem to be a Meeting through which many people pass or perhaps, as Kristi Estes suggested, we are a bridge that people cross. So this year we look at the state of our Meeting through the image of the bridges we have been creating.

We continue to build bridges among faiths in our community and among people working for peace. We gathered monthly through 2002 for multi-faith prayers for peace, hosting the July service with the Baha'i fellowship. We joined with other faiths in sponsoring Peace Walk 2002 and were strengthened by the presence of Thich Nhat Hahn in our community. We found joy in hosting an 8-hour peace vigil in our Meeting House. We stood with the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, Women in Black, and others in public places to question our nation's war in Iraq.

Leadings of various individuals have connected us to the work of wider Quaker organizations and other important groups. Debra Johnson's trip to Iraq with the AFSC delegation led to a traveling ministry in our region and participation in FWCC's peace conference in Greensboro, NC. Blake Burr-McNeal participated in campus peace work at the University of Memphis; Carolyne Jordan continues to serve on the AFSC Board of Directors; David Ciscel has been working with the Midsouth Interfaith Network for Economic Justice; Teia Rogers joined a bike ride to support HIV/AIDS work; Kristi brought the Akora Khatak Afghan Refugee Girls Primary School to our attention; Christina Horan went to Uganda to work on health-related research, etc.

Hosting Fall Representative Meeting was a bridge between our local Meeting and SAYMA, encouraging new Friends to get involved with SAYMA. We nurtured and were nurtured by Oxford Mississippi's worship group, and at November's business meeting we approved the following minute:

The Memphis Friends Meeting approves the certification of the Oxford Quaker Meeting as a Monthly Meeting. We realize that Oxford's inclusion in SAYMA may present a challenge geographically for the yearly meeting. We are enthusiastic about the presence of a close monthly meeting and feel that we can be mutually supportive in creating a Quaker witness in our area.

In April, Oxford Friends and Memphis Friends gathered for a one-day retreat at Wall Doxey State Park to celebrate our respective 1st and 15th birthdays. We are pleased that a few Friends who used to travel the long way to Memphis now have a meeting in their own vicinity.

We are paying more attention to how we conduct business meetings recently, spending more time and approving minutes in the manner of SAYMA. Our Meetings for Learning have been lively, helping our life as a community grow. Vocal ministry is frequent and nourishing, and our newsletter continues to be a valuable bridge connecting us to each other.

Religious Education is sometimes a challenge with our small group, but we see signs of future growth. We celebrate the birth of Alisabeth Robin Koch. We look forward to welcoming Andrew, age 7, from Russia as Stacey Dixon and her family complete the adoption process. We hold Joanne Rhodes and Kelly Askins in the light as they wait for their new baby, due in November.

We welcome new members Neena Ledbetter, Doris Conner, and Steven Barnat, and new attenders Teia Rogers, Paul Nunis, Valerie Lester, Susan Wiley, Anita Martin. We are pleased that Carol O'Conner and Clyde Milner and son can join us occasionally from Jonesboro, Arkansas. We mourn the loss of Joanne Rhodes' mother and of member Barbara Lawing, women who made unique and significant contributions in our local community.

2003 State of the Meeting Report Nashville Friends Meeting

It could be said that Nashville Friends Meeting is much like a community garden. It requires the gifts and contributions of each and every Friend to keep the garden healthy and productive. Our garden flourishes with new plants sprouting from seeds sown by the leading of the Spirit.

We have grown in our capacity to listen and hear the concerns of each other as we seek out new space for our faith community. Holding each other in the Light as we discern our path has had positive effects. Several promising sites proved to be too challenging so we retreated to further exploration and patient waiting for way to open for a suitable location to come on the market. In order to make this move a reality, we established a building fund which, thanks to yard sales and individual donations, has grown in a gratifying manner without compromising our general fund status. We are relieved to find ourselves in healthy financial condition and thrilled that our scholarship fund has been overspent in support of Friends attending the small conference on nurturing meetings, a racism training workshop and the Gathering.

For the first time in many years our Fall Weekend was not held at Montgomery Bell Park. This was a reluctant change, but the park has chosen to spend its resources in other areas than maintenance of the cabins and the facilities have deteriorated beyond use. Although we missed the communal meal preparation of past years, we found that having that done for us by the staff at Bethany Hills freed us for deeper spiritual communing. Nevertheless we were able to help with setting and clearing the tables. We look forward to returning to Bethany Hills and including more regional Friends in future years.

We have welcomed new seekers and new and returning Friends to our meeting. Much to our delight, Dot Dobbins sought membership and was happily approved. Benjamin Foster's arrival brought joy to us and his family and Finn McKinney-Harmon joined brothers Dexter and Zan. We recognized the marriage of Tim and Elizabeth Netsch with a covered dish supper organized by our Hospitality Committee. In unprecedented manner, we quickly reached joyful unity in accepting the recommendation of Ministry and Council that we take under our care the holy union of Thais Carr and Linda Trask. Despite tornadoes and flooding and with valiant efforts of their care committee, the ceremony took place amidst nature's splendor at Cross Winds on May 10th.

The quality of our worship has been affected by the vocal ministry offered by those in attendance. We are sometimes challenged by Friends' unfamiliarity with the foundations of vocal ministry in the manner of Friends. In an effort to decrease "learning by osmosis", we have developed a new welcoming brochure that we hope will help all of us have a deeper understanding of how each of us is called to be a conduit for the messages and guidance of God.

Our First Day School has taken on new life with the coordination of Sita Diehl. We have an enchanting group of babies and toddlers, a vigorous group of middle schoolers and a waning group of teens. On the basis of the carefully considered and thoughtfully presented recommendation of the older young Friends to us during Meeting Worship with Attention for Business, we were led to lay down Family Worship on the days of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The children agreed to worship faithfully with us for the last 15 minutes of worship and have done so. This year the First Day School had two projects for those in need. The first was a collaborative effort with adults in creating a quilt for the More than Warmth program that sends the quilts to Afghanistan. During the process of putting together the quilt, the children learned of the conditions under which the children in Afghanistan and Iraq live.

Additionally the children raised funds for the Heifer Project by providing a simple meal for us prior to several Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. In return for our nourished souls and bodies, we gladly donated money for their project.

Building on the deepening sense of the Spirit among us has enabled us to nurture both ourselves and the wider Quaker community. As we strengthened our inreach, we found more resources for outreach. We sponsored the second annual regional gathering of Nashville Meeting and the worship groups under our care - Murfreesboro, Clarksville and Cookeville. Joyce Rouse, AKA Earthmama shared her music ministry with us all in a delightful concert/sing-along. We joyfully acknowledge Cookeville's new status as a preparative meeting. Further we welcome into membership, Cookeville attender, Hazel Hall.

Our spiritual hospitality extended even wider as Friends were most generous in providing transportation, bedding and overnight hospitality for the Friends from far and wide who came to our area for various committee meetings, consultation and retreats. We sent Friends to attend the third retreat at Bethany Hills, sponsored by FGC's Traveling Ministries Committee, for those traveling in the ministry and their elders/support companions and found ourselves enriched by what they learned there. An unexpected opportunity for hospitality presented itself when Evalyn Parry, a Canadian Friend came through Nashville on a musical tour and we hosted a concert of her thought provoking and tuneful music.

Letting our lives speak our spiritual beliefs, Friends have participated in many social action events. Work with various issues of Tying Nashville Together, establishing greenways and pedestrian safety have been concerns of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The demands of the conflicts in the world have led many us to become more active in our witness to the peace testimony. Participation in peace actions sponsored by Nashville Peace and Justice Center; weekly vigils with Women in Black, fasts during jail terms for non-violent demonstration at Senator Frist's office and taking part in the Collateral Damage encampment are areas where Friends lived out the peace testimony. Others found their peace work to be more fundamentally focused, in seeking in their own lives and their families how to live in the power that takes away the occasion for war.

Statistics for 2002-2003

Members (near and far; adult and child) = 49

New = 2

Attenders (young and older) = 61

Marriage = 1 holy union under the care of meeting

1 marriage away from meeting

Births = 2

Deaths = 0

Prepared by the Ministry & Council Committee and the Clerk with assistance from those who attended the second hour addressing how the Spirit is with us.

Approved Eighteenth Day, Fifth Month, 2003

State of the Meeting Report

The **New Moon Worship Group** continues to meet at the Barnardsville United Methodist Church on first day following the new moon at 5 p.m. An email reminder is circulated in the week before each meeting.

We have grown with the addition of a family living in Barnardsville and now have 5 or 6 people routinely coming to our meetings.

We have considered, as a group, Friends Committee on National Legislation's priorities and have responded to their requests.

We have opened for discernment the question of whether we should meet more frequently.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Carlyle

S of the M: Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting has had a challenging year, one where joys and sorrows, growth and loss, promise and disappointment have moved us closer to maturity as a community, with all the growing pains that such maturity often requires. We approach the coming year with less unity than we would have wished, but with a firm faith that we can resolve our differences, aided by the spiritual presence that has sustained us during our struggles.

Ironically, our greatest struggle has been the result of the greatest material gift our meeting has ever received. An attender of our meeting left us a generous bequest in her will - enough money to allow us to think we could move to a permanent home for our Meeting. The enthusiasm generated by this gift moved some of our members to want to act quickly to establish ourselves in a permanent home, while others wondered if we should use the money to increase our charitable and service activities. Still others speculated that we should purchase land for a future meeting house, but that we should take our time deciding on its design and function. It is clear that our decision to purchase the property we now own in Swannanoa was made before we had strong unity on which action to take, despite a consensus to purchase made at a specially called Meeting for Business in November, attended by many of our members.

Our great task this coming year will be to find a way to reach unity in our enthusiasm for constructing a permanent home for our meeting. We are coming to a richer and deeper understanding of Quaker process through retreats, discussions and specially called meetings. Our plans are to move next to a Meeting for Reconciliation where our differences on the future of a meeting house can be addressed and resolved.

We have attracted more and more attenders to our Meeting for Worship and have added five new members. We rejoiced at the marriage of two young women celebrated under the care of our meeting, and have enjoyed the growing contributions of students from Warren Wilson and of the children of our own First Day School. Once a month we gather before Meeting for Worship in singing. Our members have been active in community services both at the local and national levels. Some of us were honored for volunteer service at the Juvenile Evaluation Center, others have helped form the Western Carolinians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East. Some have been part of the Women in Black and other peace vigils and protests in Asheville, while others have served on national Quaker organizations and on the planning committees of SAYMA. We are indeed an active meeting with respect to peace and social justice issues.

We feel also blessed by having so many artists and musicians among us. They have kept us alive to the importance of beauty and the creative spirit in our lives and worship together, and often the vocal ministry has been through song or descriptions of the beauty of the natural world.

As we face the need for a renewed commitment to community building among us, we feel the loss of one of the pillars of our community, Harriet Mercer, whose great gift and ministry to the Meeting was her interest and love for each one of us. We miss her deeply, as well as those members who have moved away. We also acknowledge our sorrow that others have been so disappointed with Meeting decisions over the War in the Middle East or the purchase of our new property that they no longer worship with us. We hope to become a stronger spiritual community, one in which those who have left would have felt more supported.

We ask that those who read or listen to this State of the Meeting will hold us in the Light as we seek to move forward in unity and love. Helping to heal the brokenness of this world we inhabit will require of us as much wholeness as we can bring to the task.

West Knoxville State of Meeting Report 2003

It has been a year of heaviness for us, lightened by growthful, positive happenings within our meeting.

Much of our focus has been on the struggle to connect in inward spiritual community as we respond to these times when outward life has brought so many challenges.

An Ad Hoc committee was created to explore issues related to conflict and loss within our community. Extensive neighborhood listening sessions were held. Responses from many past and present Friends were obtained and shared in two forums, where suggestions on how we might better respond to our problems were sought. The committee is in the process of forming recommendations.

Ministry and Nurture committee is currently exploring ways to address our lack of vocal ministry during most meetings for worship. Are we discouraged and turning inwards? Do we undervalue our reflections?

We continue to work at our commitment to and involvement in the peace testimony. Our anti-violence thrust has included the creation and distribution of "No War in Iraq" yard signs, plus continuing participation in peace demonstrations. We've had special sessions before

and after war began, focusing on individual and corporate responses. Small groups visit local legislators in an effort to achieve ongoing dialogue. Our busy Peace and Social Concerns committee offers monthly forums on peace issues.

New classes have been introduced to the adult religious education program. The teen group flourishes; their interests include Bible study, service projects, and fun! At Christmas, four baskets of ornaments and special foods were created and taken to absentee families.

In a disheartening development, we have suffered a drastic drop in attendance of younger and youngest friends, some of whom have moved with their parents to larger churches, in part because we have not provided consistent child-care.

Achievements this year include approving an extensive revision to our Faith and Practice at last, financially assisting several of us in attending Quaker conferences, tending to repairs around the meeting house, compiling all available minutes from past years into

four large volumes, bringing membership records up to date, and organizing the expanding library.

Many of us felt that the high public point of the year was a celebration of the 350th birthday of Quakerism. Several visitors joined us for a big potluck, some of it in 1650's style, followed by readings, a George Fox/ Margaret Fell skit, and an historical review featuring a ten-foot long candle-lit cake!

Looking back over the year, we see a rise in the amount of creativity, dedication and energy given by individuals and committees to further our life as a meeting. We miss those who have left us and welcome returnees and newcomers. Our numbers range from 25-35 during worship. We have been able to host several groups, including two SAYF retreats. We recently held a memorial service for Mary Elizabeth Wither spoon, a founding member of the meeting.

In spite of quietness, our spirit and worship remain durable and strong.

Appendix C: General

SAYMA 2002 Census

Financial

SAYMA End of Fiscal Year Account Balances Report
SAYMA Fiscal Year 2004 Budget — Approved 6/7/2003
Notes to Budget

Faith and Practice

Faith and Practice Revisions Committee Report
Approved Changes to *Faith and Practice*

Ecological Concerns Network Report

Southern Appalachian Friend Editors' Report

Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

SAYF Steering Committee Report

Oxford Monthly Meeting Letter

Epistle from American Friends Service Committee

Positions of Responsibility

SAYMA 2002 Census

Available in Hardcopy Only

SAYMA End of Fiscal Year Account Balances Report

See http://SAYMA.org/online_documents/YM2003_AccountBalances.htm

SAYMA Fiscal Year 2004 Budget — Approved 6/7/2003

See http://SAYMA.org/online_documents/YM2003_Budget.htm

Faith & Practice Revision Committee Report –2003

The Faith and Practice Review Committee has had seven meetings over two years. We presented our suggested changes to part I to Representative Meeting in September for discernment by the monthly meetings. We received responses from Asheville MM, Athens MM, Berea MM, Celo MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM (lost in transit), Greenville MM, Memphis MM and Nashville MM. Some of the suggested changes have been incorporated. In the future we will include explanatory rationale for revisions in the form of end notes or footnotes to each section.

Free Paisleys requested to be released from serving on this committee. We will miss his sense of history of SAYMA's Guide to Faith & Practice and his dedication to the work of this committee. In light of his resignation, at Spring Representative Meeting 2003, we asked Nominating Committee to seek out 1 or 2 more Friends to serve with us.

There is now a link from Documents on SAYMA's webpage to the current faith and practice; as changes are approved they will be inserted. There is also a link to our "working" document. We will place a link to the proposed changes to Part II that we will present to September Rep meeting to be circulated to the monthly meetings. Yellow highlighting means still in progress. After careful consideration we reached clarity that we will not capitalize yearly meeting, monthly meeting, or worship group unless the terms are used as a specific, proper noun.

At the April Rep meeting, it was approved that the clerk of SAYMA convene an ad hoc committee with representation including members from M&N and F&P Revision to draft text that describes rightly ordered process for worship group/monthly meeting relationships and the process for a monthly meeting becoming a member of SAYMA. After each of the involved committees has seasoned the proposed text, the ad hoc committee would bring this proposed text to Yearly Meeting for consideration. Our current practice in this area is both unclear and has caused difficult feelings in both meetings and worship groups.

The committee is reformatting and changing the queries so they no longer beg yes or no responses but serve as prompts for discernment.. We have asked SAYF to take up consideration of Special Queries for Young Friends and ECN to review the queries under "stewardship of the earth". We anticipate that this work, too, will be done by September.

Our discernment leads us to believe that including a list of Quaker resources with address, email address, web page and a brief outline of services will better serve SAYMA than a reading list, which we propose to eliminate. We welcome suggestions of resources submitted electronically to Geeta McGahey by July 25.

Action: The attached proposed revisions, which have been circulated among Friends for the past nine months, are submitted for approval.

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee eagerly anticipates working with the Handbook committee in order to complete our process. Our next meeting will be at Crossville Meeting House, Aug 1-2. We are trying a two-day meeting to decrease the number of meetings each year and so decrease vehicle miles. We hope to finish the work on Part II, Resources and Queries for presentation to September Rep Meeting. We anticipate the final work will be ready by September 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,
Geeta McGahey, Clerk

Steve Livingston

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2003 - Appendix C: General

Penelope Wright
Missy Ivie

Larry Ingle
Kristi Estes

Approved Changes to *Faith and Practice*

See http://SAYMMA.org/online_documents/Faith_and_Practice/FP_Approved_Jun03.pdf

Ecological Concerns Network

As a group of Friends with environmental concerns, the Ecological Concerns Network has met during Representative Meetings this past December and April and will meet at Yearly Meeting as well.

We maintain an email list for sharing information and challenges. Our ECN newsletter has been distributed quarterly this past year.

We decided to share the message of The Earth Charter with the hope that it could be endorsed by the Yearly Meeting after seasoning in Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

We are asking that SAYMA appoint a second representative to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature. We are, geographically, a large Yearly Meeting and link together people from many states. Our Yearly Meeting has demonstrated interest in ecological Concerns by forming the ECN and by participating in the energy survey, the carpooling effort and the compact fluorescent project. We currently have four individuals within SAYMA (and connected to the ECN) serving on FCUN's Steering Committee.

We continue our efforts toward energy and resource use awareness in response to the Yearly Meetings' 2001 minute on Global Climate Change. One of our group has initiated and coordinated a car pooling effort for Rep Meetings and for SAYMA's annual gathering. This year, we have begun a project to count the number of incandescent bulbs replaced in households throughout SAYMA, meeting by meeting, by compact fluorescent bulbs.

The early morning outdoor worship at SAYMA annual gathering is under the care of the ECN.

We have encouraged meetings and worship groups to come to Yearly Meeting with only four copies of their State of the Meeting reports so that one can be posted and read and another can be put in a notebook at a desk and be read. The other two copies can be given to the YM clerks. This is an effort at paper reduction.

The ECN has brought forward an interest in traveling among Friends within the Yearly Meeting with the message of how our environmental concerns relate to our testimonies of peace and justice. Three individuals have indicated an interest in traveling under this concern. Three Meetings/Worship Groups have already requested and received visits on this topic. We plan to bring this outreach idea to the attention of SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee for their awareness and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Carlyle

Report from *The Southern Appalachian Friend* Editors—Sixth Month 2003

The Southern Appalachian Friend, our Yearly Meeting's newsletter, is prepared and distributed to monthly meetings, worship groups, and individuals four times per year: First, Fourth, Seventh, and Tenth months. Submission due dates are the first of these months.

By printing *SAF* on chlorine-free, 100%-post-consumer recycled paper, we save trees and prevent the release of harmful chemicals into our air and water. To further reduce our environmental impact, to provide for timely delivery, and to reduce paper and postage costs, we have begun to distribute *SAF* electronically. Please send a message to SAFeditor@SAYMA.org if you would like to be on this distribution list. Also consider if your meeting might designate one recipient who would receive the *SAF* (in either printed or electronic form) and make copies for others in your meeting. To help support our Creation-Friendly witness, please use recycled paper (or the clean side of used paper) to print your copies locally.

We rely on submissions from SAYMA Friends and Friends organizations for news, articles, announcements, poetry, book reviews, and opinions. The editors would very much appreciate news from your meetings. If you want to send us your newsletter, please take a minute to circle or highlight the items that you want to share with SAYMA Friends.

We would also appreciate submissions from meetings for the "Getting to Know You" feature. This is an article that includes a bit of the origin and history of your meeting, something about your membership, and some sharing of your concerns, successes, and challenges. We have received and printed a number of these sketches. We would like to hear from every meeting.

Please support *SAF* with your written contributions. Also, please let us know how our newsletter might better serve the spiritual needs of our yearly meeting community.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan & Kim Carlyle

Ministry & Nurture Report to YM 2003

There are six highlights of our work this year I would like to share:

1. Clarification of our vision for Faith and Practice:

SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee supports and supplements the work of the local monthly meeting's ministry and nurture groups and addresses spiritual issues that span the entire SAYMA community.

2. Accordingly, we have responded this year to several groups and individuals who requested our attention and support.

3. We have expanded our on-going meeting for worship, initiated at YM 2002, into a Nurture Center as a resource for all of our YM attenders.

4. We conducted spiritual listening sessions each night for all those involved, or interested in, worship groups and the nurturing of worship groups. This arose from a concern for better understanding of, and faithfulness to, our extended YM community and practices.

5. We sponsored two members at an eldering retreat held at New England YM's Woolman Hill. Kathy Burke and Turtle MacDermott will submit a written report under separate cover. We also sponsored two members to attend the Traveling in the Ministry program and FGC consultation. Reports already provided by Kit Potter and Judy Guerry.

6. We express our gratitude to the monthly meetings who responded to our Fall letter requesting that representatives be appointed who are led to serve on SAYMA's Ministry & Nurture Committee. We are reminded that this work need not be limited to one person from each meeting.

It is with joy we welcome the Cookeville Worship Group as a preparative meeting and Oxford, MISS as a monthly meeting into SAYMA

We continue to call upon you today to discern the gifts of those present in you meetings that are suited to the ministry and nurture of SAYMA. It is within one's monthly meeting community that gifts are expressed and discernable.

The following excerpt expresses this challenge we are collectively facing. David Ferris recorded the following in his journal in 1855.

"One night I dreamed that I saw a large, spacious building, in an unfinished state; and the master builder, who appeared an excellent person, came to me as I stood at a distance, and desired me to go and take a view of it; to which I agreed; and as we were surveying it and examining the particular parts I observed that among the many pillars, erected for the support of the building, there was one lacking. I queried of him, what was the cause of that vacancy? He replied, it was left for me; and that I was specially designed and prepared for the place, and showed me how I fitted it, like a mortise is fitted to its tenon. So that I saw in my dream that all he said was true. But, notwithstanding all this, I objected to my capacity and fitness to fill the vacancy, and was therefore unwilling to occupy it. He endeavored, by the most convincing reasons, to remove all my objections, and to demonstrate that I was fitted for the place. He further told me that they had not another prepared for it; and that the bui

This is the challenge we face today-one of personal responsibility for acknowledging our gifts and for others to call them out.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathy Burke, Clerk

**Southern Appalachian Young Friends
Steering Committee
Annual Report to SAYMA
6 June 2003**

SAYF had five retreats during the 2002-2003 year plus two joint Nurturing Committee, Oversight, and Steering Committee meetings. One retreat to be hosted by Asheville Friends Meeting, January 17-19, 2003, was canceled due to bad driving conditions from snow storms. We are presently having the annual meeting of SAYF here at Yearly Meeting. There were eight planned SAYF events this year. SAYF involves more meetings during the year, and more travel by persons, than any other SAYMA activities outside of Yearly Meeting itself. The details of the themes, and attendance by Young Friends and FAPs are attached. The summary of financial records from the committee's Administrative Assistant, Therese Hildebrand, is attached. The work camp/retreat to Penn Center, St. Helena Island, and Yearly Meeting leadership support, are the only large subsidized expenses we have for SAYF retreats.

The year has been a good one for SAYF. Our middle and high school young people, ages 12 to 18, are enthusiastic about the program. The Young Friends Nurturing Committee has shown good understanding of Friends process under the leadership of Clerk Nicole Rennie this year. We have a large class of graduating seniors, many here at the SAYMA gathering and some not able to be here. We will really miss these senior Young Friends, who provided much guidance and leadership of SAYF this year. There will not be many experienced High School seniors next year for planning retreats and to help with the introduction of new Young Friends to SAYF. Thus we expect to have many learning experiences next year.

We are happy for passage of the graduating seniors and encourage them to participate in the next level, Young Adult Friends (YAF).

The major accomplishments of the Steering committee this year include the updating of the medicines in the First Aid box. This box is available at all SAYF retreats and committee meetings. It is related to the medical release forms that each young person brings to the retreats. Another achievement is the completion of a major section of the SAYF Handbook.

Sig Christensen and Kathleen Mavournin, Co-Clerk of Steering Committee, from West Knoxville MM, with others, have labored successfully on the Handbook for the past two years. It builds on materials assembled by Margaret Farmer, past Co-Clerk, from Steering Committee meetings. Some of the Handbook sections will be used by Sig Christensen who is leading a training Workshop on Saturday, "Becoming A Friendly Adult Presence (FAP)." The Handbook will be used to teach willing SAYMA Friends additional information about being a FAP. This training is in addition to getting the minute of approval as a FAP from ones Monthly Meeting.

We close this report with the suggestion that more senior Friends in their late 50s and older consider becoming a FAP. Mature Friends are needed as elders who have an understanding of who they have become as Friends. Their maturity and their spiritual journey can be a great asset and gift to the High School Young Friends program.

Dick Houghton, Co-Clerk

Oxford Monthly Meeting Letter

Available in Hardcopy Only

AFSC Epistle

Available in Hardcopy Only

SAYMA Positions of Responsibility 6- 2003

Not posted to Web Site

Appendix D: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

American Friends Service Committee Southeast Regional Office

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature

Friends General Conference

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Quaker House

Right Sharing of World Resources

Report to the SAYMA Yearly Meeting, 2003 from the SAYMA representatives to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Southeastern Regional Office (SERO), Executive Committee (EC).

Background:

“The American Friends Service Committee is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work and witness to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine.” from the Organizational Principles and Guidelines for the AFSC dated 19 June 1994.

Structure:

The AFSC is a Quaker organization which promotes peace and social justice and provides humanitarian assistance. The structure of the organization includes the national office located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, international program offices outside the United States, and nine region offices within the United States. Most of SAYMA lies within the boundaries of the Southeastern Region. For this region, the main office is located in Atlanta, Georgia. There are additional program offices in High Point, North Carolina and Miami, Florida.

All members of the national AFSC Corporations must be members of the Religious Society of Friends. The Corporation, which meets each November, appoints the AFSC Board of Directors and has the overall responsibility for AFSC. SAYMA appoints representatives as members of the AFSC Corporation. About half of the members of the Corporation are yearly meeting representatives; the other half are at-large members, nominated by the AFSC standing nominating committee.

SAYMA also appoints representatives to serve on the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Regional Office which is empowered by the AFSC Board with responsibilities for the AFSC work in this region. Additional representatives to the SERO EC are appointed by Southeastern Yearly Meeting and both the Friends United Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). The remainder of EC members are nominated by the standing nominations committee as at-large members or are appointed as representatives to the EC from various SERO programs. The SERO EC approves the regional budget, selects programs, and sets regional policy. The SERO EC has four quarterly meetings per year which are attended by all EC members. Additional meetings of SERO EC sub-committee meetings are also arranged as needed. SERO EC members serve three-year terms with a limit of six continuous years of service.

The SAYMA representatives to the SERO EC are Pam Beziat and Debra Johnson. Both representatives began their appointments in September, 2002. Pam Beziat served on the Program Committee. Debra Johnson served as co-clerk of the Personnel Committee and the clerk of the Affirmative Action Committee.

Regional Programs:

The Southeastern Region currently has six programs that are located in three different areas of the region.

Central American Political Asylum Program (CAPAP)

CAPAP, located in Miami, Florida, has been providing legal assistance to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan immigrants since 1984. The past year the program has worked with Haitians and a small number Mexicans and Colombians. The staff managed over 300 active case files, averaged 24 - 30 court cases, and 2100 consultations a year. Amada Orendain has been the managing attorney of CAPAP since 1993.

African Peace Education Program (APEP)

Originating in 1977 as the Southern Africa Peace Education Program (SAPEP) addressed the economic and social justice issues following the end of apartheid in South Africa. As APEP, the program's present emphasis is on issues confronting communities on the African continent. These include: HIV/AIDS, empowering womyn and youth, and banning landmines. The Youth Against HIV/AIDS Unite! (YAHU) project works to unite American youth in solidarity with African youth in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. This project is located in Atlanta, where Tejan Muata has been program director since May, 2001.

ORITA

The word "Orita" is derived from the African Yorba language meaning "crossroads." ORITA has been working with the youth of High Point, NC since 1995. Through various programs, ORITA works to provide youth with an alternative to crime and violence. Classes in conflict resolution that integrate leadership training help youth become aware of the alternatives available to them. Ann Lennon has been the program director of ORITA since 1994.

Emergency and Material Assistance Program (EMAP)

EMAP, based in High Point, North Carolina, has been in operation for over 40 years and is the oldest program in SERO. Providing relief material as needed, the focus for this past year has been hygiene kits for Iraqi refugees. As the collection center for the Southeastern Region, EMAP shipped 1,916 hygiene kits to AFSC in Philadelphia for distribution in the Middle East. Peggy Baxter has been program director of EMAP since August, 1999.

Middle East Peace Education Program (MEPEP)

Started in 1976, MEPEP provides education on the culture, history, and current events in the Middle East and promotes peaceful resolutions as alternative perspectives to conflict in the Middle East region. This past year much work and education focused on the peace mobilization to prevent the war in Iraq. Samir Moukaddam has been program director of MEPEP since March, 2003.

Help Increase the Peace (HIPP)

HIPP began in 1998 as a modification of the Alternative to Violence Program (AVP) for prison inmates developed by Quakers in 1975. The program teaches youth alternatives to violence by helping them to develop the skills necessary to act peacefully in situations of conflict and by increasing acceptance and inclusion of people of all races, classes, gender, sexual orientation, cultural and religious backgrounds. Angela Henderson has been program director of HIPP since September, 2002.

Staff and Personnel

A team of consultants was hired to work with the staff and Executive Committee of SERO in an effort to address communication and management issues that had contributed to a high turn-over rate in staff. The team helped to define issues of concern and formulate strategies that would prevent hostile environments from occurring in the future. The staff has reported an overall improvement in working conditions and have expressed satisfaction with the consultation process.

Two new program directors have been added to the staff since June, 2002. Andre Danzy joined the staff as Associate Regional Director in Fall, 2002. Angela Henderson joined the staff as program director of Help Increase the Peace Program in September, 2002. The Middle East Peace Education Program (MEPEP) welcomed Samir Moukaddam as director in March, 2003. All active programs now have program directors.

Program Development

In response to an identified need, SERO began the process of developing a criminal justice program. The first consultation, held in February, 2003, brought together a diverse group of individuals who began to identify the areas of need. A focus group met in May, 2003, to begin the process of refining idea from the consultation in an effort to better identify a vision for this program.

Project Voices is a program that will be implemented in the Southeastern Region in coordination with national AFSC. Project Voices will address issues related to the immigrant community. A consultant has been hired by the region to determine the best location for this program.

Report to Yearly Meeting from SAYMA's FCUN Representative—6th Month 2003

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature is an organization of North American Friends working to integrate concern for God's Creation into Friends beliefs and practices.

During the past year, FCUN has increased its efforts at outreach and has engaged many new Friends in its work. More than three quarters of the positions of responsibility within FCUN are now held by Friends who were not active with FCUN three years ago—this includes five SAYMA Friends on the FCUN Steering Committee. FCUN would welcome a second appointed yearly meeting representative from SAYMA.

FCUN was represented at last year's World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg by four steering committee members. These Friends are willing to visit and share their experiences.

FCUN's public policy project, Quaker Eco-Witness, enjoyed success in its efforts to make the connection between peace and environmental concerns when Friends Committee on National Legislation included the national energy policy among its legislative priorities. FCUN has recently become a member organization of FCNL. QEW has organized an ongoing consultation on Ecology and Economics, which will begin this month with a gathering at Pendle Hill. Two SAYMA Friends will be participating.

FCUN's sustainable agriculture project in Costa Rica, *Finca la Bella* (Beautiful Farm), has been protected with a conservation easement. Formerly landless *parceleros* will be able to continue to work their parcels and live in harmony with God's Creation.

FCUN's newsletter, *BeFriending Creation*, continues to inform Friends about projects, activities, and visions from Friends around the globe. The website www.FCUN.org is frequently updated and provides a wealth of information including the latest issues of *BeFriending Creation* and *Quaker Eco-Bulletin*, lists of FCUN publications, general information on committees, and contact information for presentations.

FCUN recently approved a new Vision and Witness Statement:

“We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. We work to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity. We promote these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship with the Earth.”

FCUN is making plans to expand its outreach through visitation. A number of experienced presenters and workshop facilitators from FCUN would be happy to visit and share with monthly and yearly meetings.

Please support the work of FCUN with your participation, prayers, and financial contributions. FCUN would welcome support from SAYMA monthly meetings and from individuals.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Carlyle

Report of SAYMA Appointed Representatives to Friends General Conference Sixth Month 2003

Your representatives to Friends General Conference (FGC) continue to feel blessed by the trust you place in us to represent this body. We feel doubly blessed by the experience of being in fellowship with Friends from all over North America. So we begin with thanks to you for the opportunity to serve you and the Religious Society of Friends in this way.

Friends General Conference is us - each and every one of us. For FGC's mission is to provide support and resources to Friends in its member organizations - yearly meetings and affiliated monthly meetings which are primarily unprogrammed, although some of the yearly meetings are united, that is they have both programmed and unprogrammed meetings. We are well served by a relatively small staff, which does amazing and prodigious work on our behalf. Some of the new and on-going work is mentioned in this report. Most of the work cannot be summed up in these few paragraphs, but all you need to do to find out more is access the web site www.fgcquaker.org and browse among its pages, or even better ask us, your representatives, questions!

We are both impressed with and involved in the on-going work of the Committee for Ministry of Racism (CMR). This committee seeks to help FGC as a body and the constituent monthly and yearly meetings in dealing with the difficult issues of racism in the Religious Society of Friends. We ask that you hold this committee in the Light as they continue to dig deeper into parts of the Society that need both exposure and healing—especially when this brings deep pain.

One of the most exciting resources of FGC is the work of the Traveling Ministries Committee, including the Couple Enrichment Program (CE) and Yearly Meeting Visitors Program (YMVP.) Several meetings within SAYMA have been recipients of the ministry provided by the Traveling Ministries Program. Nils Pearson will be happy to expound on the Couple Enrichment Program. Then YMVP appoints FGC visitors to each yearly meeting—this year at SAYMA we are again pleased to have Nils Pearson with us - Peg was unable to return. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to meet and greet Nils.

An emerging and committed vision FGC is to increase the participation of youth at all levels of Friends' work and activities. Young Quakes, the annual FGC youth gathering, similar to the across Quakerdom YouthQuake, will be held in October west of Nashville, TN, here in our own yearly meeting. Two exciting wider Quaker youth/young adult events now in planning stages are the next YouthQuake (in Colorado over New Year's 2004) and the World Gathering of Young Friends (in Britain in 2005). We will share more information, as it becomes available.

FGC is in the process of reviewing its second Long Term Plan (Five Year Plan) which focuses and guides our work on your behalf. Each committee is reviewing its direction according to the original five goals and recently discerned objectives. We expect the plan will be brought to Central Committee for approval at the annual meeting in October.

As referenced earlier, FGC's web site continues to be upgraded and become more informative. A major accomplishment has been the QuakerFinder site, which allows one to enter a zip code, and all the member meetings within a 20-mile radius will be shown. The hope is that soon all Quaker meetings in North America will be listed. Gradually the committees and programs are developing

pages that explain their purpose and progress. Don't forget the fabulous Quaker Books of FGC where you can order any book you want, in or out of print! A fine sampling can be found downstairs in our own Bookstore.

Last but not least, we would be remiss if we did not encourage you to continue (and increase!) your financial contributions to this organization. The recent campaign was very successful, consequently new programs have been initiated and money is needed to ensure their continuation. This is the only Quaker organization whose purpose is "to provide resources and opportunities that educate and invite members and attenders of our monthly and yearly meetings to experience, individually and corporately, God's living presence, and to discern and follow God's leadings." We are eager to hear your suggestions on how FGC might do this more effectively; but please bear in mind that increasing our programs is likely to require increased funding.

Respectfully submitted: Julia Sibley-Jones (Columbia MM), Penelope Wright (Nashville MM)

In our further service to FGC we serve as recording clerk (Julia) and clerk (Penelope) of Ministry & Nurture Committee. Julia is a corresponding member of Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee. Penelope is also a member of the Traveling Ministries Committee and represents SAYMA on the Executive Committee.

Also serving FGC in non-SAYMA appointed capacity:

Sharon Annis (West Knoxville MM)	Ex-officio to Central Committee
Mary Ann Downey (Atlanta MM)	FGC rep to Friends Journal
Priscilla Ewen (Atlanta MM, sojourning at Cambridge MA MM)	Invited to M&N Committee.
John Geary (Boone MM)	Asst. Clerk - Publishing & Distribution
Tom Kenworthy (Atlanta MM)	Co-opted to Development Committee
Perry Treadwell (Atlanta MM)	Clerk - Long Range Planning Committee
Robin Wells (Asheville MM)	Invited to Religious Education Committee

Report to SAYMA from Midwinter

Gathering of FLGBTQC, Feb. 14-17th, 2003

Over 100 people gathered at Ghost Ranch Conference Center near Abiquiu, New Mexico. Surrounded by silent, awe-inspiring beauty we centered on our there of “honoring our truth”. This was done in as many different ways as there were participants. Through John Calvi’s sharing of his personal journey, worship sharing groups, meetings with a concern for business, workshops, meals, Meetings for worship, hiking, sharing of local history, and talent night we explored our Truth.

Emerging from this gathering and the work of the last 10-12 years, came a new name for our group: Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. This cumbersome name has inspired much discussion, humor, and distaste since it was brought forward at the FGC meeting of FLGC. Durings Meetings with a concern for business it became clear that this name was an important witness for some of us, and that it was the best way of speaking our truth at this time. We are listening for continuing revelation in this, as in all else, and hope that way will open for a better name eventually.

Of interest to SAYMA may be the renewed availability of the book “Each of us inevitable”, a compilation of some of the talks of plenary speakers at FLGC over the years. This will be available in book form or over the internet as a downloadable file.

Our workshops included “Peace Witness in the Middle East”, “Reflections from the FWCC Conference on the Peace Testimony in Times of Crisis”, “Civil Disobedience at the School of the Americas”, “Living Spiritually”, “Writing Towards Our Truth”, “Soulforce”, and more.

I would be happy to share more detailed information with anyone who is interested. I thank you all for letting mem help represent SAYMA to FLGBTQC. I would love to have input and feedback as to how I can be of better service to you all in that regard. I have gained a renewed sense of how important it is to gather as a specific subgroup of Friends. Being in a safe space to explore our common issues helps to rejuvenate, anchor, and deepen our witness to other Quaker groups and to the world.

Annie Black

**Friends World Committee on Consultation Report
June 2003**

FWCC Section of the Americas has been going through changes of structure and staff. Structurally FWCC has been trying to shift some of the work from staff to volunteers and from committee members to volunteers. This has had mixed results.

Cilde Grover who has served as the executive secretary of the Section of the Americas for several years was finally allowed to retire from FWCC with the advent of Margaret Fraser of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the former dean of Pendle Hill. With Margaret's coming a shift in attitude has been felt. FWCC has been financially strapped for a while and Cilde cut expenses where she could. It was becoming clear that we were reaching the point where outreach needs to happen or we will shrink beyond the point of return. The last Annual Meeting was focused on an envisioning process. What would we like the Section to look like in five years? If you have thoughts on this matter, they could be sent to the Section office.

Our Section hosted two major events this year. One was the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Pilgrims went from Washington DC to North Carolina visiting sites also visited by George Fox and doing service projects. Occasionally they had time for play as when they stopped by Celo for a hike. The other event was the conference "Friends Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis." SAYMA sent Hannah McDermott, Debra Johnson and Kim Carlyle. Larry Ingle was one of the presenters. His speech as well as the other presentations can be ordered on CD for \$30 from the main office.

The Wider Quaker Fellowship is starting a readings on tape project. If you enjoy reading out loud and can do so without putting others to sleep, contact Vicki Hain-Poorman at the main office.

The Committee of Latin American Friends has an electronic newsletter, "En Pocas Palabras."

News Related to the World Office

The world office will also be changing executive directors soon. Elizabeth Duke will be stepping down and retuning home just in time to help with the last preparations for the Triennial in New Zealand January 2004. Lauren Mitchell and another Friend will be attending.

The Quaker United Nations Office which represents FWCC and thereby Friends before the United Nations has been recognized for its work by the UN. QUNO received and upgrade in status from special to general consultative status. This gives QUNO permission to work on a wider range of issues with the UN than it could with its special consultative status.

Respectfully submitted
Rachel Weir

FWCC Section of the Americas
1506 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102 Tel: 215-241-7250

Quaker House Rep Report:

SAYMA has gone a long time without representation at Quaker House Fayetteville. I have attended one Quaker House board meeting, and will be at a second board meeting during the weekend of SAYMA.

What is Quaker House?

From the Quaker House web site: "Quaker House of Fayetteville is a witness of the peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Quaker House stands in opposition to the violence and prejudice that exist in our society, offering a peaceful, life affirming presence in the midst of several of the largest military bases in the country. Quaker House staff work for change through education, advocacy, caring and counseling. Quaker House of Fayetteville is a nonprofit organization with a board made up of representatives from Quaker Meetings throughout the Carolinas.

Quaker House is a founder and co-sponsor of the GI Rights Hotline, (1-800-394-9544) a nationwide toll-free telephone hotline which GIs and their families can call 24/7 for counseling on legal discharge issues. The Hotline handled more than 21,000 calls in 2002. Through the GI Rights Hotline, Quaker House handles calls from GIs in thirteen states."

Chuck Eager is the Quaker House director.

Financial Status, as of March 2003 Board Meeting, From Minutes:

As of March 23, 2003, assets totaled \$36,201.77 (Treasurer's Report). Chuck Fager noted that this report did not include approximately \$3400 in additional contributions received.

Financial Status, Late 2002, From Chuck Eager:

I've (Chuck Fager) just finished opening all the donation mail through last Saturday (November 31), and can report that for the month of November, our donation income totaled: \$9,785.

That's a lot (in November 2001 the donations total was \$360.64); but a straight month-to-month comparison is not fair. This year's figure shows the initial response to our fund appeal letters, which went out earlier this autumn than did last year's.

This can be seen from the December figures: in 2001, in response to our fund appeals, total donation income was \$10,720. What this December's total will be we're about to find out. Half a dozen donation envelopes came in today's mail, but I haven't opened them yet.

The November-December totals are another indicator. Last year, the two-month figure was: \$, we are now \$1,316 away from that figure, with a month to go.

I think a better comparison would be the three months between November through January.

From November, 2001 to January 31, 2002 the total donations were: \$16,920: We are now \$7,137 away from that total, with 60 days to go.

Perhaps the happiest calculation of all here is that for the 2002-2003 Fiscal year to date, we are now back in the black. Just barely, but there:

FY 2002-2003 Income

Budget: \$19,485

Actual: \$19,526

Balance: \$ 41+

Below are some monthly statistics on the number of counseling calls, referred to as counseling statistics, just to give Friends an idea of what Quaker House has been doing this year:

Quaker House Counseling Statistics, January 2003 (From an e-mail from Chuck Fager)

(G. 1. Rights) Hotline Calls for January topped 3500, an all-time High for a single month. (For comparison: January 2001 = 1631 calls, January 2002 = 2026 calls. That's 73 per cent more calls than last January, and a 215% increase in two years.)

This record should be no surprise. Tho Quaker House share of this January tally should be about 700 calls, but I haven't heard a definite figure yet. It will also mean a big Hotline phone bill for that month.

And speaking of breaking records, yesterday (Feb. 19, 2003), in addition to House business, I (Chuck Eager) dealt with six--count 'em)--counseling contacts, including emails and phone calls, covering AWOL, hardship, and CO issues. In one sense that's a daily high for me, but it is also an indicator of how the counseling load is increasing, because I've (CF) recently had several days with three or four counseling contacts, and few anymore when there are none.

But yesterday's "high" became history today, when I (CF) have spent almost eight hours doing counseling, and am not done yet -- but this time on only one case:

It's that of the GI who wrote to the House from Afghanistan, and filed a CO claim shortly after he returned. He had an investigative interview last Friday, which I attended as his representative. It was a grueling session, with the captain in charge showing blatant bias and hostility, and the GI stumbling over his words in near-panic.

He received the captain's report -- strongly negative, as expected -- yesterday. He has ten (nine days now) to prepare and file a rebuttal, and I'm helping him work on it. The report is full of the bias that marked the session, and has many points where it can be challenged under the regulation. But there are many details to sort through, regulations to sift, documents to assemble and analyze, etc.; lots of stuff.

And his superiors aren't helping much. After threatening him and refusing to reassign him to noncombat duties -- again in defiance of regulations -- they finally put him on a kitchen detail, where he's being required to put in fourteen-hour shifts. So I had to begin this process pretty much without him, though his wife was helping.

There will be a lot more labor getting this rebuttal together in the next few days, and its importance can't be exaggerated: it's his last bite at the apple, before his file goes up the chain to a review board in the pentagon.

I'll be working with Lenore and Steve on this, as well as consulting counselors from other parts of the country. It has to be ready by the middle of next week.

All this comes on top of my (CF) normal work: the newsletter, board concerns, outreach to meetings, dealing with the mail, the bank, the bills, etc.

I'm not complaining; this is just one manifestation of what the approach of war means.

Quaker House Counseling Statistics, as of March 2003 Board Meeting

For the counselors, Lenora Yarger reported that the number of calls continued to rise sharply during February, with CO's becoming the most frequent category of call. The 182 calls, including 123 new calls and 59 call-backs, do not include calls taken by Eric while Lenore was out of town. More calls are coming from National Guard and Reserve members. Lenore noted interest in and her willingness to participate in training for some people in Western N.C. and some UNC law students.

Media and Outreach

Chuck Fager, Quaker House director, has had a few articles in the lead up to the war in the Fayetteville, NC newspaper. Chuck has also been a panelist on forums about the war.

One More Interesting Item

Chuck Fager shared some government documents at the February Board Meeting related to the spying the Federal Government did on Quaker House Fayetteville during the Vietnam War.

Right Sharing for World Resources Report –2003 –Geeta McGahey

RSWR's project support for 2003 is increased to \$170,500. Over half of SAYMA's Monthly Meetings and Preparative Meetings support RSWR. We have 44 projects, increased from 39. I was privileged to visit project partners in South India and the one in the Himalayas this year, and found the women knowledgeable about local issues and the economics of their projects and very enthusiastic. See the pictures on display. I was impressed by the commitment of the organizers both to participant empowerment, and to encouraging reflection on the important things in life, looking at the issues of sustainability and Spirit-based living.

RSWR funds two basic program areas: income generation through various forms of micro-enterprise, and support for the development and practice of sustainable agriculture systems, including non-well water projects. Currently our work is in India, Philippines, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone. Roland Kreger, our executive director is currently in Kenya completing visits to all nine of the YMs to further our goal of adding a Kenyan focus, similar to our south India one. He will be discussing the types of projects that we will support and identifying a person to do the site visits on contract, as we have in Tamil Nadu, India.

We greeted four new board members, including Mukta Jost, New Garden Friends meeting, Greensboro, raised in Tamil Nadu, India and George Kegode, Red River Friends, Fargo, raised in one of the Kenyan yearly meetings and is a soil scientist focusing on weeds. One of my personal goals is to recruit a Young Adult Friend to serve on the board.

The Right Sharing office will be moved to Richmond, Indiana to better utilize resources at Earlham College and provide opportunities for interns. The board asked Roland "to gather further details on opportunities among Friends for free or nominal cost space, rental costs in the area, and the opportunities to purchase space in Richmond, Indiana. If this requires renovation, a Friend should have come forth to oversee this process. This information will be circulated to the board for comments and input, and then discernment will take place at the Executive Committee. If there is a stellar rental or donated opportunity Roland is empowered to move quickly, with approval of the Executive Committee."

At the last board meeting, we had long and deep discussion on the spiritual underpinnings and transforming nature of our message and the language that empowers or blocks communication. We reaffirmed our mission statement: "God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burdens of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God's love, to work for equity through partnerships with our sisters and brothers throughout the world." As we go out to meetings, we hope both to communicate the profound impact that our grants and support give to disenfranchised people, and also look at how materialism can interfere with our relationships with the Divine and each other.

Roland and our new educational coordinator, as they continue with their work, are asked to be cognizant of the varieties of leadings of supporters and potential supporters of Right sharing. We encourage Roland to focus some time on outreach to churches and meetings in Western and Indiana Yearly Meetings. Our educational coordinator should try to deepen the focus in the yearly meetings where historically Right Sharing has been stronger.

I am willing to travel to any meetings to share my experiences. I suggest Right Sharing projects as good youth fundraiser recipients, with 90% of the money going to projects. Our website rswr.org has been updated to provide improved resources for Friends meetings. We will be hiring a new part-time educational coordinator to take this material out to meetings, when requested The RSWR video is now available for use; stop by and watch it while you are here.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to represent the concerns of Right Sharing to our Yearly Meeting and please share anything that you want me to take to our board meetings- concerns, ideas or feedback..