

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting #35
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
June 9-12, 2005

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June 9, 2005 - Fifth Day (Thursday) 2:00 pm

35 - 1 Opening

Kristi Estes, clerk, opened meeting by reading the following:

“Open my eyes that I may see
Visions of truth thou has for me.
Open my heart, illumine me, spirit divine.”

I think our hope is that into our business meetings, those very temporal happenings, we can bring some “vision of truth.” Such a hope must be founded on a sense that sacredness is everywhere, that we are standing on holy ground, and that our task is to perceive it – to take off our shoes, as Moses instructed, and stand in the midst of holiness. We are, in this work, through our workaday lives and the business of the Meeting, to bring time and the timeless together. In even the smallest thing we can be channels for divine love – “not even a sparrow falls, but thou are mindful of it.” We must pray, “Open my heart, illumine me” by Ellie Foster, quoted in *Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity*, by Catherine Whitmire, 2000, p. 149.

Kristi welcomed Friends to the 35th yearly meeting sessions of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association.

35 - 2 Roll Call of Meetings

Mary Calhoun read the roll of meetings and worship groups. The following were represented at the beginning of this session: Asheville MM, Atlanta MM, Brevard MM, Celo MM, Charleston MM, Chattanooga MM, Columbia MM, Cookeville PM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM, Memphis MM, Nashville MM, New Moon WG, Swannanoa MM, 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**.

35 - 3 Announcements

- Kristi asked Friends to use one of our cordless microphones and to introduce themselves when speaking.
- Steve Livingston announced that he is the site coordinator and asked Friends to contact him with questions. Those who wish to use one of the small dining rooms should use the sign up sheet in the bookstore.
- Errol Hess, clerk of the yearly meeting planning committee announced that breakfast hours are incorrect in the schedule. Breakfast actually starts at 7:15. Errol is arranging the displays and invited Friends to check them out.
- Nicole Rennie announced that at all Friends are invited to the Young Adult Friends- led worship sharing.
- Kristi announced that there are sign up sheets for Friends who want to receive yearly meeting minutes when they are available. Otherwise, copies are sent to each monthly meeting and worship group. There are separate sheets for those who want an electronic copy (accessed on the website) instead of a paper copy. Paper copies cost the YM about \$8 each.

35 - 4 Introductions

- Jonah MacDonald and Christina Van Regenmorter will be serving as the clerk's assistants.
- Kristi introduced Deborah Fisch who is the coordinator of the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries program.
- Kristi read a traveling minute from Martha Hampton, clerk of the Ministry and Counsel Committee of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative.
- Kristi also introduced Sue Axtell who is a student and director of admissions of the Earlham School of religion.

35 - 5 Agenda Review

The agenda was reviewed. It is as originally presented although some items have been moved.

Minute -- *The agenda was approved as presented.*

35 - 6 Calendar

Kristi presented the calendar for Yearly Meeting events for 2005 and 2006 and proposed the additional dates for representative meetings and yearly meeting for 2006 and 2007. The locations for the proposed dates have not yet been arranged.

2005

- June 8 - 12 Warren Wilson
- Sept 10 - Representative Meeting - Nashville
- December 3 - Representative Meeting - Atlanta

2006

- April 8 - Representative Meeting - Birmingham
- June 7 - 11 Yearly Meeting - Warren Wilson
- ? September 9 - Representative Meeting
- ? December 2 - Representative Meeting

2007

- ? April 7 - Representative Meeting
- ? June 6 - 10 Yearly Meeting

35 - 7 Epistle Committee Formation

The clerk asked for volunteers for the epistle committee. Penelope Wright, Nashville Monthly Meeting, Susan Phelan, Huntsville Monthly Meeting, and Peter Buck, Asheville Monthly Meeting volunteered to serve on the committee.

Minute -- *Friends approved these Friends for the epistle committee.*

35 - 8 Treasurer's Report

David Ciscel presented the treasurer's report. The report is attached in **Appendix C**. The Treasurer answered questions about the spiritual development fund (\$500 is allocated to the fund each year) and about how duplication costs are noted (costs are not allocated to individual committees unless they are submitted by the committee).

Minute -- *The treasurer's report was accepted with minor corrections.*

35 - 9 Nominating Committee Report

Kristi reported that there is a proposal for changes in the nominating committee process that was approved by representative meeting but is also being brought for approval to Yearly Meeting.

Sharon Annis, clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's initial report.

Recommended Changes:

--The Nominating committee for SAYMA should be composed of members:

Clerk – the past SAYMA clerk to serve as clerk

Members – from 4 different Monthly Meetings, who are active in the Yearly Meeting.

These individuals would serve for 2 year, staggered terms.

The committee is encouraged to work with the other committees and officers of SAYMA to identify persons who have gifts in the various areas of service needed and who have indicated an interest, and to seek input from Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups about individuals that are interested in extending their involvement in Wider Quaker Organizations including SAYMA.

-- That a Naming committee composed of 3 individuals be appointed at Yearly Meeting to identify and bring forth names to serve on the Nominating committee. This ad hoc committee would be appointed by the presiding clerk and serve during the yearly meeting session.

Friends raised concerns about whether the proposals would give us broad enough input with fewer people on the nominating committee and with having the clerk appoint the naming committee. Friends asked whether the proposed changes would ensure that people who are relatively unknown to those who have been active with the YM (in the “power structure”) will be asked to serve the yearly meeting in positions of responsibility.

The clerk, recording clerk and nominating committee clerk will bring a proposed minute on the nominating and naming committees to the next meeting for business session.

Sharon listed the positions where Friends are needed and encouraged Friends to consider where they might serve. These positions are: assistant clerk, recording clerk, assistant treasurer, two members of nominating committee, the peace and social concerns committee members, personnel committee members, yearly meeting planning adult program coordinator, yearly meeting worship sharing coordinator, American Friends Service Committee Corporation alternates, AFSC/SERO Executive Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation representative. Friends may find out more about positions by talking to those who are currently serving or have served in various positions in the past.

35 -10 FWCC Guest

Kristi introduced Nancy Wallace who is a visitor to Yearly Meeting from Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Nancy Wallace spoke to us about her participation with FWCC. Her attendance at FWCC allows her to work and worship with Friends from all over the world and from all Friends’ traditions. This profound experience has given her hope. She has found that she has much in common with Friends across the spectrum. FWCC core values include: communication among Friends, crossing boundaries among Friends, and growing in relationship and experience of God.

35 - 11 Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Geeta McGahey presented the proposed changes from the committee. They are attached in **Appendix C**. Kristi asked if there are any concerns or proposed changes to Faith and Practice coming to Yearly Meeting after seasoning by a monthly meeting. No proposals were brought forth.

June 10, 2005 - Sixth Day (Friday) 8:30 a.m.

35 - 12 Opening

Christina Van Regenmorter read the opening reading:

Facts About Geese:

Fact One: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the birds following it.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they're going quicker and easier because they're traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact Two: Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly get back into formation.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go and be willing to accept their help, as well as give ours to others.

Fact Three: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks.

Fact Four: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those in front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging. And not something else.

Fact Five: When a goose gets sick, or wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we too will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Excerpts from a talk by Angeles Arrien in *Insight and Action* by Tova Green and Peter Woodrow

35 - 13 Announcements

-- Errol Hess announced that the location of the women's center is Jensen 306 and it will be open during workshop times and for women's worship.

-- Sharon Annis reminded Friends that the Nominating Committee is meeting at 11:00 a.m. in front of the bookstore and invited Friends to join in.

-- Faith and Practice review committee will be meeting at 11:00 a.m.. Any Friends with concerns or those interested in the work of the committee are invited to join the committee. The committee will next be looking at the testimonies.

-- The Electronic Communications ad hoc committee will be meeting in Carson 11.

-- The Ecological Concerns Network will be meeting in Carson 2. They will also be meeting in the middle lunch room at noon.

-- The Finance Committee will also meet at 11:00 in a corner of Cannon.

-- Herb Walters of Rural Southern Voice for Peace (RSVP) will be available at lunchtime to speak with interested Friends.

-- State of the Meeting reports will be posted in the lobby. They are available in a notebook which has a sign up sheet if Friends would like copies.

-- The sign up sheet for the small lunch rooms is downstairs in the bookstore.

Beth Ensign asked that Friends please put hymnals in the gray tub by the registrar's table.

-- There is a threshing session Friday night at 6:00 p.m. on the possible name change for the yearly meeting.

35 - 14 Introductions

- Nancy Diaz is from Pendle Hill and works as the co-director of the young adult/youth programs and as the recruiter there.
- Ed Dreby with Quaker Earthcare Witness is from Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
- Dorothy Day is here from the Friends General Conference yearly meeting visitors program of the traveling ministries committee. Kristi read a letter of introduction for her from Deborah Fisch.
- Keith and Ellen Helmuth were introduced. Keith will be speaking to us at the plenary. Ellen works in the FGC office.
- Mary Ann Downey, Atlanta Monthly Meeting, was introduced as a representative from Friends Journal. We are invited to give her feedback about Friends Journal. The year is the 50th anniversary of Friends Journal. Subscribers and advertisers pay only half the cost of the Journal. Donations supply the rest of the cost. Friends Journal also has a website with a free article each month where interested people can request a free issue. (www.Friendsjournal.org) It is also possible to get permission to copy articles from the Friends Journal for use in discussion groups.

35 - 15 Roll Call

Mary Calhoun called the roll of monthly meetings and worship groups that had no one present at the beginning of yesterday's session. These additional groups were represented: Anneewakee WG, Berea MM, Birmingham MM, Crossville MM, Oxford MM.

35 - 16 Agenda

Kristi announced that the agenda is probably too full and some people and committees will simply be introduced. The reports will be in the minutes. If action is not needed from a committee, perhaps a brief announcement will suffice.

35 - 17 Treasurer's Report

- Correction: In the set aside funds there should be an additional \$200 in the spiritual development fund. This amount will be corrected in the final version that goes into the minutes.
- Since yesterday's report, three more monthly meetings, Athens, Huntsville and Nashville, have paid all, or part of their 2004 - 2005 assessment.

Minute -- Friends accepted these additions to the report.

35 - 18 Ecological Concerns Network

Susan Carlyle reported for the committee, with a recommended minute to consider for endorsing the *Earth Charter*.

YM Report for the Ecological Concerns Network 2005

This is the 5th annual report from a network of 50 plus people within SAYMA who support each other in following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. Sharing information has enabled us to participate together in workshops, events, and on action items.

We continue the monthly email distribution of the ECN Connections. Roy Taylor of Atlanta Friends Meeting and Canton worship group has taken over as editor.

ECN was asked to participate in a panel discussion at the fall Friends World Committee for Consultation gathering. Their theme was "Outreach." Susan Carlyle shared ECN's efforts both within SAYMA and their outreach involved in the minute on Global Climate Change and the work related to the Earth Charter.

ECN members are also available to speak to monthly meetings with the message of how ecological concerns relate to Friends testimonies of peace and justice. One ECN member, Kim Carlyle, has made

presentations at Swannanoa Valley and West Knoxville meetings. He has a traveling minute and would like to visit each meeting and worship group in SAYMA.

ECN provided the Yearly Meeting office with some paper that is 100% post consumer recycled paper and is processed chlorine free for its use. The YM office will now take over the displaying and posting of the State of the Meeting reports at our annual gathering.

This year, during yearly meeting, there will be a tour of the eco dorm and some of the many other earth friendly efforts that exist on the Warren Wilson College campus. Once again, the early morning outdoor worship will be under the care of ECN.

We continue to support the endorsement of the Earth Charter by our YM. Here is a minute that is revised from last year's presentation:

We of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends (SAYMA) find the Earth Charter to be consistent with our Quaker faith and testimonies. Although this document is not perfect, it is a document that deserves our support because it arises from a deep concern for both improving the human condition and protecting God's earth.

We endorse the Earth Charter as a guide for spiritual practice and social action, recognizing that this may require us to make changes in the way we live. This endorsement signifies SAYMA's commitment to continue its practical application of the Earth Charter's principles.

In considering this minute, Friends shared many concerns about whether passing a minute will lead to changes in our hearts and our behavior after the minute is approved. Friends approved the following:

Minute -- *We of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends (SAYMA) find the Earth Charter to be consistent with our Quaker faith and testimonies. Although this document is not perfect, it is a document that deserves our support because it arises from a deep concern for both improving the human condition and protecting God's earth.*

We endorse the Earth Charter as an invitation for spiritual practice and social action, recognizing that this may require us to make changes in the way we live. This endorsement signifies SAYMA's commitment to continue its practical application of the Earth Charter's principles.

We request that the Ecological Concerns Network continue to shepherd a greater awareness of the principles of the Earth Charter and that monthly meetings and individuals seek out this opportunity to receive, question and live out this work.

35 - 19 Rural Southern Voice for Peace

Herb Walters spoke to us about the work of RSVP. Herb was originally a Released Friend from SAYMA. RSVP is part of the proposed yearly meeting's budget once again. RSVP has no current newsletter. This lack has made it more difficult to keep in touch with Friends. RSVP's commitment is to being a training center for the listening project. He read a quote from a woman who was part of a listening project in Croatia. Listening projects have occurred both locally and around the world. A recent local listening project was within the new local Hispanic community and it led to a development of a community center and the identification of community leaders. There is another current project in Harlan, Kentucky focusing on the drug problem there in the hope of finding a community-based, grass roots solution to that problem. RSVP's web site is www.listeningproject.org

35 - 20 American Friends Service Committee - Southeast Regional Office

Ginny Baumann, our representative to AFSC-SERO, introduced Betty Knott, the new regional director of the SERO office of AFSC. Prior to her appointment as director she was involved in AFSC as a member

of the finance committee. She has also worked with the Society of St. Vincent De Paul in Australia and Oceania, and she worked in Georgia on housing issues for the severely mentally ill. She is Catholic. She will be available in lunchroom C tomorrow at noon and welcomes Friends to join her there.

Betty told us that she has been in the position for just one month. AFSC has been involved in strategic visioning and came up with six goals. Those goals were then narrowed to two goals. These goals are 1) peace and conflict reconciliation, and 2) migration and human mobility issues. SERO is doing a lot of work on the second goal such as Project Voice in Charlotte, South Carolina. Its aim is to empower farm workers and other workers and to inform them about their rights. A youth group from North Carolina is now in Kenya looking at issues of debt.

The reports from our representatives, Carol Lamm and Sallie Prugh, are attached in Appendix C.

35 - 21 Friends Committee on Outworld Relations

Phil Neal, from Asheville Friends Meeting, presented a report as the coordinator of FCOR

FCOR -- Friends Committee on Outworld Relations Annual Report to SAYMA -- June 2005

FCOR as an organization has been in existence since 1995. In June of that year, FCOR presentations were made at the annual Gatherings of both SAYMA and FGC. Since then, FCOR has presented an Interest Group at the FGC Gathering every year, and has one scheduled again in 2005. At SAYMA Gatherings, FCOR events have occurred intermittently while a table display has been consistently provided every year.

Development of FCOR has been hampered by two principal factors. First, FCOR's emphasis on visitation by extraterrestrial (ET) visitors has been met by limited response on the part of Friends within the FGC folds. A relatively few Friends have found this to be of major importance. However, most Friends, though tolerant and even supportive, have seemed to maintain the concept of present day ET visitation in the realm of science fiction or academic discussion. Second, there have not been enough Friends with enough time and energy for FCOR to generate an organizational activity which effective, healthy and able to make its presence known. The originator and nominal coordinator of the organization is also encountering the limitations of advancing age and reduced energy. If FCOR is to survive beyond appearing on the scene occasionally during each year, an infusion of new and younger personnel is a necessity.

Recently, the focus of FCOR has incorporated a new area, that of Zero Point Energy (ZPE). While related to ET visitation, ZPE is also firmly connected with worldly history. Over a century ago, the electrical genius Nikola Tesla discovered, and publicized, this new energy source now known as Zero Point Energy, or Vacuum Energy. This energy exists as tiny waveforms throughout all of space. Tesla published papers and made presentations about ZPE; anecdotal accounts also reported that Tesla had a road vehicle powered by ZPE-sourced electricity. Fossil fuel and electrical power commercial interests effectively smothered and concealed Tesla's work, in order to develop the conventional energy sources of oil and coal. But, around 1947 and years following, several ET ships crashed and were spirited away and concealed by the military. In time, clandestine research revealed that the ET ships had been powered and propelled by ZPE.

Since that time, "the cat has been getting out of the bag". Today, several versions of ZPE "generators" are close to being marketed, though still facing bureaucratic obstacles. One inventor, in a spirit of public service, has published plans on the Web for the construction and activation of a small, primitive Motionless Electromagnetic Generator (MEG). This MEG can utilize ZPE to produce the extra power. Intended only for demonstration, it can put out three to five times the input. The larger production prototypes now ready for market may put out as much as 100 times input (coefficient of power: 100). Clearly, the development of a technology such as this could even eliminate our need for fossil fuels, as well as mitigate air position and global warming.

Stimulated by these possibilities, the FCOR coordinator recently initiated construction of a replica of the small MEG shown on the Web, aided by two other Friends with electrical engineering expertise. This "generator" has already been constructed by others, and has performed as expected. The construction was

completed and the FCOR-built MEG was then connected to the same electrical input as that successfully used previously by others. After a long period of attempting to achieve an output exceeding input, we were obliged to admit that we had not fully mastered the control of variables, at least not in time to have a working device on hand for the 2005 SAYMA Gathering. Advance publicity by FCOR has been made with the assumption that the individual talent and expertise on hand should be able to replicate the performance of existing working models. However, this did not happen, at least not soon enough. FCOR is presenting a workshop in which the not-yet-successful MEG is available as a visual aid in describing the procedure intended to bring about the goal of harnessing ZPE. It should be noted that the construction of this generator is based on a U.S. patent awarded to Thomas Bearden et al., and its performance as a demonstration model verified and approved by the inventor.

It is regrettable that FCOR cannot present a working MEG in 2005 to back up the claim that ZPE is a fully viable energy form. However, efforts are far from finished, and we hope that a working MEG will be on hand in 2006. In the interval, we should be able to garner fresh knowledge and insights. Input of other Friends could contribute to that. This is the sort of activity that Tom Bearden seeks to encourage. The Bearden patent is available on the web, and the Bearden textbook and other related material are available from FCOR.

Previously, the presence of extraterrestrial visitors has been the major consideration for FCOR. What could be more important than coming forward to meet visitors from elsewhere and seeking to join them in the Universe? And might not Friends have special capabilities to aid them in such an endeavor? Our destiny as a race is surely tied to our ultimate bonding with other intelligent civilizations who even now visit us.

Now, however, arises this new challenge, Zero Point Energy, pointing to potential societal changes and betterment for all people on earth. Once informed of ZPE's practical availability, Friends will surely pause to consider among themselves the many changes that use of ZPE could effect. Those who have not been easy about the issue of ET visitation may well find themselves drawn into the dissemination of the good news about ZPE. Eventually, this could also serve to attract new interest about Friends' relationship with the visitors.

This being said, FCOR now puts forward its challenge. Are there Friends who, realizing the importance of ET visitation, AND/OR the advent of Zero Point Energy, will now find time and energy to take up the standard and give FCOR shape, substance, and momentum? There is great need here, and tremendous potential. A clerk, treasurer, recorder, news editor, and SAYMA representative are needed. We welcome Friends from SAYMA and those elsewhere in FGC who are inspired to respond. To initiate action, the present coordinator of FCOR is ready to be part of the effort and offer whatever wisdom seems to have been gathered so far.

In the Light,
J. Philip Neal, Coordinator, FCOR
227 Edgewood Rd, Asheville, NC 28804
828-664-0550 fcor@main.nc.us

35 - 22 Quaker Earthcare Witness

Kim Carlyle introduced Ed Dreby. Ed comes to us from Mt Holly Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He has worked with a number of different interfaith efforts but is now working exclusively with Friends. He is one of the founders of Quaker Earthcare Witness for National Legislation. He has focused on global climate change and is now looking at the ways our structures affect environmental and social ills.

Ed mentioned that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) is very different from SAYMA - it uses much more paper and has more money but has not yet starting using 100% recycled paper. QEW is trying to reach out to monthly meetings through yearly meetings. Ed thinks that PYM and SAYMA will probably be on the forefront of that effort. QEW is now a member organization of Friends Committee on National Legislation. FCNL gives us an unusual voice to our government. FCNL is now working on energy policy and long-term environmental protection. Ed encouraged us to strengthen our relationship

with FCNL. PYM had a called session on climate change last Saturday. We will receive an epistle from that session. It includes the minute they approved at that session. The minute also makes them lovingly accountable for continued action.

35 - 23 Personnel Committee

Penelope Wright sat in as clerk while Kristi reported for the committee. Kristi made the following report:

This year the Personnel Committee has reviewed job descriptions, job performance through annual evaluations, and employee compensation for 2 employees. It has provided support for supervisors, and job training as needed for the employees. At April Representative Meeting we requested a COLA for both employees effective October 1.

We also make the following recommendations:

-- That the Yearly Meeting purchase computer equipment to update the office's 6-year old computer and software, and provide training if necessary for the administrative assistant. Friends with expertise in this area have agreed to assist in evaluating our specific needs. We estimate approximately \$1000 will be needed but we will bring back a specific request in September if much more is required.

-- We request that the Yearly Meeting's selection of clerk for the Personnel Committee not be automatically linked to the Assistant Clerk of Yearly Meeting position. The vacancy in Asst. Clerk this year has created some problems for the committee as the convener is also the supervisor for one of the employees. Separating these positions may create opportunities for someone with specific skills in the area of personnel to serve without the possibility of having to clerk Yearly Meeting.

Finally, we are very thankful to both Mary Calhoun and Therese Hildebrand for their continued faithful and professional service to the Yearly Meeting.

Submitted by Kristi Estes, convener of the Personnel Committee

Minute -- *Friends accept the report and ask that the recommendation for new computer equipment and software go to the Finance committee for consideration. Friends also ask that the old equipment be recycled if another home cannot be found for it. Friends also approve the de-linking of the positions of clerk of the personnel committee and that of assistant clerk of yearly meeting. Free Polazzo asked to be recorded as standing aside from the part of the minute de-linking the positions of clerk of personnel committee and assistant clerk of yearly meeting.*

June 11, 2004 - Seventh Day (Saturday) 9:30 a.m.

35 - 24 Opening

Kristi welcomed Friends. Jonah MacDonald read the following:

From the
Epistle from Lower Elementary Group, Pacific Yearly Meeting 2004

We love to see each other every year and do the things we love to do together. We wrote a poem about what our spirit looks like:

What is Nature saying to my spirit?
Listen

Do not be afraid, because God is with you.
Breathe.
Be at peace.
Relax.
You are safe with God.
Things will turn out okay.
Be aware of poison oak.
Here it is good, fresh air; you can always feel and hear things.
You are being protected.
You are important, but not more important than the trees and the animals.
When you are quiet and listen, sometimes you will hear, and sometimes you won't .
You can be happy. Don't worry what will happen.
Peace.

Epistle from Preschoolers, Pacific Yearly Meeting 2004

We played. We had some fights. We made up. We made very good friends. We like to explore a lot. We went to a secret temple. It was dark. We had worship.

With love, PYM Preschoolers

35 - 25 Announcements

- Kristi announced that participants for the talent show must sign up by noon today.
- If anyone has to check out today, you need to check out this morning or find the registrar.
- We are helping two young Friends to go to the World Gathering of Young Friends in England. A statement from them follows:
In Lancaster England on August 16-24, 2005, Friends from all reaches of the globe will gather together for a World Gathering of Young Friends, the first in 20 years. This coming together will serve to unite and strengthen bonds between Friends of diverse races, nationalities and beliefs. In order to support the need for a truly representative and diverse group, the World Gathering would greatly appreciate any donation you can afford. To find out more about the gathering or to donate, please visit www.wgyf.org or contact one of SAYMA's two representatives, Galen Labotka or Elaine Ruscetta who are both at yearly meeting. We would appreciate any support you can give!
- Carla Askonas from Chattanooga announced that the meeting there is looking for a meeting resident care keeper for their meetinghouse. Contact someone from Chattanooga for additional information.
- Minutes from other yearly meetings are available for review.
- There is a threshing session tonight at 6:00 p.m. on the question of a possible name change for SAYMA.
- Errol Hess reminded Friends to fill out an evaluation form before they leave.
- Bob McGahey reminded Friends about the meeting for remembrance this afternoon.
- Kristi introduced Bruce Birchard, the general secretary of FGC. He is from Central Philadelphia monthly meeting.
- Geeta announced that those interested in Right Sharing for World Resources are meeting at lunch today and she introduced Jennifer Walker, who is a board member of Right Sharing from Asheville. There are also items for sale for Right Sharing at the bookstore as well as some pictures from children who lost family members in the tsunami.
- The bookstore will close for business at 10:30 this evening.
- People interested in AFSC will meet in lunchroom C.

35 - 26 Friends General Conference

Jonah McDonald reported that FGC has been exploring how to do teen and young adult ministries and how to work with monthly meetings on that issue. FGC had a consultation on that issue and pulled together Friends from all ages and regions. Jonah, Christina Van Regenmorter and Elaine Ruschetta all attended this consultation.

Elaine expressed the concern that there is a widening gap between generations in the Religious Society of Friends. She suggested some actions to mend the rift: 1) Work on ways to keep in touch with young Friends who go away to college, 2) Find ways for young Friends to serve in leadership roles, 3) Reminding friends -- however old they are - that they serve as role models and ask friends to explain when they leave and are no longer available to Young Friends.

Jonah said that the consultation was really about intergenerationality -- how we act not as age groups but as humans. He described a workshop exercise --“think pair share” -- where people split up according to ages and discussed queries: How are you supported in your life as a Friend? How do Friends’ organizations support you as a Friend ? What could be done better by the Society of Friends to support you in your life as a Friend? They discovered that those in each age group generally had the same responses to the queries. High schoolers wanted to be seen as full people. College students wanted to feel at home. 23 -25 year olds wanted help with transitions. 26 -39 year olds had a certain sadness about losing the community they felt when they were younger as they focused on starting families. Those 40 and older focused on how to integrate their exterior and interior lives.

Christina was thankful for the experience and experienced the mutuality of people wanting to help and need helping, wanting to hug and needing hugs and of people of all ages needing spirit-based communication and community. Those in all ages need interactions beyond “How’s school?” and “What’s your major?” to “How is your heart?” Christina gained a spiritual friend and has also been involved in getting younger Friends involved in committee work in her home meeting. She ended with a story about someone’s Quaker life being compared to sitting on a rock in an ocean. When that individual went to a retreat where Friends opened themselves to spiritual guidance, that individual discovered that he was actually sitting on a whale that was going somewhere.

Kristi then read from an epistle from Marion Beane, the presiding clerk of FGC’s Central Committee:

During our opening First Day worship at Central Committee we were blessed with powerful ministry about the truth of our experience among and with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. Out of that ministry Central Committee became clear that we needed to bring this message back to Friends and witness to its power and truth.

...This epistle and minute have now been distributed to the Clerks and staff of all affiliated yearly meetings, to all directly affiliated monthly meetings, to the clerks of yearly meetings that appoint observers to Central Committee, and to the clerks of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns...

Central Committee further asked that all yearly meeting and affiliated monthly meeting representatives carry this epistle back, to share our experience and to ask our yearly and monthly meetings to ‘dwell deeply’ and then come back to FGC with whatever they are led to share about their own experiences with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Friends.

Their minute follows:

Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and

queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

Kristi asked how we can “dwell deeply” with this minute as a yearly meeting and in our monthly meetings.

Some Friends shared the ways that their monthly meetings have already responded to this minute by either uniting with it or approving a similar minute and by finding ways to witness in their communities following from the minute. Some Friends spoke to the benefits of our yearly meeting writing its own minute based on our experiences in our region and responding to the political realities in this area. Friends who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer generally feel at home in our yearly meeting and in monthly meetings but gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends are hated elsewhere and there has been too much silence from Friends.

Minute -- *Friends approve the following minute:*

SAYMA’s experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our work with SAYMA has been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of SAYMA together.

We call on ourselves as individuals and in our monthly meetings to take this minute in our hearts and take action as we are led.

35 - 27 Ministry and Nurture:

Bob McGahey reported for the committee:

This has been a year of renewal for SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee, one in which the seeds of a new vision of how we function as a committee have been planted and some first fruits harvested. At our fall retreat, we affirmed that “whenever we meet, our [first] commitment is to deepen worship and allow Spirit to move among us.” To better enable this deepening process, we decided to uncouple our meetings from the quarterly representative meetings, holding our meetings instead at smaller meetings and worship groups, where we could both conduct our business and join with our hosts in fellowship, worship, and listening to their corporate concerns. According, we coupled our fall retreat with a visit to Crossville Meeting for worship and sharing. We held our winter meeting at Foxfire; the spring meeting was at Brevard.

At the fall retreat, we reviewed and modified our proposed charge to be published in the revised SAYMA Guide to our Faith and Practice. We have clarified to ourselves and proposed language for further Faith and Practice Revision Committee work that we are not a committee of “reps” from our respective meetings but a group committed to serve the entire SAYMA community. To that end, we have proposed a change in how our committee is constituted, such that, in addition to the Clerk, the Nominating Committee selects three members who join with members brought forward from the meetings across SAYMA. We request that all prospective members of the committee first enter into a process of discernment with their meetings.

Since we affirm that we are not a representative body, we have developed a system of apportioning to our members a list of contacts for all meetings and worship groups to facilitate communication with our committee. We are still feeling our way here, but our expectation is that these contacts be made at least quarterly.

These are some challenges to implementing our new vision. One is the logistic for the mutual accountability between us and Friends who have been issued letters of endorsement by the Yearly Meeting on our recommendation, since our meetings will not be accessible to those attending representative sessions. The second is to assure our presence at representative meetings to hold the clerks' table in the Light, to report on our own meetings, and to serve as "ears" to hear concerns from both the business sessions and individuals. Our commitment is to have one of our members present at rep meetings to fulfill these functions, a commitment which we honored this year, though we did not fulfill our preference to have two members present.

A third challenge is staying in contact with the planning committee, which we did poorly this year. We need to be more mindful of communication with them, probably by appointing a liaison to the planning committee.

Our main concern arising from a year's discernment is the nature of SAYMA's worship groups. Our concerns include fostering the communication between them and caring monthly meetings, recognizing new worship groups in an accurate and timely manner, and assisting in reaching closure in the cases of unresolved misunderstandings. After a long period of consideration, we are requesting at our current Yearly Meeting session to have advancement added to our charge, recognizing that we are the most suitable body within SAYMA to take on the charge of the Advancement and Outreach Committee which was laid down a number of years ago.

In terms of closure, we reported at the spring rep meeting that Cleveland Worship Group has departed from SAYMA, ending an uncomfortable chapter which highlighted our need for further work on the development of worship groups and their relationships to established monthly meetings.

In support of our focus on nurturing worship groups, we have asked Deborah Fisch, clerk of Traveling Friends, to lead a two-part workshop at this gathering, "Strengthening Ties Between our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups." We are also sponsoring a second workshop, "Theological Diversity Through Song" led by Dorothy Day and Sue Axtell. SAYMA Friends have long recognized, and most of us have blessed, the urge to sing unto the Lord. But this workshop would have us look at the theologies imbedded in the hymns.

We of Ministry and Nurture feel blessed in having renewed clarity about our mission of service to SAYMA, and look forward to continuing to serve as the Holy Spirit guides us.

He added that their fall meeting under their new structure was transformative and they were able to meet with Crossville Friends in a way that brought forth immediate fruit.

Bob presented the following proposal:

Members of SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee serve the entire SAYMA community at the request of their monthly meetings, who provide a discernment process and support for this work. In addition, SAYMA's nominating committee nominates Friends to serve as clerk and three members of the Ministry and Nurture Committee. Ministry and Nurture members nominated by the nominating committee will be asked to serve for staggered two-year terms.

***Minute** -- Friends approved the proposal changing the makeup of Ministry and Nurture.*

35 - 28 Finance Committee

Chris Berg presented the report from the committee. The report is attached in Appendix C. Our finances are currently not in balance. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 shows a deficit of \$5550. Our reserve funds are only about \$2000.

***Minute** -- Friends approved the provisional budget with the understanding that the final budget will be presented at the September representative meeting. We ask that a balanced budget be brought to the September representative meeting. Friends ask that the Finance Committee send a letter to monthly*

meetings and individuals describing our current financial situation, discussing the services and benefits from the yearly meeting, and asking Friends to consider additional contributions.

June 12, 2005 - First Day (Sunday) 9:30 am

35 - 29 Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle

Dear SAYMA Friends,

We have a great time at Junior Yearly Meeting this year (as always). We're sure all of my friends did also. (Yes.) We made shirts, candles, kites, and a monkey bridge. Ron, Jane, Robin, Sharon, Chuck Jones, Steve, Bill and the amazing jugglers, Heidimarie, Adrienne, Martha, Beth, Mark, Wendy, Bert, Sheena, Elizabeth and Jonah gave us a great time with many activities. My favorite part was soccer in the gym. My favorite part was soccer, swimming and the monkey bridge. Everyone says their favorite part:

<i>monkey bridge</i>	<i>swimming</i>
<i>making shirts and kites</i>	<i>soccer</i>
<i>kick the can</i>	<i>flying kites</i>
<i>making candles</i>	<i>everything except for the stuff I didn't do</i>

Young Friends gave us a demonstration of what happens to cans when someone is gentle or rough with the cans.

We also heard a story about all the Young Friends listening to one Young Friend who became unhappy. All the others gathered around. One Young Friend asked him if there was something the others could do to make him happy

The Young Friends then presented Jane Goldthwait and Ron McDonald with t-shirts signed by all the Young Friends to thank them for their time together during yearly meeting.

35 - 30 SAYF Epistle

The Southern Appalachian Young Friends Epistle was presented by Conrad Honicker and Rachel Leemun-Monk.

*From inside jokes and having a good time
To spirituality and taking a moment to rhyme
The friends we made
during the weekends we've spent.
OK, Forget the rhyming, this is how SAYF went.*

SAYF started its year off in August 04 in Black Mountain for the annual nurturing, steering and oversight meeting. When September 04 rolled around Chapel Hill was the place to be, with the community building there and activities. Though several meetings missed this retreat due to hurricanes! Being at Penn Center in October 04 was no surprise. Neither was the service project there. The generous service SAYF provided was rewarded with bruises from the beach but followed by a delicious potluck from the locals. After the November retreat in Knoxville, no Friends are going to war thanks to the conscientious objection workshops and the social action themed retreat.

During the January 05 retreat Friends discussed the theme of diversity, after watching "Do the Right Thing" by Spike Lee. Following in February was another nurturing meeting in Knoxville which discussed topics such as "redefining guidelines". Asheville hosted the March 05 retreat

which brought in a panel to talk to Young Friends about the theme of Quaker leadership. Friends held the final retreat before SAYMA in Hard Labor Creek State Park where Friends relaxed joyfully and froze during the night.

*So that concludes this year of SAYF
It's been a fun time
No need to rhyme
So see you next year SAYMA
key lime!*

The SAYF Steering Committee report is presented in Appendix D.

35 - 31 Announcements

- Steve Livingston made an announcement about the number of plastic bottles added to the water stream every year including four left on the back ledge of our meeting room.
- Errol Hess, as clerk of the planning committee, announced that several people have worked hard to organize yearly meeting especially the registrar, Ceal Wutka, who had to function without a co-registrar. Someone is needed to be co-registrar.
- Nicole Rennie announced that she needs help driving back to Atlanta.
- Bill Reynolds announced that he is looking for a ride to the FGC Gathering in Blacksburg the first week of July.

35 - 32 Faith and Practice

Geeta McGahey noted that the proposals brought forward today were done after the initial version was circulated to all monthly meetings and all monthly meetings responded. The second version went out again and only one individual responded. The version today incorporates all the changes.

The committee proposed the following changes to the material already presented (**see Appendix C**). The paragraph on Junior Yearly Meeting follows with the changes underlined and in italics, or crossed out:

***Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)** - Its voluntary staff, supervised by the JYM coordinator provides a safe place and enriching program which allows adults to participate in Yearly meeting activities. Existing for children through age twelve during yearly meeting it seeks to explore aspects of the gatherings theme to nurture young Quakers. During yearly meeting, teaching and assisting these youth ~~through age twelve~~, under the supervision of a coordinator, is both rewarding and essential to the full functioning of the whole yearly meeting.*

The new sections on Ministry and Nurture and Nominating Committee are not being brought forward today.

Minute -- *Friends approved the presented sections of the document including the above changes.*

35 - 33 Nominating Committee

Sharon Annis presented the following nominations:

Assistant Clerk - Sallie Prugh 6/05 - 6/07
Recording Clerk - Christina van Regenmorter 6/05 - 6/07
Treasurer - David Ciscel 6/03 - 6/07

Ministry and Nurture Clerk -
Bob McGahey 12/04 - 6/06

Finance committee clerk -
Dennis Gregg 6/05 - 6/7
Member - Susan Phelan 6/05 - 6/07

Ecological Concerns Network
Co-clerk Roy Taylor, 6/05 - 6/07

Nominating Committee
Nicole Rennie 6/05 - 6/07

SAYF oversight committee is currently
on hold with no members.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Convener- Steve Livingston 6/05 - 6/07
Member - Deanna Nipp 6/05 - 6/07

Newsletter editors
Kim Carlyle Susan Carlyle 6/05 - 6/06
The term for this position will be three years.

Personnel Committee
Clerk - Sallie Prugh 6/05 - 6/07
Connie LaMonte 6/05 - 6/07
Judy Prince 6/05 - 6/07

SAYF Steering
Adrienne Labotka, co-clerk 6/04 – 6/06
Mark Wutka 6/05-6/07
Ceal Wutka 6/05-6/07

Yearly Meeting Planning
Adult Program Coordinator - Carol Nickle 6/05 -6/07
Worship Sharing - Penelope Wright 6/05 - 6/07
Local Arrangements - Steve Livingston 6/05 - 6/06
Young Adult Rep Maggie Hess 6/05 - 6/07

JYM Ad Hoc Committee
Convener Ron McDonald
Robin Well
Jane Goldthwait
Beth Meyers
Bill O'Connell

WQO Representatives
AFSC Corp Carol Lamm 6/05 - 6/07
SERO Exec Ginny Baumann 6/04 - 6/07
FCNL Joyce Johnson 6/05 - 6/08
Quaker Earthcare Witness Roy Taylor 6/05 - 6/07
Friends General Conference Julie Sibley-Jones 6/05 - 6/08

Faith and Practice Revision Committee
Clerk - Free Polazzo 6/05 -

We are entitled to a third representative to FGC and a young adult Friend has been identified who is interested in serving in this position. Do we want to fill this position?

Minute -- *Friends approved the addition of a third position of a representative to FGC.*

FGC Elaine Ruscetta 6/05 - 6/08
FWCC Tim Lamm 6/05 - 6/07
Quaker House Geoffrey Pratt 6/05 - 6/07

Right Sharing of World Resource - Jennifer Walker
William Penn House - Errol Hess 6/04 - 6/06

Electronic Communications ad hoc committee
Clerk - Bill Reynolds Ron Nuse
Mark Wutka Susan Phelan
Missy Ivie Steve Livingston

Charlie Slade Sharon Annis
Jim McKeever Sharon Phelps

Minute -- *All Friends nominated for the above positions were approved with thanks to the nominating committee and those undertaking responsibilities for our yearly meeting.*

35 - 34 Registrar's Report

Presented by Ceal Wutka, Atlanta Monthly Meeting:

My year started a bit rough when we lost the co-registrar. I had only been to two SAYMAs myself and felt a bit panicked at first. But my little voice inside reminded me that the Spirit said that I could do this. And, lo-and-behold, everyone got registered, people survived my mistakes, and we had yearly meeting. The May 20 deadline for dorm rooms worked well and I think next year I will be able to send folks their dorm room numbers ahead of time.

Total adults - 181
SAYF - 52

JYM - 26 registered, 23 attended
16 Young Adult Friends

Monthly meetings/worship groups - 34

Representatives from Alternatives to Violence, Earlham College, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee on Consultation, Pendle Hill, traveling Ministries

We thank Ceal for all her hard work both before and during YM.

35 - 35 Site Selection

It is possible for us to continue coming to Warren Wilson College indefinitely. There is also a possibility of going to Berea College.

Minute -- Friends agreed to return to Warren Wilson through June 6 -10, 2007.

35 - 36 Young Adult Friends Epistle

The characters in this story are fictional, but their experiences are based on our own.

Once upon a time, Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna went to SAYMA. Quaker Joe had been a Quaker all his life and LOVED going to Warren Wilson College every year. He loved to see his Quaker mommy, and Quaker daddy, and Quaker brother and sister after being away at college. Quaker Joanna had never been to SAYMA before, but was excited to see the lovely Warren Wilson College campus. But, she was a little nervous to be entering a new spiritual community. The prospect of being in a Quaker community with other Quakers her age was baffling!

Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna arrived early Thursday evening. Quaker Joe wandered around the room giving old Friends big hugs until he stumbled upon Quaker Joanna who timidly extended her right hand and introduced herself. Quaker Joe took her hand and pulled her into a warm Quaker hug.

After introductions and chatting for a bit, getting to know each other, Quaker Joanna and Quaker Joe skipped off to the Panel Discussion.

The next morning at breakfast, Quaker Joanna couldn't stop her excited babble about her new found knowledge of the wider Quaker organizations' work in the world. At the YAF Business Meeting, she talked to other Young Adult Friends about how to include FCNL's work in their Quarterly Gatherings.

Two Adult Friends attended the YAF Business Meeting to inform them about the opportunities to serve on SAYMA committees. Quaker Joe was excited to learn about the E-communications Ad-Hoc Committee. He'd already created a web page for his Monthly Meeting. Other Young Adult Friends were enthusiastic to have the opportunity to serve on a plethora of SAYMA committees.

Later that evening, Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna slid down the slippery slope to the Pavilion where they sat in a silent circle praying adults would join them for Worship Sharing. Their prayers were soon answered as adults and more YAFs braved the wind and rain to join together under dim lights to meditate on the transitions each had undergone in his or her lifetime.

Afterwards, Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna meandered across campus to the SAYF hideout. On the way, Quaker Joe explained the phenomenon that is Wink.

A sweaty hour and a half later, with many more red marks and bruises than before, a smiling Quaker Joanna and Quaker Joe engaged in a wild cake fight with some SAYFers before stumbling home with icing in their ears.

Saturday arrived another cloudy day, but Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna didn't let the dim sky keep them from Business Meeting. They were soon glad they hadn't stayed in bed, as cozy as the Vining rooms were. (Ha! Ha! Ha!)

Quaker Joe presented some of his experiences with other YAFs during the year. He reported on a consultation he attended to explore issues about generation gaps and youth ministries in FGC.

For Quaker Joanna, this Business Meeting was only her second, full-length, adult Business Meeting. She was moved to see the process of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in

action. She saw Friends put their hearts in to their messages and come away feeling they owned the approved Minutes.

Both YAFs were very touched by the unity that was found on FGC's Central Committee's Minute concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. As Quaker Joe approved the Minute, he realized he was not only expressing his unity with the Meeting, but he was also acknowledging the work of the Spirit within him as a gay friend.

Later that evening, after laughing and enjoying the talents of many in the community, Quaker Joe, and Quaker Joanna settled into comfy couches in the Vining Lounge fore the second YAF-led Worship Sharing. They were blessed to share a heartfelt worship with a *large* group of Quaker Adults, Young Adults, and Warren Wilson College student. They heard Friends open their hearts to express their joys and concerns, their fears and hopes for the community and the world today.

Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna congregated in the kitchen after the worship to help prepare food for the SAYF graduates. The food the YAFs chose was meant to symbolize a transition for the SAYFers. Instead of the familiar pile of Cheetos, caffeinated soda, and chocolate cookies, the YAFs prepared bananas and organic strawberries to be dipped in homemade, vegan, chocolate sauce, and fresh guacamole to go with blue, organic tortilla chips: a selection designed to please the world, as well as the pallet.

When the food was prepared, Quaker Joanna and Quaker Joe settled in to wait and wait and wait until at 2:00 a.m., after the SAYFers had been sharing their memories and appreciations with their grads for *four hours*, the YAFs began to feel their age. They were EXHAUSTED! If the kidnappings were to occur, they had to be done immediately!

With the other YAFs, Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna interrupted the SAYF ritual and slipped shirts of the graduates' heads to blind them. Quaker Joanna led the line of YAF initiates on a short walk. They held onto a rope and each other. They had to depend on trust and quite communication to make the journey safe.

The walk ended at Vining where the older YAFs and the new YAFs played get-to-know-you games, enjoyed the delicious food, and shared a moment of silence.

During this weekend of SAYMA, Quaker Joe and Quaker Joanna were a part of the Epistle writing team. Rather than write a long, boring letter or narrative (Ha! Ha!), they decided to share this song with you. It is a song that came out of one of their YAF-led Worship Sharings. They've asked their YAF friends to help with the verse and hope all of you will join in on the chorus.

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof
Its streets, its slums, as well as stars above
Salvation is here where we laugh, where we cry
Where we seek and love, where we live and die

Chorus:

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shall not be ashamed
To turn and to turn it will be our delight
Till be turning, turning we come round right.

The Young Adult Friends ended by singing the following and asking everyone to join in on the chorus:

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof
Its streets, its slums as well as stars above*

*Salvation is here where we laugh where we cry
Where we seek and love, where we live and die*

*When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn, turn will be our delight
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.*

35 - 37 Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Gary Briggs has information he would like to share about an affirming action that is planned for the FGC Gathering about the issue of Virginia's stance of making illegal any contracts, such as powers of attorney, made in other states between Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Friends.

35 - 38 Yearly Meeting Epistle

Peter Buck presented the epistle.

Epistle of SAYMA -- Year 2005

Dear Friends,

Returning again to what seems like home, we gathered together 8th – 12th Day, Sixth Month, 2005, for our 35th annual session at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina.

As we have increased the length of time we are together, the tension between fellowship and business seems to be subsiding. With this expanded time the business itself has become an opportunity for fellowship and a building of the body. We were blessed by the blossoming of many blue dots on the nametags representing first time attenders, the vitality of the vibrant group of teenagers, and the joy of our Junior Gathering participants.

Our business sessions were imbued with a growing awareness of the palpable presence of the Spirit among us. This deep current of living water carried us as we progressed through our agenda.

After a couple of years of seasoning, we were able to come to unity on the Earth Charter. We minuted our endorsement of the Earth Charter, noting that although not perfect, it is “an invitation for spiritual practice and social action, recognizing that this may require us to make changes in the way we live.”

We heard a minute forwarded to us by the Central Committee of Friends General Conference about their experience of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer Friends. We were asked to go deep to see how the minute spoke to our condition.

As we labored to respond, we affirmed a deeply felt sense of unity and blessing while not knowing exactly what this will require of us, yet trusting that both the Spirit and the process will transform us and the work will be carried out. As our witness, we include the fruit of our labor here.

SAYMA's experience has been that our work has been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and spirit-guided leadership of gay lesbian bisexual transgender and queer Friends. We will not go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God as God made us and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of SAYMA together.

We call upon ourselves as individuals and in our monthly meetings to take this minute into our hearts and take action as we are led.

Through our work with these minutes we affirm both the value and need of seasoning concerns, and the imperative of being faithful to the Spirit in the moment. Further, a growing understanding of Friends is that our work is not done when we commend the minute to paper. We must also write it on our hearts and live into it.

The service of Young Adult Friends continues to deepen in our meeting. This year they assisted at the Clerk's table during business sessions. The presence of YAFs and teenagers in worship sharing and

workshops added richness and new perspectives. Teens are also exploring the possibility of serving on yearly meeting committees. In lieu of the usual report from the SAYMA appointed representatives to Friends General Conference, three of our Young Adult Friends shared their experiences from attending the FGC-sponsored consultation on youth ministries. Our hearts were opened by the burning truths that they learned and shared with us. Among these were the sense of isolation and grief that Friends feel when no longer in their home meetings, loss of past communities while moving into new life phases, and the desire for YAFs to be of service as well as served. Most significantly, we heard the realization that Friends of all ages yearn to be known at the deepest level.

At our first plenary session we heard some of our wider Quaker organization representatives speak with deep feelings and tenderness of the mission and work of those organizations, and how that work fits with the priorities and values of our yearly meeting. We were grateful for the reminder that these organizations are so intimately connected with the work that we are led to do. With each organization's unique mission, they are able to extend that work beyond our capacity. The representatives also shared the joys, challenges, and spiritual rewards of service to both wider Quaker organizations and SAYMA. Surprisingly, many representatives were initially called to service simply because they had been asked. (Friends, let us affirm our nominating process!)

At our second plenary session, Keith Helmuth, of Canadian Yearly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, spoke to us from his work, "The Angel of History, The Storm of Progress, and the Order of the Soul." Despite the gravity of the trajectory we are on towards the destruction of humanity and the earth's biosystems, Keith offered hope beyond fatalism. This hope is based upon the Life in the Spirit with attention to natural history. He favored us with terminology and expressions that made fresh our testimonies by applying them to an ecological world view. We were relieved and uplifted to hear that humankind can escape the trap of fatalism engendered by the "history of Moral Will" by embracing the option of "mutually enhancing human-earth relationship."

In closing, we find great inspiration in the story of a Young Friend who viewed his relationship to his Meeting as sitting on a rock in the sea. Solidly supported by this foundation, he was able to look around in security and peace while viewing the wonders of the surrounding scenery. At some point, a transformation occurred when he felt the Spirit moving in a powerful way. In his sensing of the power of continuing revelation, his old image of his relationship to his Meeting changed. It was revealed to him that the rock he had been sitting on, was actually the solid back of a swimming whale, carrying him through the deep current of the Spirit into an unknown and anticipated future.

***Minute** -- Friends approved the epistle as presented with great thanks to the epistle committee.*

35 - 39 Additional reports

We did not have time for the presentation of some reports. The following reports are in appendix D:

Ad Hoc e-Communications Committee	FCNL Representative
Friends Peace Team Representative	FCNL - Conscientious Objection Minute
Web Manager's Report	FCNL - Minute on Moral Values
William Penn House Representative	Ad Hoc Committee on Worship Groups
Quaker House Representative	SAYF Steering Committee
Quaker Earthcare Witness Representatives	Junior YM Ad Hoc Committee
FWCC Representative	SAYMA June 2005 Census

Kristi Estes, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Lee Ann Swarm, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Appendix B
State of the Meeting Reports

Anneewakee Creek Worship Group
Asheville Monthly Meeting
Athens Monthly Meeting
Atlanta Monthly Meeting
Berea Monthly Meeting
Birmingham Monthly Meeting
Brevard Monthly Meeting
Celo Monthly Meeting
Charleston Monthly Meeting
Chattanooga Monthly Meeting
Columbia Monthly Meeting
Cookeville Preparative Meeting
Crossville Monthly Meeting
Foxfire Monthly Meeting
Greenville Monthly Meeting
Huntsville Monthly Meeting
Memphis Monthly Meeting
Nashville Monthly Meeting
Oxford Monthly Meeting
Royal Worship Group
Sevier County Monthly Meeting
Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting
West Knoxville Monthly Meeting

**Anneewakee Creek Worship Group
State of the Meeting Report**

(available in hard copy only)

**Asheville Friends Meeting
State of the Society/Meeting Report
2004-2005**

Asheville Friends Meeting continues to be a vibrant and growing spiritual community. Although as a meeting we are not in unity regarding certain issues, the spirit still moves within our beloved community. Therefore we find ourselves blessed with many joys and challenges. Our purpose in this report is to relay to the reader what our meeting senses is going well, how we have grown, our challenges and how we have met them, noteworthy Friends' achievements and ministries, those we have lost, and where we are spiritually in relation to worship.

HOW WE HAVE GROWN

- In this year we have accepted three new members, approximately 31 new attenders, many with children.
- A weekly E-calendar has been added due to the absence of our newsletter. Announcements, events and meetings are refreshed daily along with links to our monthly meeting for business minutes, and other meeting related sites. Those in meeting who do not have email are given a "buddy" who can print a listing for them, and we make paper copies available in the meetinghouse.
- We have had a resurgence of our Spiritual Enrichment Committee.
- There is new interest in revising a Long Range Planning Committee.
- We are in the process of putting into motion a Pastoral Care Committee, which has grown out of filling areas assumed to be under the care of our Clerk.
- Our library has received a new coat of paint, and sports a more simplified footprint by the removal of unnecessary items.
- A simplicity group began meeting before worship on every other First day.
- Young Adult Friends have organized regular twice-monthly meetings.
- Friendly Eights groups began meeting.
- The Earth Charter was endorsed by the meeting.
- Continued support of individual leadings, and to local Peace Groups.
- Continued involvement with Southern Appalachian Young Friends.
- Well attended series on Quaker Process was offered.

CHALLENGES

And how we have met them

THE CLERK FREE MEETING

Currently our meeting is operating without a Clerk, simply because there was not a member who felt led to take on the position of Clerk. A surprising thing happened, many members and attenders began to take up the Clerk's responsibilities.

BREAKING MEETING—Weekly meeting now has a sign-up sheet, and anyone who attends may sign up to break meeting. Some advantages have been to discover individual's gifts and provide variety to the end of worship. We also have members of Ministry and Counsel stand and introduce themselves during the rise of meeting, serving as touchstones to the community and newcomers.

CLERKING MEETING FOR BUSINESS—Monthly meeting now also has a "Guest Clerk" (or Clerk Pro Tem) with a returning Recording Clerk. There was some unease with this arrangement among our meeting that continues at this writing. However, we have not missed a meeting for business, and have been well served by the people who have stepped forward to serve the community in this way. Our worship during meeting for business has deepened, and we realize that silent worship in meeting for

business comes about by many Friends actively "clerking" from their places.

COMMITTEE WORK—Creation or renaissance of committees to step up and complete tasks originally assumed to be the Clerk's responsibilities. *Many hands make light work.* Some committees have become more active, such as Ministry and Counsel, which has become host to newcomers, a destination for discernment, and in some sense, a collective Clerk.

MEETINGHOUSE

We have several concerns regarding the safety and size of our meetinghouse. We have an aging structure, with an outdated deck and bathrooms that are not wheelchair compliant. We have issues with mold, and infestations that are common with a house of this age and use. Our House and Grounds Committee struggles with decisions regarding our space and safety, and the idea of moving, rebuilding, or splitting the community looms in the future.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There is a sense in meeting that our Religious Education is currently in transition. The meeting is experiencing the added joy and burden of many young children in attendance. There are many parents and other interested friends who are actively nourishing this transition. At this time we are not in unity over the future of Religious Education.

MARRIAGE UNDER CARE OF MEETING

At this time we realize we are not in unity about same gender unions, what they should be called, or if we can take them under our care. Due to this dis-unity over "marriage", meeting is not able to offer marriage or unions to its members. Review of what it means to hold a couple under the care of the meeting is planned.

NEW TO QUAKERISM

There is a sense in meeting that many people who actively participate in the life of the meeting are new to Friends, and are not steeped in Quaker process. There has been much interest in offering Quakerism 101 to the community in the coming year, noting the good attendance during the Quaker Process series.

NEWSLETTER

We are currently without a newsletter. To help with communicating important items, events, announcements, and monthly minutes we have built an E-calendar, and have set up a buddy system to include Friends without email or computer access. At this time we do not know when or if the newsletter will be reinstated.

FRIENDS OF NOTE

Special Ministries

Christy Bishoff—works with Christian Peacemakers in Hebron

Jennifer Walker—serves on the board of Right Sharing of World Resources

Lauren Mitchell—served on the Planning Committee of World Gathering of Young Friends

Phil Neal—Friends Committee on Outworld Relations

Elizabeth Roebeling—teaches English to indigenous children in the Dominican Republic

Robin Wells—United Religions Initiative, Friends General Conference-Religious Education Committee

MEMORIAL

We lost our dear Friend and elder, Ursula Scott in March of 2005. She was indeed a source of Light in our community, and continues to be greatly missed.

David Miller also died in March of 2005 and is remembered by members of the AFM community.

AFM ANNUAL RETREAT

In September of 2004 we held an annual weekend retreat at Bonclarken, which was attended by 50 members of our community. It was at this retreat that our Spiritual Enrichment Committee was reborn, and continues to be a presence within the community. The committee is in the process of planning our next retreat at Montreat in September of 2005.

In Conclusion

As a community we have endeavored to search out the spiritual path, holding our lives and concerns within the light, and to celebrate our joys. We have discovered this continuing revelation of respectful silence, simplicity, and support of the divine within ourselves and each other. We lean on each other and find new connections to each other during this time of transition, sometimes achieving comfort, sometimes accomplishing great work, and sometimes finding what is unnamed. The spirit moves.

State of the Meeting Report Athens (Georgia) Religious Society of Friends, Monthly Meeting of S.A.Y.M.A. Sixth Month, 2005 (year 2004-2005)

Athens Friends Meeting continued to actively participate in worship, service, action and discussion throughout the year. We are grateful for the service of our new co-clerks Cathianne Watkins and Janice Pulliam. Weekly attendance at meeting for worship continues to range from 7 to 15 people. Since last year, we have returned to our original schedule, with worship held during first hour, followed by a break, followed by discussion or business meeting. These changes and others are documented on our newly-revised web site (<http://athensquaker.org>).

This year saw more activity in our Meeting. We have welcomed several new regular attenders. With the addition of a young family of attenders, we reactivated our First Day School. Two of our youth and several of their friends regularly attend SAYF activities. One of those youths serves on SAYF's nurturing committee and coordinated the SAYF retreat at Hard Labor Creek State Park near Athens, Georgia. Several of our members assisted others from SAYMA with logistical and chaperoning duties.

We held discussions and worship sharing on a variety of topics including: aging, war, and a letter-writing campaign to local officials. At the behest of two of our members, we began an ongoing series of dialogues about Growing the Meeting. We have found these discussions spirit-filled and stimulating, and they have helped clarify the meeting's goals.

As has become our custom, we had a Christmas potluck and party, and we held a candle-lighting worship on Christmas Eve. For Easter, we continued last year's tradition and held worship in a shelter house at a local park. We provided presents and school supplies for a family with whom we have a long-standing relationship. We also provided funding for Christmas presents for children of Athens Justice Project's clients.

The meeting participated in a variety of events in our local and global community. Much of our time and funds this year was spent planning and executing the AFSC "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit, held in October. This event was organized by our Meeting, and we collaborated with a Unitarian congregation and Women in Black as co-hosts. The exhibit was a great success, drawing more than 1000 visitors during its 1-day stay.

During our meeting space clean-up, we recycled computers from the Meeting and Athens Urban Ministries (our landlords). We held our ice cream social in the summer. We collected books and toys to send to Friend's school in Monte Verde (Costa Rica), where one of our attender's family are living, and we continued to provide support for the Montessori Classrooms at Fowler Drive Elementary School.

Athens Quaker Meeting designed tee shirts reading "Wage Peace", and members wore these shirts while participating in the 5K Run/Walk for Habitat for Humanity and other local charities, the Human Rights Festival and the Hot Corner Celebration. We have continued our affiliation with Habitat by participating in the Building a Dream project; members attend meetings and are assisting with fundraising dinners for a multi-faith build scheduled for early 2006. To help spread the Quaker message, we provided a literature table, peace-related bumper stickers, and AFSC "Wage Peace" bracelets at the 27th Annual Athens Human Rights Festival and the Hot Corner Celebration.

Along with Women in Black, we organized a second anniversary protest against the Iraq War, held at the entrance to the University of Georgia. Athens Friends joined with several groups to publicly demonstrate our support for global peace and justice. Members attended walks, vigils, and informative talks. We continued our work with Common Ground, a local progressive networking organization.

As a meeting, we have struggled with providing donations to match our budgeted expectations and obligations. We contributed to memorial activities and gifts for several Friends' family members. We have begun disbursing funds for charitable contributions twice annually rather than maintaining a large savings. Although we are not united on the topic of owning a Meetinghouse, we have accounts designated for contributions to meeting house savings which are now invested in Pax World Fund and on loan to the Center for Development in Central America.

Spiritual State of the Meeting 2004
Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

"Work is love made visible." So writes 20th century mystic and poet, Kahlil Gibran. Love is the thread that weaves our lives together. Our Meeting thrives because of the love and work of caring and committed individuals, employees and volunteers alike, work that is not always visible on First day mornings during the few hours in which we meet for worship, study and fellowship. Love fills our lives and allows us to make tangible the testimonies of peace, equality, simplicity, community and integrity. The Spirit is very much alive.

We welcomed two worship groups under our care, Canton Worship Group in northwest Georgia and Gwinnett Worship Group in Norcross, a northeast Atlanta suburb. Atlanta f/Friends are actively helping with their nurture and support. We also reconnected with Anneewakee Worship Group and assisted them financially to rent a space for worship, helping to increase their numbers.

We discovered spiritual leadings in reactions to world events and in peace and justice activities. We supported many individuals and groups in their social witness and we encourage more persons to ask for support for their work in the Spirit. The witness/vigil continued weekly at Colony Square in Atlanta protesting the Iraq war and for ending our military presence there. Friends also joined the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition in their many demonstrations downtown.

The Meeting gave financial assistance to Joe Parko's and Courtney Sicheloff's defense in court to face charges from their sit-in of November 2002 in Senator Zell Miller's office, seeking a meeting to discuss the impending war against Iraq. They successfully avoided a fine and additional jail time.

Green Friends brought the Earth Charter to our attention which we endorsed and recommend to SAYMA.

Sister community El Sitio Cenicero in El Salvador used Meeting funds to conduct a feasibility study of a possible tourism project, including infrastructure requirements and training needs. Carol and Frank Cummings, who now live in nearby Suchitoto, provide the liaison between our Meeting and El Sitio and report to us frequently.

Care and Counsel has assisted several families and individual financially and with meals. Among other activities, the committee held clearness committees, organized a volunteer appreciation party, and re-started welcome dinners.

We hosted the Friends General Conference Central Committee and arranged a potluck for the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent, meeting at Morehouse College.

In considering how best to continue the work of addressing racism in the Meeting after laying down the Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, the Meeting approved the formation of a new standing committee, the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting. The committee, whose ministry is "to deepen our spiritual lives and our ability to hear the spirit in the voices of all who worship in Atlanta Friends Meeting," continued co-sponsoring with ORAIARH (Our Role As Individuals In America's Racial History) a monthly book group and also a discussion group, "Raising Non-Racist Children." The committee also provided a "Listening Ear" after Meeting for Worship as a safe space for individuals to talk through issues of racism.

Other committees regularly work to counter racism in the Meeting and also support individuals in their work against racism in their personal lives. The Administration committee designates the topic of racism as an agenda item each month, and also annually in a special meeting. ORAIARH, a subcommittee of Social Concerns, meets weekly, sets up a literature table on First Days, and sponsors occasional film showings for the Meeting. Social Concerns supports participation in actions led by and benefiting many people of color: the King Day march, the Poor Peoples Day at the Capitol and the Living Wage Coalition.

The 2004 Gathered Meeting Retreat, "Quaker Spirituality in a Culturally Diverse Community," led by Jean-Marie Barch from FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, provided participants an opportunity for a safe and healing space to work towards understanding the growing cultural and ethnic community of the Meeting. The evaluation of the retreat concluded with the idea that Meeting members can continue working towards making a welcoming environment the norm, not only within the Meeting, but also in each person's life outside of Meeting.

The Meeting joined "Georgians Against Discrimination" to fight the Georgia constitutional amendment against same-gender marriages and other legal unions, and it agreed to serve as a friend of the court in legal challenges to this amendment with Georgia Lord as the Meeting's representative in this effort. The Meeting approved a minute reaffirming our willingness to hold celebrations of commitment, including marriage, under our care for any couple regardless of sexual orientation and gender when one or both partners are active in the Meeting, and to support the efforts of same-sex and transgendered couples to gain increased legal protections, including the option of choosing the benefits of civil marriage.

We noted that First Day school classes seem smaller, yet rewarding with a focus on Quaker values and history. The average attendance has been about 24 children and youth from 2 ½ years through high school. The Meeting has strengthened the Young Friends program for youth aged 12 through 18 years by increasing financial support for the youth coordinator, and transportation and program costs. The Adult First Day class had regular attendance of 10-15 Friends, newcomers, regular attenders and members. Our discussions of readings included "Quakerism 101" from PYM; "Without Apology" by Chuck Fager, "If Grace is True", by Phillip Gulley and James Mulholland, "The Battle for God", by Karen Armstrong and "Beyond Belief", by Elaine Pagels.

To deepen the quality of worship and to assist individuals in achieving clarity of ministry with the guidance of the Spirit, Ministry and Worship committee initiated worship sharing after 4th and 5th week meetings and wrote newsletter articles focused on aspects of worship and guidelines for speaking out of the silence. Also, we are looking for solutions to the problem of inaudible messages during Meeting for Worship and formed an Ad Hoc committee on Hearing Assistance to address this concern.

The Meeting's Finances caused concern for awhile after a long-time lessee moved to new quarters. We are thankful that funds were forthcoming as the need was known.

Our Meetinghouse is aging and three major repairs were considered and approved: replacing the roof, upgrading the insulation and replacing heating/AC elements. These repairs will improve energy conservation and air quality in the Meetinghouse and will bring us in line with recommendations made by Southface, a local energy conservation group.

We rejoice in the many connections with Friends School of Atlanta and the American Friends Service Committee. The Meeting is able to host school and AFSC events at no charge and members of the Meeting serve on the school's and AFSC's respective Boards. School families become involved in the Meeting and AFSC staff connect with our social concerns.

In 2004 we welcomed 11 persons into membership: Jennifer Thompson, Roy Taylor, Chris Roesel, Maggie Hasbrouck-Lay, Janet Melnyck, Anne Lynn, David Lynn, Roby Lynn, Bailey Lynn. Debra Johnson transferred from Memphis Friends and Erin Schroeder, from New Orleans. We welcomed one new associate member, Elliott Johnson-Pritchett, son of Amy Pritchett. Sandra Beer transferred membership to Chatham (NY) Meeting and we released Marty Briggs to another congregation. Walter Degler and Sheila Hutton married under the care of the Meeting as did Heather Barbour and Tom Eberhart.

Our membership at the end of 2004 is 137, of which 119 are living in the Atlanta area and 18 are outside of the area, plus many active attenders.

Karen Morris, Clerk

Berea Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report for 2004-05

Much has occurred in our meeting this past year, but the events that have had the greatest impact are our all-but-completed purchase of a meeting house, and our loss of two long-term Friends who were intricately woven into the fabric of our meeting. As we look to the new year, we find ourselves excited by the possibilities of owning our meeting house, but it is a poignant time as we face this new future without our dear friends Louise Harmon and Peter Reilly.

Louise, who had courageously and with much faith battled cancer for years, died in June 2004, and Peter died very unexpectedly this past February. Both deaths were tremendous blows to our community, and to their families. Their memorial services were powerful spiritual experiences, and we had to use the local First Christian Church for both of them in order to accommodate the large number of attenders. We heard from many community people on how much they appreciated the Quaker format of a memorial service, and Berea Friends as well felt again the healing and power inherent in our simple and open way of honoring those who have passed on.

In the future, we would like to host some type of celebration of our new meeting house, with an invitation to the wider community to join us. We would like to include in this celebration some type of remembrance of the Friends who have passed away. It seems appropriate, as we plan for our future outreach and witness, that we remember those who, through their wonderful spirits and gifts, brought our spiritual community to the place we are today.

This first meeting house purchase has generated a great deal of enthusiasm in our meeting. As we approach yearly meeting we are looking forward to closing soon on the purchase of the building in which we have been meeting for almost 10 years. In addition to two large meeting rooms, the building includes an apartment, several smaller rooms and a small kitchen off one of the meeting rooms.

Berea Friends prepared financially for the purchase of a meetinghouse over several years. In 1997, we established a Meetinghouse Fund to which Friends could contribute toward the purchase of a meetinghouse. Later we set up a Meetinghouse Loan Fund through which Friends could lend money to the Meeting with the intention of contributing the funds when the meetinghouse idea became a reality. Several times in the past we surveyed members and active attenders about how much they could contribute toward a down payment and whether they would increase their regular contributions if we had the responsibility of a meetinghouse to keep up. All of this preparation stood us in good stead as we considered our ability to purchase and pay for our new building.

Financially, the year has been remarkable. At the beginning of our last fiscal year, on May 1, 2004, the balance in the Meetinghouse Fund stood at \$26,386. By late May 2005, the balance was over \$100,000 and still growing. Three families lent money to the Meeting for the purchase, many local and distant members made contributions, and the Meeting applied memorial gifts received over the year to the Meetinghouse Fund. The Meeting had no trouble securing the balance of the funds needed as a loan from a local bank.

Also during the year, Berea Friends established a Healing Fund (the third of its kind in the history of the Meeting) to facilitate contributions to a Meeting-related family facing extraordinary expenses and loss of income due to illness. From February to May we received \$8,400 through this Healing Fund and passed those funds on to the family. In mid-May we established a Service Fund to facilitate contributions to a 2005 Berea College graduate who is planning a year of working with Tibetan refugees in India. By the end of May we had received just under \$3,000 on this student's behalf. The special funds have provided a structure through which Friends, family, and others not connected to our Meeting can provide financial support for people they care about.

We have been continuing our adult second hour discussions, and recently one of our members has facilitated a series of second hours on the Gnostic gospels. Our Friday soup suppers are continuing as a way to fellowship together, and we are also continuing the mid-week discussion groups when a minimum participation is met.

As we do every Christmas, we did a inter-generational activity of preparing cookies and cards for everyone in the county jail. The children also participated in the trick-or-treat for UNICEF in October, collecting donations door-to-door. Our children continue to join the adult Meeting for Worship for as long as they wish, exiting to a separate quiet room when they feel the need to do more active activities. The formal children's religious education program still happens at the same time as the second hour time for adults.

The meeting membership rolls remain about the same as last year, with 51 adults and 7 children. Average attendance is around 20 or so swelling to near 30 some Sundays. We have seen an increase in visitors, but regular attendance has not changed much since last year. The regular 5 children attending are between the ages of 2 and 11.

Birmingham (Alabama) Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report, April 2004-April 2005

The highlight of Birmingham Friends life this year is the wedding of Lisa Wienhold and Jon Bartlett held at Tannehill State Park on April 23, 2005. The clearness process led to our deeper friendship with both Lisa and Jon and our appreciation for Jon's deep spirituality formed by his Christian Science heritage. Friends' discussion of Elizabeth Watson's *Marriage in the Light* reminded us, through her beautiful language and common sense, of the best that any close relationship can provide.

We enjoy the gifts of professional photographer Mark Gooch, a generous Friend who records for us our most treasured moments in the life of the Meeting. In addition to photographing Lisa and Jon's wedding, he has taken pictures of Friends during our NCCJ walks, tending the garden and the Meeting House, playing with children and for other special occasions. He prepared a scrapbook capturing the spirit of BFM as well as individual Friends for Jim Flege, whom we are losing to his bride, Tullia and to their new home in Italy. Jim has been clerk, ministry and nurture clerk and a deeply centered spiritual presence in the day-to-day, month-to-month and year-to-year processes Birmingham Friends Meeting and we look forward to his and Tullia's visits to the condo they are maintaining in our city.

Another special celebration was our annual Christmas party, in which we hosted families who have mothers or fathers enrolled in the World of Opportunity Program; Friend Bill Seadler volunteers in the program as tutor to those studying for a GED. We are planning a cookout for these families and those in our neighborhood to be held in June. Some Friends have also established pen pal relationships with the World of Opportunity clients, developing a bridge across racial and class lines.

BFM purposely bought a house in a mixed-race, city neighborhood, and we're working at becoming good neighbors. Each Christmas we give what would be our property tax to our local grammar school P.T.A. (Regarding taxes, we also refuse to pay federal taxes on our telephone bill.)

Our outreach includes buying a table at the annual fundraiser banquet of the Church of the Reconciler (an inner-city, inter-racial church which offers worship services, social services, and meals to the poor and homeless). Friend and Quaker house tenant Ray Fancher is employed by the church.

Other outreach activities include participation in the G.I. Rights Hotline, spearheaded by Adrian Smythies, and the dedication of one room in the Meeting House as a Peace Center open to all and participation in peace demonstrations with Pax Christi and the Birmingham Peace Fellowship, such as the major demonstration on the anniversary of our entry into the Iraq war lamenting our government's responsibility for that. We hosted Birmingham peacekeepers and several Buddhist monks making a walk through the South on their way to the Oak Ridge Hiroshima Day demonstration.

One major concern has been sending aid to Africa; we have viewed videos on Sudan and we have sponsored a Rwandan orphan in Rwanda. We are especially concerned with the AIDS epidemic and have scheduled a social concerns discussion with Katrina Julian of UAB Medical Center on that topic. We have a Quaker Oats box in which Friends drop change during coffee breaks for various international groups

providing aid to various populations. Individual Friends also made substantial donations through the Meeting to AFSC for their Tsunami relief work.

We hosted two cyclists (riding through the rain) from New York who are cycling across the country listening to people's life stories and we hosted and learned much from Julie Harlowe of Moscow Friends House during her stay with us. Several members are involved with Project Hope against the death penalty and after each U.S. execution a black flag lamenting the death of a fellow human being is flown from the top window of the Meeting House.

Nancy Whitt was a member of the first class of the Interfaith Leadership Institute sponsored by the Alabama National Conference for Community and Justice. Her class published a booklet of stories of individual faith communities, coming Islam, Bahai, Buddhist, Jewish, and Christian communities across racial and class lines in Birmingham. Friends also participated in the annual NCCJ fundraising walk which brings together diverse people from throughout the city.

Within our small community, we have enriched ourselves by tending our house, enjoying workdays in which the house is cleaned and flowers are planted. We also added a wheelchair ramp and made our bathroom handicapped accessible this year. On one Friday each month we enjoy a "simple supper" at a Friend's house. The hosting family makes soup and another Friend brings bread and all enjoy the food and companionship.

During "second hours" following worship, in addition to one Sunday being devoted to meeting for business and one for social concerns, we devote two Sundays a month to Quakerism 101 topics, this year including queries, differing Friends' traditions, Universalist Friends, and, of course Quaker weddings. We also read and discussed Elaine Pagels' *Beyond Belief*, her study of the Gospel of Thomas. On several Sundays we listened to Houston Smith's video series on world religions.

Another opportunity for enjoying each other was provided by Peter Furst's creative listening project, a six-week series of meetings during which Friends responded to questions about their spiritual and social lives without interruption or comment. He is developing a compassionate listening series for the upcoming year.

One of our most joyful experiences this year has been our sharing in the lives of several "Quaker kids." The youngest, Maggie, is two; the oldest, Ian, is nine. Molly is five and the cohort of six-year-olds include Emma (presently sporting a pink cast on her broken arm), Lincoln and Henry, who listen to stories, provide us with art work, and sometimes make cookies for us. We have a group of young intellectuals who are also empathetic. We were touched by Emma's ability to make our young World of Opportunity guests feel welcome at our Christmas party.

BFM Women's Meeting has grown beyond Friends to include women of other faiths and some academic women. Currently we meet once a month to discuss books and our lives.

Our small group of Friends has accomplished a lot this year, but we are aware of challenges that lay before us. We would like more interaction with our neighbors and need to work harder on learning who they are and how we can welcome each other as members of the same community. In fact outreach in general is a continual concern; most people are still unaware of Quakers in Birmingham, despite advertising in the newspaper (now discontinued as ineffective) and a news story or two in which we are mentioned. Ray Fancher developed a website through which some have found us. We have a strong e-mail connection, but we're afraid sometimes those not on e-mail remain outside the information loop. We also ask ourselves how we can become more of a community for those among us with special needs, especially as our population ages.

We have long-term and short-term hard working and deeply appreciated attenders who have not been led to join the Society. We have not had a clearness committee for membership in a while.

We might have to rev up for draft counseling, though we pray the draft will not be reinstated and we also need to invigorate the Peace Center for greater participation by citizens of greater Birmingham. We would also like to participate more fully in the drive to re-write Alabama's unjust and racist 1901 constitution.

We lament the fact that Birmingham Friends have been unable to participate more fully in Wider

Quaker Organizations, particularly SAYMA. We look forward to the representative meeting to be held among us this year.

Finally, we all celebrate the renewed health of Connie LaMonte. Her tests following a very tough year of treatment for ovarian cancer have been exceedingly positive and her friends rejoice with her as she re-enters with renewed energy an active life of music, counseling, travel and being fully present to her friends and family.

BREVARD (NC) FRIENDS MEETING
Report to SAYMA -- June 9, 2005

Members: 15 Adults, 1 child Regular Attenders: 20 Ave. attendance at Worship: 15

Our Meeting remains a small, yet vital group. We have added one new member, Barbara Chamides, and have also been enriched by the regular presence of several new attenders. One non-resident member, Jay Williams, of South Carolina, died during the year. We celebrated the birth of Arawen Layton Leasure, Dec. 20, daughter of attenders Chanley Layton and Harvest Leasure.

Our Meetings for Worship provide a helpful balance of thoughtful, deep silence and inspired, heartfelt and diverse verbal ministry. SAYMA's Committee on Ministry and Nurture met here in March. Its members conducted a worship sharing session involving our Meeting on the topic, "Love of God, Fear of God". The meditation provided our seekers with new insights into the subject and the participants.

Our main time of fellowship is monthly "Meeting for Eating". Study and discussion opportunities are provided by our bi-weekly Adult Forum, using the book *Plain Living*, by Catherine Whitmire, and two Friendly Eights groups which meet occasionally. The Committee on Ministry & Oversight meets bi-monthly. Other committees meet as necessary.

The Meeting Newsletter, written by Jesse Mock after each Meeting for Business, keeps everyone informed. In addition, we strive to stay connected through e-mails, telephoning, and personal visits.

We received a big surprise in March: a notice that our "home" at Sharing House (since July of 1992) will no longer be available to us after the end of May. We are engaged in the process of finding a short-term meeting place, and then we will turn our attention toward a long-term solution. Maybe, at long last, we will have a meeting room with windows!

Although we do not have a local "Quaker" project per se, our members are engaged in many activities in the community: volunteer work with the Center for Dialogue which our Meeting helped start, a local bread kitchen, Children's Center, war protests and peace vigils, work against the death penalty, and writing or calling state and national legislators.

We believe we are an important presence in our community and in the world, and we remain committed to making that presence ever stronger.

Grace, Peace, and Love

[**Approved, Meeting for Business, May 15, 2005**]

Celo Monthly Meeting - State of Meeting
May 2005

The heart of Celo Meeting remains our worship experience, which continues to have great depth and life. The return of attenders and members from the past, a surge in new attenders, and a steady increase in memberships have all contributed to this vitality. But we have also experienced an increased level of coming

and going from Meeting during worship, which disturbs several worshiper. The clerks and Ministry and Care have undertaken gently but firmly to make worshiper mindful of this concern.

2004 was an election year, and several of us took active part in campaigning for the losing side. Mindful of the pain and sorrow for our nation, the world polity, and the earth that the election results portended, the clerks scheduled a midweek worship sharing about the election on Wednesday November 3, so as to lessen the possibility of a highly politicized meeting for worship the following first Day. The sharing was rich and deeply moving, and our meeting community was joined by several neighbors in the sharing. Two of these began attending meeting thereafter. The clerk did need to step in to end a discussion that sprang from our habitual close, "Does any Friend have something to add that did not rise to the level of ministry out of the silence?" This reminded us that this grey area between worship time dedicated to listening and speaking out of the silence and announcements needed further attention as to proper ordering of these "borderline" messages. Celo Friends wonder if other SAYMA meetings have experience with this issue.

We continue to labor with our First Day School program, particularly the challenge of creating a meaningful program for teens which actually draws them to the Meeting. We have observed with great interest Asheville Meeting's active First Day School ministry, and have held two meetings to consider how to bring younger Friends from kindergarten up into a longer worship experience with us. An ongoing concern is that the parents still bear most of the burden of leadership and staffing our First Day School activities. After a couple of active years in the adult education program, interest has ebbed, and we await the dehiscence of new seeds from amongst our adult members and attenders.

Peace and Social Concerns continued this year with a small but consistent committee. With the war in Iraq, a degree of dismay and disillusionment has affected Celo Friends, but as the tsunami in southeast Asia demonstrated events may be determined by forces beyond human power to control or even comprehend. The committee's response to these events has been some shift of focus and temporal perspective. We have continued the work of Chuck Fager of Quaker House, who brought the "Consumer's Guide to the Military" to our local high school in the fall. We are also inspired by Cookeville Friends' success in opening their high school to a fuller picture of the implications of military service for teens. One of our clerks spoke out valiantly against the decision by the local school board to initiate a Junior ROTC program, but was given short shrift by the board. However, the County Commissioners agreed to monitor the whether the claimed benefits of the program justify ongoing funding.

Celo Friends are working with other local churches to start an Interfaith Peace Council. Friends hope to give counsel to students considering military service, possibly with the help of other churches. This Council has emerged from the fellowship of different faith communities at the weekly peace vigil in the Burnsville Town Square, begun by a Meeting attender and ongoing since December. In addition Celo has attended the fledgling peace network at Common Light in Black Mountain, along with three other western NC SAYMA meetings. We again sent a delegation to the School of the Americas Watch this November in Columbus GA.

Celo Friends have worked to bring Rural Southern Voice for Peace, begun by a member of our meeting, into better communication with SAYMA, which has resulted in the director reporting at the 2005 SAYMA Yearly Meeting for Business sessions. We have requested a SAYMA rep to be brought forward from Nominating Committee as a liaison to RSVP.

The Meeting matched personal contributions to tsunami relief, thereby raising more than \$2,000. More importantly, two members helped in tsunami relief efforts in South Asia, including two weeks medical relief work in South India by a doctor and another member's help with initial relief in Sri Lanka, where she was visiting family when the wave hit.

We are delighted to report steady progress on our new meeting house, which is now closed in and decked. The basic design was worked out by a local master timberframe builder, with design details worked out as we go along by called meetings for business. It features a timberframe roof with standard construction walls. The roof timbers, decking, and interior wainscoting were all cut and milled by the Meeting. The electrical plan includes sound amplification for the hard of hearing. A riverrock chimney has just been

completed, with stone gathered by the Meeting and Arthur Morgan School in separate workdays from a liberal supply of rock deposits left by the fall '04 hurricane-induced floods. The Meeting has taken great care with the design decision making process by called meetings, which have frequently been monthly. For the most part, members have shown great forbearance in reaching consensus where there has occasionally been strong disagreement. As in other instances, it has been fortuitous to have two Meeting clerks to share this responsibility. The building process is moving along slowly but surely, and the building is beautiful. Y'all come.

Census: Celo Meeting has experienced one death, one birth, and we have received two attenders into membership. We recently provided support and have held two spirit-filled Meetings for Healing for a member suffering from a recurrent cancer. We are losing a longtime meeting stalwart, moving to the Pacific Northwest, who has been an active member, officer, and generous donor, including a gift which made Margithaus - our caretaker residence and social center - possible.

Respectfully submitted to SAYMA,
Bob McGahey, co-clerk

State of the Meeting 2005 Charleston, WV

Charleston Friends Meeting focused more on internal spiritual growth than on concerns of the world this year, though we continue to pray for peace and reconciliation among nations as we hold our leaders in the Light. We began occasional worship sharing on the fifth First Day of the month, and set aside the last few minutes of worship for expressions of joys and concerns by those present.

Meeting for Worship is usually held in space rented from a community development organization. Attendance has increased, with more frequent visitors and the addition of new (and returning) families. We rejoice when adult children of Friends return for visits, or sojourn in the community enriching our lives with their enthusiasm and experience. We are blessed by having members and attenders with the gift of ministry, and we worship in sometimes deep silence, surrounded by the bustle of a city neighborhood.

Meeting continues its concerns about the American Friends Service Committee -sponsored West Virginia Economic Justice Project and NEW Plus Project. We held two project staff in the Light as they confronted serious health problems, and grieved the loss of Carol Sharlip this spring after a long illness. Through its Peace and Social Concerns committee, Meeting is offering support to the project as way opens. We still hope for stable and adequate funding for this valuable social ministry.

Our experiment with worship sharing began with exploration of how individuals came to Friends, and what makes Meeting important to them. Thinking prayerfully about things that might enrich Friends spiritual life that weren't present then in meeting led to a change in the format of worship, by adding an informal period for sharing joys and concerns and holding people in the Light that many appreciate. More recently we have examined faith and work, and are continuing to look at manifestations of faith in Friends' daily lives in worship sharing.

We continue an informal adult discussion series. Robert Helvey, a retired military officer with a talent for organizing, led a discussion on the work of the Albert Einstein Institution, which has fomented nonviolent democratic change in various parts of the world using tactics similar to the recent Orange revolution in the Ukraine. Referrals from SAYMA resulted in thoughtful discussions on faith and the environment, which continued through consideration of Lester Brown's *Plan B*. Friends struggled to express their concerns for the environment in spiritual terms and in accord with Quaker testimonies, often finding their technical expertise distracting them from the central issue. A discussion on Quakers and Islam brought a fruitful exchange with the local Islamic center, and gave Friends a better appreciation of the faith and

practice of our Muslim brothers and sisters. It also led to an opportunity to express solidarity through contributing to Muslim relief efforts after the devastating tsunami.

For many years, we have prepared a holiday breakfast for mothers and children in a local women's shelter. We also prepare dinner for men's shelter residents in midwinter. We've also maintained our ties to the broader religious community through participation in the Interfaith Council, and the West Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. Several Friends are active in the West Virginia Patriots for Peace, which holds Friday noon vigils and other events in opposition to the ongoing war in Iraq.

A twice monthly Bible Study group meets in Friends' homes.

Heavy rains in September caused flooding near the Ohio River and forced us to cancel the regional fall Quaker gathering. We look forward to resuming the gathering this year.

Charleston Friends were disappointed by the outcome of the fall's election, not so much by who won and lost, as by the message it seemed to send about the climate of fear in our country. We are saddened by the "permanent war" mentality that appears to have a grip on good people who otherwise share our faith. We are discouraged by the continued violence in the middle east and elsewhere, and dismayed by our country's role in much of it. However, we are also inspired by the millions of Americans who do *not* think the war in Iraq was worth it, who question the wisdom of a foreign policy based on bluster and coercion, and a domestic agenda based on greed. We were moved by the echo of George Fox that we read in Peggy Senger Parsons' letter on "Exactly the same number of peacemakers," when she reminded us, "I am first a citizen of another country, one that is not bound by time or geography, one that is not affected by fear or greed or ignorance. It is the only country that gets my full allegiance, and the only army I will fight in. It is the Kingdom of Christ, and He is my sovereign and friend, and co-creator. And when I work and fight for His cause, it can only benefit this temporal realm."

State of the Meeting Report, Chattanooga Friends Meeting 5th month/2004 to 5th month/2005

The year has gone by swiftly as Chattanooga Friends continue to provide a place for Friends and attenders to meet in an unprogrammed manner. We have worked on how to improve our ways of greeting newcomers while educating those who come more often. While we rejoice in the attenders who have made our meeting their own and in the return of former Friends who have come back, we have been saddened by the departure of dear Friends to other places in the country or world. Despite the quickly departing year, we have completed several projects and feel uplifted by what we have accomplished.

Chattanooga Friends have focused on enriching the experience of meeting for worship by encouraging Friends to worship and speak true to their leadings from the Spirit. Through our newsletter, second hour discussions, and committee meetings, we have discussed how we know when there is a message, whether the message is for us individually or for us as a corporate body, and when to speak during meeting for worship. We have also rewritten our "Welcome to New Attenders" note, and we have designed a packet of material which we call the "Inquirer's Packet." It is to be given to attenders after they have been coming for three or four visits, and it includes various Friendly tracts as well as the meeting directory, and SAYMA's guide to faith and practice.

Some of our projects have lasted only a day or so while others have been ongoing. In the summer of 2004, we hosted two Buddhist monks who were on a peace march to the Oak Ridge nuclear arms plant, and in the 3rd month of 2005, we entertained Julie Harlow as she traveled to educate Friends about Moscow Quaker House. We welcomed the SAYMA Representative Meeting in December and that proved to be enriching. Our First Day School continues to do well. Our community garden produced loads of produce, although we only had three regular gardeners. We have continued to be active in Chattanooga's chapter of the Interfaith Hospitality Network for homeless families.

Our meetinghouse has had its repairs. We replaced windows and storm windows, installed a vapor barrier in the basement in an attempt to reduce mold and fungus in the main part of the house, we remodeled the bathrooms, did some interior painting and most recently installed window locks. A yet unresolved situation is still unfolding as we solve the mystery of three break-ins. All of the time and money we spent on the meetinghouse has led us to question how we spent our time and energy. The meetinghouse, as a few Friends have pointed out, is a concrete reminder of our presence in Chattanooga and it comforts them just knowing it is there.

As a first-time clerk, I have found the job to be demanding yet rewarding. The meeting sent me to a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill facilitated by Arthur Larrabee. That was incredibly helpful and uplifting. One of the points that came out in that workshop was that we are not just “x” number of people coming together to worship but we are “x + 1” total, including the Holy Spirit, the body and spirit of Jesus, who is with us as we worship and pray. The Light is the adhesive that binds us together as a body in unity. Without that Love, we are only individuals. It is the responsibility of the clerk to see that Meetings for Worship with the Attention to Business go smoothly with all voices heard, no one being disrespected, but the whole meeting being held together by the Light of Love.

Submitted by Chuck Jones, clerk,
For the Chattanooga Friends Meeting
This 5th month of 2005

State of the Meeting, Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Columbia, South Carolina, June 2004-2005

Columbia Friends Meeting continues to be a lively and spirited presence in central South Carolina. We have experienced changes both within the meeting and how it relates to the larger community. As in past years those changes have involved deep thought and we continue to require us to seek further guidance and discernment.

Columbia Friends were blessed with one new member, Norma Jackson, and were happy to have new attenders which included two families with young children and several college students from the country of Colombia. Our new attenders helped ease the loss of Friends leaving for Walhalla and Russia as well as one family on sabbatical in Portugal. We miss one Friend who left to pursue a different spiritual calling.

Friends continued their work in the larger community. Involvement included prison visitation, community mediation, volunteerism in the homeless community and local peace resource center, and continued support to the local Women in Black vigils against war. We continued our participation in wider Quaker service with representatives to FGC, Quaker House and AFSC Corporation and New Garden Friends School Board. We continue to seek opportunities to work with other groups in support of the Minute on our experience with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Friends from FGC. We supported a family member of an attender engaged in civil protest. We have joined a military counter recruitment campaign.

Among nurturance needs were comfort on the loss of a family member and fundraising for a family member of a Friend injured seriously in another state. Continued prayers are needed as he starts a difficult recovery. We offered nurturance and prayers for Friends recovering from illness and those needing emotional and spiritual support.

Our vibrant group of 16 Young Friends included ages 18 months to 19 years of age and their energy and enthusiasm has greatly blessed our meeting this year. First day School has had a series of programs on Bible Study, biographies of significant Friends, craft projects, and community service projects. One young friend graduated from High School. Others attained honors and achievements including the publication of an essay in Friends Journal and submission of letters to the editor of our local paper. One of our young friends

serves on our Ministry and Nurture Committee. Young friends have also ably led several of the adult second hour of worship on different topics including the gathering of information for this report.

Columbia is blessed with many friends who have led interesting and challenging programs with a special appreciation for Bible Study and others who spoke their heart about personal witness. Outside speakers have included Julie Harlow (Friends House Moscow), Ricardo Esquivia from Colombia; Chuck Fager from Quaker House; Barbara McClain local activist, Antonio Vasques of Project Voice AFSC; Humberto Brown of AFSC NYC, Carlos Rosero, Rafael Perea, MD of Colombia, and local community leader Mary Rawl.

Meeting concerns during the year involved speaking slowly, loudly, and clearly in meeting, remembering that we speak from many voices and experiences and we want to remain inclusive. We expressed a desire to have a prophetic voice as well as a welcoming voice. In our programming we strive to be balanced in meeting programming needs. The meeting recognizes the importance in expressing our interest and acting on our concern for nurturing young friends. We continue to struggle with our interest and need for worship and activity space of our own. How to allocate our funds, with friends having varied strong feelings, and how the budget can reflect the right spiritual direction for the meeting remains foremost on our minds as we continue to hold that struggle in the light.

State of the Cookeville Preparative Meeting, May 2005

The Cookeville Preparative Meeting has enjoyed its life as a spiritual community in the past year. We continue to meet regularly, grateful for the friendship and faithful support from those we know and appreciate, even if we have not always found unity on some issues. We have also enjoyed more frequent drop-in visitors this year, some of whom have participated in parts of the meeting life.

This year the Meeting has worked to provide information on military enlistment in the local high school. Along with the Veterans for Peace group, several in the Meeting set up a literature table in the school commons to inform students of their options, such as the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, to suggest questions that students should ask recruiters, and to point out the effects of war on returning veterans. After the principal received a complaint about some of the literature, extensive meetings and negotiations ensued with him, the school board, and the director of schools. The ACLU, the national Veterans for Peace, and Quaker advocacy organizations contributed advice and counsel to our efforts. Ultimately, in awareness of federal court precedents concerning discrimination against or denying access to a speaker solely to suppress a point of view, the school administration agreed to accept our presence in the school and our efforts to help students fully realize what a decision to commit to the military could mean in their lives. After considerable discussion, the Sense of the Meeting, with one person standing aside, was not to inform the press of this outcome but to simply thank the school administration, in hopes of keeping existing communication bridges open. The difficulty of reaching a Sense of the Meeting made us realize that we need to sharpen our consensus-building skills and learn more about what “standing aside” means.

Spiritual highs of the year include being allowed back into the high school through dialog rather than litigation; our second annual retreat, at which we explored, through queries, how to prepare inwardly and outwardly for worship; hosting a 6-week Quakerism 101 course, which drew on our own and outside resources; initiating what turned out to be a large and successful benefit for a family undergoing the stress of major illness; and participating in a Seder sponsored by the local Havurah group and the Unitarian-Universalists.

Annual Report of the Crossville Friends Meeting to SAYMA 2004/05

1. The weekly Meeting for Worship has been held during the year at the Pleasant Hill - Uplands - Retirement Community, a convenience for the 5 members who live in Pleasant Hill. Other members/attenders come by car, driving from Crossville or Knoxville.

2. The Meeting members continued to voice their strong opposition to the government's war efforts in the Middle East and elsewhere, and wrote frequent individual letters of protest to legislators, letters to the editor, etc.

3. Dennis Gregg, founder and Headmaster of the Obed Headwaters School which has been located at the Crossville Friends Meeting House for the past five and a half years, has with great regret decided to close the school while keeping on several students to the end of the year exceptionally to complete their academic requirements.

4. The Meeting has sought to find ways of reaching out to Friends and others who might be interested in a Quaker meeting located on the premises of the Uplands Retirement Community, and has consequently placed an ad in the classified section of the *Friends Journal* during the past year which will be continued thru the coming year.

5. The Meeting continues to support Central American aid projects, aid initiated by Toby Rogers. He has continued to find funds for the purchase of used school buses, which for year after year he has located, rehabilitated, and filled with miscellaneous school supplies, and then driven south as a donation to needy schools there. To date three school buses, two trucks, and four other vehicles have been donated to schools in Central America.

6. The Meeting House continues to be used by a group of some 10 to 15 who meet for worship and discussions each Sunday evening.

7. Special attention continues to be needed to ensure the timely control of termites in and around the Meeting House, which has been done by the appropriate placement of termite stakes on a timely basis.

8. Meeting for Worship was held at the Cumberland State Park over the Easter weekend as in past years. The Meeting had rented an entire unit with some members staying over the weekend.

9. Meeting members continue to participate in the Friends Committee of National Legislation (FCNL) Letter Writing Project, which among other topics focuses on the global problem of small and light weapons which kill an average of 300,000 people every year. Each month the project focuses on a different topic.

10. Meeting members continue to select in advance an article from the *Friends Journal* for discussion following Meeting for Worship each week. It has been found that this helps members to read the *Journal* more regularly than heretofore.

Foxfire Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report, 2005

In December we sent a letter to Hutala, Afghanistan, after consultation with the leader of the local mosque and a knowledgeable attender who has had over 30 years of experience teaching in the Middle East, and is familiar with the customs and speaks Arabic. This coincided with the one year anniversary of the US bombing of their village.

One Sunday in late January we were outnumbered by visitors! Oh happy day! All have been back, and five (one family) have become regular attenders.

The newcomers have given us an opportunity to revisit Quaker process and history. For several years the acronym QPE, meaning "Quaker Process Exercise," has been on our calendar for second hour every fourth Sunday. In the hour, anything related to Quaker process is discussed. Recently, we had a lengthy and meaty brainstorming session about childcare and what we want from children's religious education.

Another Foxfire tradition is to hold an occasional "Foxfire Day." This year we gathered to address the query of "What do we expect from our Meeting?", to give our meetinghouse a good Spring Cleaning, and share a bought pizza.

During second hour two Sundays a month, we have been studying Beyond Belief by Elaine Pagels. Bob Keiter's tree house in the meetinghouse play yard continues to delight those who see it and those who play in it. SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee met at Foxfire one weekend this winter and enriched our Sunday worship.

Some Foxfire f/Friends were led to provide food for 28 peace marchers (from the U.S., Australia, and Japan), who stopped at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Gray on their way from Oak Ridge to New York City. They intend to submit to the United Nations a proposed resolution asking for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the dismantling of current nuclear weapons. Some Foxfire f/Friends joined the walkers for a spell, some for a full day.

Four Foxfire f/Friends also took part in a peace rally in Fayetteville, NC, on March 19, and six took part in the peace rally in Asheville on March 20. Caleb Shimberg, an attender of our Meeting, was one of the speakers. A new elegant one-person banner, black lettering on deep red, announced "another Quaker voice for peace" on one side and "Foxfire Friends Meeting" on the other and included SAYMA's website address.

Greenville Monthly Meeting Annual Report for June 1, 2004-May 31, 2005

We continue to be proud of and excited by the growth of the Greenville Monthly Meeting (GMM). We have 14-18 attenders (which typically includes 1-2 Furman University students) and continue to embrace visitors from the other churches. We have also welcomed several children as occasional attenders, which has required that GMM address the spiritual and logistical needs of offering First Day School. We also had to say goodbye to four attenders/members who moved out of the area.

GMM's Activities

We have been involved in many activities during the past year, most of which were reported in our regularly published newsletter.

The Clemson Preparatory Meeting remains under our care, and we are encouraged by its ongoing development. We have continued our mid-week Worship Group at Furman University, gathering each Wednesday from 12:00-12:30 in the Chapel of the university. Several visiting students have been welcomed to the Furman Worship Group since September.

In the fall, our Clerk gave a presentation about Quakerism to the "Mere Christianity Forum" (a student organization at Furman), which meets every Monday evening to discuss various religious topics.

We were happy and proud to accept Victoria Welborn, one of our attenders (and current GMM treasurer), as an official member of our Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends.

Two of our attenders are now overseas engaged in exciting activities. One (who is a GMM member) is teaching English in a school in Mexico, and the other is serving in Cameroon with the Peace Corps. They provide us with email updates of their activities and adventures.

GMM representatives also continue to attend programs organized by Palmetto Friends Group (PFG) and SAYMA. This spring, GMM members and members from the Clemson Group participated in the annual PFG gathering, which was held in Columbia. We recognize that we would benefit by more involvement in PFG and SAYMA committees and programs.

Especially rewarding has been our attempt to educate and enlighten ourselves about Quakerism and Quaker activities. So far, this has taken the form of three different sessions following Meeting for Worship. The first one focused on our reactions to an article in *The Friends Journal* ("The Divine Source of Vocal Ministry"); the second one centered on our responses to a general query ("Does, or should, speech serve the same function in everyday life as it does in Meeting for Worship?"); and the most recent session involved

watching and discussing a video on Quaker House. (The Quaker House web site describes its mission in the following manner: “Quaker House of Fayetteville [NC] is a witness of the peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends. 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.”) GMM is raising money (separate from its budgeted funds) to contribute to Quaker House after Memorial Day.

As noted in the overview, GMM has been excited by the challenges associated with establishing a First Day School (FDS). Although still evolving, our FDS typically serves the needs of one to three children. A parent and a member/attender work together with the children, leading a variety of activities, including reading stories (many with a Quaker element); observing and identifying things in nature; and assorted craft projects.

A small group in GMM is still interested in finding a permanent home for GMM so that we can meet at a time suited to our group for Sunday worship. The efforts of this group are being undertaken with much reflection and consideration for what is best for GMM.

GMM has also tentatively explored the possibility of channeling the talents of one of our attenders into the area of pediatric healthcare for homeless families. The initial conversations have been informative and warmly received, but they have not yet produced tangible opportunities for our attender.

We conducted two Clearness Committees. Both focused on job-related/vocational issues.

GMM’s Giving Opportunities

GMM has felt led over the past year to dedicate time and financial assistance to various groups and individuals. Most of our financial contributions were to local/state groups. This included supplying clothing and other items to a family at Christmas. Furthermore, we continue to have a representative on the Board of Directors of the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (a local group that focuses on the needs of homeless families). We also contributed to relief funds after Hurricane Charley struck the west coast of Florida.

GMM’s Fellowship

GMM continues to rejoice in mutual fellowship. We enjoy socializing after meeting with refreshments and conversation. This has been followed by singing on one or two occasions.

As we noted in last year’s report, we possess much talent and potential for spiritual growth and leadership. We pray for opportunities to serve God and our community, and to continue to find joy in the Light and among ourselves.

Conclusion

As a Meeting, we make efforts at leading simple, environmentally-responsible lives. Indeed, one of our attenders recently had a letter published in The Friends Journal pertaining to this general issue. Given our concerns along these lines, we would like to close our report with a verse that was shared by two of our former attenders, Lew and Helen Stratton:

Work with joy.
Pray with love.
Dream from your heart.
Share what you have.
Live simply.
Love deeply.
Thank God always.

Presented by Scott Henderson, Clerk
May 1, 2005

**Huntsville Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report**

(available in hard copy only)

**Memphis Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report, 2004-2005**

How is the Spirit Faring Among Memphis Friends Meeting?

In Memphis Friends Meeting the gathering for worship remains our center pole. It is there we are most aware of the Spirit among us. This year our vocal ministry has often expressed concerns for our nation, its leadership, the war, the love of the enemy or how to find God in those we strongly disagree with. Out of such concerns came the opportunity to help bring the AFSC *Eyes Wide Open Exhibit* to Memphis. This display of over 1,300 pairs of combat boots and scores of civilian shoes represented some of the human cost of the Iraq war. Rain threatened, but the outdoor exhibit at the National Civil Rights Museum was very moving. We have continued to display a tally of casualties on a large sign from our front Meetinghouse window.

Ministry and Nurture has been an active committee this year in support of the Meeting. They have focused on Inreach and Outreach – creating two brown-bag lunch series after meeting on introductory Quakerism and the testimonies. They continue to focus on opportunities for building and supporting a greater sense of community. The meeting was also challenged this year by what seemed at times to be inappropriate vocal ministry. Ministry and Nurture considered ways to nurture the Meeting through this time which necessitated patience and gentle eldery. This may not have changed the behavior, but it was an opportunity for us to deepen our spiritual community as we sought corporately to seek that of God in a difficult situation.

The Memphis Young Friends have grown in number this year, with 3 toddlers, 1 high-schooler, 3 new middle-schoolers, and a consistent group of active boys and a girl. They were most fond of Ron McDonald's storytelling, which occasionally could be heard through the meeting room wall, leaving us all curious. In addition to these stories, First Day School included lessons on conscientious objection, nonviolence and having a meeting for business to decide actions to help the victims of the tsunami. We see evidence in the words and concerns of these Young Friends that they have a heart for justice and peace, that encourages us all. We have also seen the development of character and leadership as Young Adult Friends, who have grown up in the Meeting, begin to take on roles of responsibility, such as recording clerk and yearly meeting workshop leader.

Shiloh Barnat joined her family (Stephen and baby Lydia) in membership this year. We are enriched by the Friends who are newer to the Meeting as they become involved, and share their gifts and concerns with us. Ministries of the Meeting most often depend on individuals sharing these gifts and concerns. We have continued making and serving quarterly meals at a homeless shelter for women and children. Our newsletter has a strong voice and helps keep us connected. Our involvement with the larger Quaker world continues through volunteer leadership with the Yearly Meeting.

The Spirit fares among us from the centering worship out into the world, in varied, simple and sometimes challenging ways.

Nashville Friends State of the Meeting Report – May, 2005

“How does the Spirit fare among us?”

The Nashville Friends Meeting is a spiritual community with many parts. Our new Meetinghouse, which we have had for almost two years now, has served well in attracting new attenders. Indeed, we have so many attending now that we have instituted the wearing of nametags. The growth in numbers has been accompanied with a deepening of Spirit during Meetings for worship. The gathered silence is often so deep, so profound, that our worship often runs an extra 10 to 15 minutes longer than before. Many of our

community are comfortable in speaking from the silence, and the messages are from the heart.

The Wednesday evening Meeting for Worship, started in the mid-1990s, continues every week at 7:00 PM with faithful attendance by those who want additional worship and those unable to come to Sunday Meeting for Worship.

The Nashville Friends meeting has been blessed with a large number of children in our First Day School. Our teen group is the most active we have had in years. Ten of our Young Friends have attended Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) retreats this year! The SAYF community is a true gift of SAYMA and we appreciate it.

Partly in response to the increase in new attenders, Ministry and Counsel sponsored Quakerism classes on Tuesday evenings. Friends who had attended the spring 2004 series were reluctant to disband, so a continuation class, using Catherine Whitmire's Plain Living book, was held in the fall of 2004. A third class, using Michael Birkel's book Silence and Witness: the Quaker Tradition, was held in spring 2005. These classes were designed to last six weeks each, but the chapter in Birkel's book on Testimonies was so engrossing that the third class lasted seven weeks. Each series had between six and ten regular attenders.

The Ministry and Counsel committee has been seeking discernment in the area of membership: What is the meaning of membership in our monthly meeting? What are the responsibilities of members toward the meeting community? What are the responsibilities of the meeting towards its members? Of special concern are those who are listed as members but who have been out of touch with the meeting for a number of years.

Nashville Friends support our members who follow their spiritual leadings in the wider Quaker community. One of our members has received support and guidance through a committee as she works with Friends General Conference (FGC) activities and attends the School of the Spirit. Others in our meeting have received financial support to attend the SAYMA yearly meeting, the annual FGC Gathering, and Pendle Hill clerking workshops.

After much work as a faith community, Nashville Friends found a spiritual path through the thorny situation of having an attender who is also a registered sexual abuse offender. Our meeting eventually developed a comprehensive working paper that addresses the concerns of all involved by presenting a Policy and an Action Plan. We realize that our work is ongoing. The threshing sessions that preceded the minute were deeply moving. We worked through the process with love and God-given guidance.

Following the concept of Inner Light leads to Outward Action, we are involved in a number of activities that reflect our individual and group witness to basic Quaker testimonies. In support of the Peace testimony, several members of Nashville Meeting organized a series of well-attended early Sunday morning meetings on the so-called "100 Year Lamb's War," based on the work of Chuck Fager. Following these meetings, two major activities were begun. One activity was the organization of a series of Alternatives to Violence (ATV) workshops; the first workshop was held Spring 2005, with two more planned for the near future. The second activity was the training of several Friends to answer telephone calls as part of the GI Rights Hotline. This hotline serves active-duty U.S. military service personnel who have questions regarding their participation in wartime actions.

We held our annual Regional Gathering of Friends in early March this year, expanding our invitation to all Friends from the western edge of SAYMA. We were happy to have a strong group from Cookeville Preparative Meeting take part in the leadership of this year's gathering. Much Spirit and community was felt among us, and there was deep sharing.

Nashville Friends continue to make our presence known in the community, both in the immediate neighborhood of our meetinghouse and in the greater Nashville area. We have representation in the local Neighborhood Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). CAC recently obtained a significant grant from MDHA. The grant money will be used for neighborhood improvement in the vicinity of North Nashville where our meetinghouse resides. The residents determine the usage, such as renovating existing housing; vacant lots and empty houses make up about 30 percent of this mostly Black residential neighborhood. Through the work of individual Friends, we have an ongoing dialog with members of churches located near us. The meeting also has a membership in Tying Nashville Together (TNT), a Nashville-wide consortium of faith communities

that seeks to improve the conditions of our citizens. The Meeting also continues its long-time support of the Nashville Peace and Justice Center.

Our meetinghouse is used regularly for daytime and evening activities during the week. Local organizations not directly associated with the Nashville Meeting have also been allowed use of the meetinghouse for yoga classes, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, drumming workshops, and play rehearsals, to name a few. The Nashville meeting requires our property to be used in a responsible manner, and normally a member or attendee is associated with each organization that uses it.

Nashville Friends Meeting continues to grow in the Spirit and seek its unique vision and place in the world. As we continue in this new space, we are very conscious of the energy it takes to complete our vision for it. Friends' giving has increased, and yard sales have been held. There is much to wrestle with and much to be grateful for this year as we continue to seek to be faithful and balance our commitments with our means, our external actions with our communally discerned spiritual clarity.

State of the Meeting Report to SAYMA Oxford Friends Meeting -- May 2005

As we gathered to prepare this report, several aspects of our meeting life emerged clearly: our dedication to Children's Meeting; our care of one another; our careful attention to Quaker process; and living out the Quaker testimonies in our community.

Children's Meeting After spending the first 10 minutes with all of us in worship, the children and the adult who has volunteered for that week leave meeting and go to a separate area. We have used various Quaker curriculum (*e.g. John Woolman, Quaker Earthcare*) and story books on Quaker history. Some adults make up their own lesson based on something important in their life (*e.g. the Holocaust, and Buddhist meditation and yoga*) and tie it into Quaker testimonies. We had one lesson on Sojourner Truth complete with computer generated tattoos, "And ain't I a woman?" One high point each year is the visit of farm animals to meeting, brought by one of our members involved in animal rights and welfare advocacy.

At rise of meeting, the children and adult return and share what they have learned – this may include skits, songs or arts and crafts. We realized that for every single person at meeting, this time with the children is the highlight of our life together. In the same way that spoken ministry emerges out of the silence, we are all ministered to in a "gathered" way by the children. The adults who teach, and all of us who listen so eagerly each Sunday, learn as much or more than the children. Parents expressed "profound gratitude" for the nurture given their children. One person commented that we have the most emphasis on children of any meeting he had ever attended. One of the adults who teach regularly described her experience as "just fabulous." Our small size (average of 15 adults and 3-5 kids each week) make it easy to do it this way.

Our care of one another: As one member stated, "There is much love for one another." Everyone cares for everyone. We have been small enough to function without committees until now. As we close this yearly report a number of family crises among those at our meeting (and the subsequent pain and confusion that affected the entire meeting) have led us to contact Memphis MM for pastoral support. The clear sense of the meeting is leading us to establish a Ministry and Nurture Committee, with a meeting for learning set with two members of Memphis MM. As we talked with Memphis MM, it was clear that folks could begin to "fall through the cracks" since we are growing. It made all the difference to both our clerk and our meeting that we could call upon Memphis MM and receive such immediate support and wisdom!

We have reached a point after 6 years together (worship group, preparative meeting and monthly meeting) that we have a corporate identity. We have faith in the group and Quaker process, and though from one week to the next we could have only few of the same faces and lots of turnover, we still have the same deeper sense of being a meeting. We do feel keenly the lack of "elders" in the sense of having so few very seasoned Quakers in meeting, and yet we feel hopeful about taking the next steps "in the Light."

Careful attention to Quaker process: From our time as a preparative meeting we have given much time and energy to learning how to conduct a Quaker meeting for business. We were blessed to have an assistant Clerk who had been Clerk at London Monthly Meeting, and she has guided our clerk and meeting well. A number of excellent Quaker pamphlets on "the sense of the meeting" have been studied and referred to over and over again. We have had business meetings that became worship sharing, much to our deep satisfaction!

We have also taken seriously the discipline of silence, and though rare, we have spoken ministry. An article in the Friends Journal on spoken ministry served as the basis for both a worship sharing and a meeting for learning on what it means to have a gathered meeting, and what constitutes true spoken ministry. Since spoken ministry is so rare, some in our meeting have expressed a longing for more. But no one feels stifled or "forbidden" to speak, and many feel the Spirit in our silence – "the silence is wonderful" said one. We concluded that "we have everything we need" to grow, but that we have not paid as much attention to nurturing the spiritual lives of adults as we have of the children. We plan to have more time together to do this, even as we all feel a sense of "openness" to each other and the Spirit.

Community outreach: As part of making known our presence in Oxford, we had a beautiful portable wooden sign made that sits on the front lawn of the home we meet in. We are now listed in the Yellow Pages under "Churches-Quaker" and have our own voice mail system. Folks usually find us from the internet listings. We are still active in the AMOS Network (social justice) and Interfaith Compassion Ministry (local food pantry and emergency funds) as well as Friends Committee on National Legislation. Two of our members were speakers at Friends General Conference summer gathering in 2004. We hosted the Wheels of Justice tour for three days and arranged several university and town appearances. We delighted in visits from Friends traveling from Cambridge, MA, and two of our members were given hospitality by the Live Oaks (Houston, TX) meeting, during their time at the Anderson Cancer Center. One member gave a talk ("Quakers: More than Oatmeal) at the Unitarian Universalist fellowship in Tupelo.

Next big challenges? Our clerk feels it is time (after three years) for her to step down, and the sense of the meeting is NO (chuckle), so this will be an interesting development! We did have a peaceful and gracious "transfer of power" (more chuckles) from our first treasurer to our new treasure, so it bodes well for us! We are also forming our first Ministry and Nurture Committee. Viewing the two [wonderful] videos, Dan Snyder's *Nonviolence and the Dynamics of Transformation*, and Chuck Fager's *A Quaker Declaration of War*, challenges us to identify our corporate witness to the Peace Testimony – we don't know yet what that will be, but trust way will open!

**Royal Worship Group
State of the Meeting Report**

(available in hard copy only)

Sevier County Worship Group Annual Report June, 2005

We continue to meet once a month on the second Sunday in Friends' homes. Most of these journeys require a long climb up a steep hill, sometimes with a rough road. But when we are together in silence, we seem to connect beyond the busyness of our individual daily lives. "We know each other in the things of the Spirit." Our average attendance is twelve, ranging from six to eighteen when we gather. We cherish our silence and our fellowship. We are reluctant to move beyond our present purpose: worshiping together followed by fellowship and exchange of ideas, recipes, good snacks, garden bounty, and our individual outreach into the community.

In the Light, Jane Price for the group

State of Meeting Report for Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, 2004-05

Our meeting for worship continues to be a deeply satisfying time of entering together into silence. Sometimes the meeting is silent throughout, but often some vocal ministry occurs carrying the silence into verbal form. Attendance at meeting for worship remains around thirty. New attenders continue to join us. First day school and child care are provided when there are children present. In our meetings for business, we continue to develop sensitivity to all points of view while, at the same time, acting with appropriate speed. We are blessed with harmony in our deliberations.

Our Facilities Committee has had to continue working on issues pertaining to the property we purchased several years ago and now wish to sell. The group who purchased the property has defaulted on their note and we are laboring to work out the terms of a contract that will result in a successful completion of the sale. Due to this preoccupation, we have not been able to select and purchase a permanent meeting place at this time. We are meeting at Common Light in Black Mountain. Common Light is a retreat center owned and operated by two of our members. It is located near the downtown and at the confluence of two streams. It provides an especially beautiful and peaceful setting for our meeting.

Meeting here has given us the opportunity to participate in several retreats and programs that have enriched the life of our meeting. Pendle Hill and Common Light cosponsored three weekend retreats with Dan Snyder. These weekends were centered on "Peacemaking and the Life of the Spirit" We were joined for these weekends by members from Brevard, Celo and Asheville meetings. SVFM made several scholarships available to people wishing to attend. We have also enjoyed a group book study on Engaging the Powers by Walter Wink, a film series on Violence/Nonviolence, and a study of the book When the Rain Returns which is about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and was coauthored by our Clerk, Tony Bing. We are looking forward to a weekend with Tony and Zohara Simmons also centered on When the Rain Returns.

In addition to these studies on peace in our world, many members of our meeting are involved in community service locally. Some areas of involvement include teaching and tutoring at the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center, helping local people with basic needs through SV Christian Ministry, participation in Asheville's National Day of Solidarity with Palestinians, and sponsorship and participation in an Earth Day conference offered locally by Caring for Creation: Interfaith Partners of WNC. We contributed to the AFSC Crisis Fund for victims of the tsunami in Asia. We are involved in support of state legislation for a moratorium on the death penalty and in opposition to another piece of legislation that would deny legal recognition to same sex couples. One of our members, also, keeps us informed about the action priorities of FCNL.

We have cared for the needs of members and attenders in various ways. They included oversight

of the wedding of David LaMotte and Deanna Lemond, a ninetieth birthday celebration for Kay Parke, and giving care to members with serious illness or in need of clarity in facing special challenges. We were saddened by the death of Bill Neisel, one of our elderly members. We conducted his memorial service at Highland Farms and a graveside service. We also provided hospitality to his family who had traveled far to be with us. We have joyfully welcomed one new member and four transfers from other meetings. Seven people are enrolled in a Quakerism 101 class.

The Spirit has richly blessed us in this past year. We are grateful.

West Knoxville Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report – 2005

Our spiritual journey this year has been one of powerful transitions. We have experienced together the death of a young adult Friend and our first in-ground burial at our burial grounds. We also have celebrated a marriage in our Meeting and the births of two children into our Meeting community as well as the graduation from school of six of our Young Friends. We have joined together in Spirit for a memorial service, marriage under the care of the Meeting, baby showers, and graduation celebrations. Sharing in these activities has brought us closer together in the Spirit and has heightened our sense of community and love for one another.

Friends have also been deeply involved in the care and nurturing of members of our community who are facing illnesses and physical struggles. A number of Friends have been participating in physical and spiritual healing sessions with a member of our Meeting who has been undergoing surgeries and subsequent treatments for cancer. Our community bonds and our spirits have been strengthened through these Friends' acts of faith, love, prayer, and caring.

This year has been an active year for our Meeting in terms of exploring our spiritual beliefs and seeking to know through the Spirit more about Quaker faith and practices. We have held a series of "Quaker 101" sessions throughout the year, and both our Adult Friends and Young Friends have been involved in these discussions. We have continued weekly meetings of our "Quaker Things" group, and Friends have participated in these sessions seeking to explore our spiritual journeys and beliefs together. We have held Threshing Sessions to explore the meaning of membership and to learn more about how Friends perceive membership, responsibilities to the Meeting, and the nature of being Quaker. We also have had a special second hour honoring our Birthright Friends and seeking to learn from them about their spiritual journeys and their perceptions of membership and of being Quaker. In addition, we held a "family retreat" at our Meeting House this year to bring us closer together as a community and to offer us the chance to play, study, and sing together and to have more involvement between age groups within our Meeting.

We also have sought to learn more from Friends and activists outside of our own community regarding ways to seek peace, nurturing, and caring. Among other activities and sessions, we hosted a meeting and session with the Friends General Council Religious Education Committee and a visit from Sara Woodard from the Center for Development in Central America. We also invited Harry and Laura Robie of Berea Monthly Meeting to meet with our Ministry and Nurture Committee to help us learn more about how Berea coordinates its yearly retreats and about developing Queries. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has worked with the American Friends Service Committee and is now involved in seeking to establish a Peace Center at our Meeting. Friends also have been active in participating in the activities of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and have worked to support their activities and to carry our concerns forward to local and state political offices. We have also worked to support the activities of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), and Friends have participated in peace rallies and other local activities seeking to promote peace and social justice. In addition, we have continued our alliance with and support of Compassionate Ministries Uganda and are pleased to learn of their continued growth and

success.

Our Young Friends have been quite active in SAYF activities and retreats and also sponsored a trip to the Unitarian Church as part of their exploration of spiritual faiths and practices. The Young Friends have been a vital part of our spiritual journey this year and have helped our Meeting to grow in Spirit and understanding.

A number of Friends have also been involved in various small meeting groups and activities, including Friendly 8s and Meeting for Healing. We have opened the Meeting House to various traveling groups, such as those visitors coming to Hiroshima Day, and we have enjoyed also sharing in their journeys and testimonies.

In summary, this year has been a very active one spiritually for our Meeting. We have been brought together in Spirit through the many transitions we have undergone this year, and we have been challenged to think long and deeply about the meaning of membership, the nature and value of our individual spiritual journeys and testimonies, our relationships to one another and to the Spirit, and the meaning of being Quaker and participating meaningfully in the Quaker Community.

Appendix C
General

app. C, Gen. Inv., 1994

Treasurer --

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance Report

Faith and Practice Revision Committee -- Proposed Changes

American Friends Service Committee Representatives Reports --

Corporation

Southeastern Regional Office Executive Committee

Finance Committee -- Budget

Treasurer's 2005 Yearly Meeting Report

Prepared Monday, June 06, 2005

This year there was a major change in the SAYMA budget. We shifted our 2005 fiscal budget from July 1, 2004 to October 1, 2004. The result was a short three month period where we had contributions and expenses that were outside the budget. Other issues to report include:

1. The fiscal 2005 budget is short on assessment contributions this fiscal year. Combining the transition months (July-September 2004) with this fiscal year SAYMA has received \$29,711.00 of the \$44,200.00 in assessments planned for this fiscal year. Other sources of revenue are about what the Finance Committee expected at this point in the budget year.
2. The fiscal 2005 budget expenditures have risen as funded budget categories are being spent to the budget limit. In addition, there are several points to note:
 - a. Office expenditures remain slightly higher than expected. Part of the problem can be traced to higher Internet related costs. Part can be traced to high duplication costs of minutes for YM and Representative Meeting.
 - b. This budget report does not include any of the large charges for Yearly Meeting. YM is expected to cost about \$23,000.
 - c. SAYMA is spending more for delegates to WQO (\$6,179.07 for the transition and fiscal budget combined). This may be the first year that we actually spend more than our budget allocation in that category (\$6,500.00).
 - d. SAYMA has only paid a portion of its yearly contributions to WQO (\$6,600 out of \$9,700). Problems with cash flow have limited the ability of the organization to pay these obligations.
 - e. SAYMA contributions to SAYF for both the transition and fiscal year (\$3,900) exceed our fiscal year budget (\$2,400).
3. Personnel expenses were managed well under the current budget. We have two part-time employees in SAYMA. The administrative assistant position was shifted from ¼ to 1/3 time. Small raises (COLAs) were provided to both employees. Our employees still lack a real benefit package.
4. SAYMA purchased a property/liability insurance policy during fiscal 2005 through GuideOne Insurance. It covers property and general liability. The liability is \$3,000,000 with a \$1,000,000 incident limit. Medical expenses are limited to \$5,000. Our agent is Tennant Insurance of Roanoke, VA. It does not cover many issues fraud and criminal activity. The policy's basic cost was \$615.00 for the year.
5. Assessments from Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups are just barely adequate to support our general budget. From 2004 YM through the beginning of our new fiscal year we received \$7,719.75. During the current fiscal year we have received \$26,791.80. Meetings contributing to SAYMA during this past 12 months include: Birmingham, Anneewakee Creek, Atlanta, Berea, Oxford, Asheville, Brevard, Celo, Swannanoa Valley, Columbia, Greenville, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Crossville, Foxfire, Memphis, Nashville, West Knoxville, Charleston, Athens, and Huntsville. The Treasurer appreciates those Meetings that have shifted assessments to quarterly payments.
6. Notes from the Account Balances sheet. SAYMA has set aside funds of \$11,966.00. SAYMA has \$14,402 in two savings accounts to cover these claims. Currently, we have financial assets of \$30,057.00 (much of this will be claimed by YM expenditures). \$2,000 has been approved by Representative Meeting to fund travel to the World Gathering of Young Friends out of the Spiritual Development Fund. There have been no claims against these funds so far in fiscal 2005.
7. SAYMA is currently able to meet its budget obligations. SAYMA does not have a financial surplus for difficult times. In the recent past SAYMA experienced several years of significant surpluses. That is no longer the case. In the past two years, SAYMA has increased its fiscal obligations in several areas. Revenues from assessments and YM are currently barely covering expenditures.

Treasurer's Address: David H. Ciscel, 1950 Nelson Ave, Memphis TN 38104, ciscel@bellsouth.net

SAYMA Account Balances Report
Monday, June 06, 2005

	Fiscal Year				
	2001 6/30/2001	2002 6/30/2002	2003 6/7/2003	2004 6/30/2004	2005 6/6/2005
ASSETS					
Bank Accounts					
Checking (Bank of America)	\$17,963	\$5,399	\$5,529	\$18,694	\$27,651
Money Market (Self Help)	\$13,173	\$10,960	\$5,900	\$14,229	\$9,402
Savings (Self Help CD)*	\$5,460	\$7,934	\$8,244	\$0	\$5,000
SAYF Checking (off books in 2004)	\$1,884	\$1,413	\$784		
Total Available Funds	\$38,480	\$25,706	\$20,457	\$32,923	\$42,053
Set Aside Budgeted Funds					
FWCC Third World Delegate	\$650	\$1,300	\$0	\$650	\$1,300
FWCC Triennial Delegates	\$905	\$1,905	\$2,115	\$667	\$1,667
Released Friend	\$1,950	\$1,850	\$2,250	\$2,650	\$3,050
Spiritual Development	\$782	\$1,282	\$1,782	\$2,182	\$2,782
Youth Quake	\$845	\$1,095	\$1,345	\$1,395	\$1,645
Young Adult Friends Scholarship					\$500
Accumulated Funds					
YM Scholarship	\$328	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502
SAYF Scholarship Fund			\$250	\$250	\$250
Claims against Available Funds	\$5,460	\$7,934	\$8,244	\$8,296	\$11,696
Net Assets	\$33,021	\$17,773	\$12,213	\$24,627	\$30,357
Fund Expenses in Fiscal Year					
FWCC Triennial Delegate				\$2,447	
Spiritual Development Fund				\$200	
Total				\$2,647	\$0
*Interest (\$86.28) reported on budget page.					

A GUIDE TO OUR FAITH AND OUR PRACTICE

Part 2

Proposed Revisions YM 2005

Dear SAYMA Friends,

As a part of the ten-year review of our *Guide*, we are pleased to present the following proposed revisions. We have tried to reorganize, clarify, and add useful information in this section on how our monthly and yearly meetings live the life of their faith communities.

We are grateful that the monthly meetings have taken the opportunity to prayerfully consider the draft proposals and send minuted responses about concerns after the group or committee that has considered it brought it to the full meeting for approval.

Questions may come up about why there are differences in expectations for monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. This will be covered in Section III.

The monthly meeting section refers to service in the yearly meeting (YM). Further detail about programs or committees of the YM can be found later in Section II.

The material that follows incorporates changes brought to the attention of the committee in fall 2003 and 2004.

Material to be removed is either indicated or crossed out.

New material is *italicized* and/or underlined.

Please refer to the *Reformatted Reprinted Second Edition of the Guide, 2002* for the current text on the Yearly Meeting section.

Respectfully submitted by the Revision Committee:

Geeta McGahey, clerk (Celo MM)
Free Polazzo, Anneewakee Creek Friends Worship Group,
Atlanta Friends Meeting
Melissa Meyers, Boone Friends Meeting
Larry Ingle, Chattanooga Friends Meeting
Missy Ivie, West Knoxville Friends Meeting
Penelope Wright, Nashville Friends Meeting
Barbara Ester, Asheville Friends Meeting

[This section Replaces Administrative Handbook, page 16 & Revisions of the Guide page 31 The Handbook description was added. It is now moved to the beginning of the document after acknowledgements before the introduction]

A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice, and Handbook

These two documents describe and guide our yearly meeting and its work. Friends have committed themselves to remaining open to continuing revelation by new understandings of the Spirit. They recognize that guides like this one tend to freeze today's unique experience into tomorrow's rigid formula.

As a resource, the Guide to Our Faith and Practice naturally reflects the way SAYMA Friends have conducted their spiritual labors at the time of its original composition (1975-1990) and subsequent revisions. We recognize that to enable the Spirit to blow freely where it will, thus leading Friends and their meetings is a more fundamental principle than any temporary guide. The Guide reflects our understanding of the spiritual basis for our practice as Quakers.

To encourage openings to divine revelations and to promote the corporate nature of Friends' decision making, the clerk of SAYMA shall inquire each year at the beginning of the first yearly meeting session for business if concerns have arisen among Friends regarding this Guide. Specific minuted proposed alterations, seasoned in a monthly meeting, may then be presented and referred to an examining committee appointed by the yearly meeting; this committee will promptly consider such alterations, make any recommendation for changes and then be discharged.

As the Spirit leads or not less than 10 years after completion and approval by yearly meeting of the most recent revision, yearly meeting shall consider whether it will appoint a revision committee to:

Review the entire Guide

Through prayerful consideration weigh whether continuing corporate revelation necessitates a change

Bring a recommendation to the next YM annual session

Gaining approval of yearly meeting, if a revision is needed, proceed to draft changes.

In order to assure continuity and preservation of past experience it is recommended that examining and revision committees consist of five or more members, at least two of whom have served on a previous examining or revision committee. The committees continue to serve until they have fulfilled their charge and yearly meeting has laid them down.

At least three (3) months prior to yearly meeting sessions, these committees shall distribute recommendations to monthly meetings to allow for a process of seasoning. In light of minuted responses from monthly meetings the committees will present their reports for yearly meeting consideration (at Yearly Meeting). Any recommendations for changing the Guide that are approved at yearly meeting sessions will immediately become a part of the Guide, even before reprinting.

[The process for keeping the handbook current has not yet been determined]

The Handbook describes the procedures we use in order to carry out our work. Detailed descriptions of positions, committees and tasks are continually revised and refined as we move forward in seeking to be faithful in carrying out God's work. The committee charged with keeping the Handbook current receives changes from individuals who have served in positions of responsibility, committees, such as the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, and reports the changes to yearly meeting.

ORIGINAL TEXT

[page 15, 6th full paragraph]

[This part was changed after feedback at YM that some Friends wanted a clear mention of the opportunities of service within the YM other than positions of responsibility. Please also refer to Function of Representative Meeting section]

[TO BE REPLACED]

SAYMA Contact: The meeting's representative to SAYMA serves on the representative committee of the yearly meeting. Responsibilities include attending SAYMA representative committee meetings and yearly meeting sessions, reporting monthly meeting concerns to SAYMA and SAYMA concerns to monthly meeting. Meetings will vary as to whether the SAYMA representative also serves as the contact for other SAYMA functions. It may, however, find it helpful, and less burdensome on that one person, to appoint others to serve on SAYMA's nominating or other committees and as a reporter to the SAYMA newsletter editor.

PROPOSED TEXT

Opportunities for Service within SAYMA -

Monthly meeting appointed SAYMA Representative

Representatives selected from their monthly meeting, preparative meeting, or worship group accept obligations both to their own meetings as well as to the yearly meeting. (Representatives do not necessarily have to perform these functions themselves but need to see that these responsibilities are carried out).

- ◆ *Attending representative meeting of yearly meeting as well as yearly meeting*
- [Reporting concerns seasoned by monthly meeting to SAYMA and reporting SAYMA business to monthly meeting, specifically paying attention to SAYMA items requiring awareness and/or action](#)

PROPOSED TEXT CONTINUED

Committees -Each monthly and preparative meeting is asked to discern what Friends in their meeting have gifts that would be appropriate for service on Ministry and Nurture and Nominating committees and appoint persons led to serve on each committee for at least a one year term. Worship Groups may choose to send someone. Other standing committee members are either self-selected or recommended by the yearly meeting Nominating Committee. (See YM section)

Youth Programs

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)- Its voluntary staff, supervised by the JYM coordinator provides a safe place and enriching program which allows adults to participate in Yearly meeting activities. Existing for children to age twelve during yearly meeting it seeks to explore aspects of the gatherings theme to nurture young Quakers.

During yearly meeting, teaching and assisting youth through age twelve, under the supervision of a coordinator, is both rewarding and essential to the smooth functioning of the whole yearly meeting.

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF)- Adults, appointed by the yearly meeting can serve on the two standing committees. Youth, discerned by SAYF members serve on the SAYF Nurturing Committee. Other opportunities for serving include:

- ◆ Friendly Adult Presence (FAP),
- ◆ Friendly Adult Driver (FAD)
- ◆ FAPs in training (FAPIT). May serve two years after graduation from SAYF

For process of becoming a FAP or FAPIT see the Handbook.

This next section of Part 2, titled "THE YEARLY MEETING," is revised from pages 16-19 of the *GUIDE*. It has been extensively reorganized for clarity and accuracy; therefore, only the recommended changes are printed here. Refer to the page numbers indicated, in your yellow copy of the *Guide* for the original text.

THE YEARLY MEETING

1. Functions of the Yearly Meeting

[Page 17]

Approved as far as: **Function of representative meeting**

[This section was referred back to committee from YM 2004]

Between yearly meeting sessions, representative meeting carries on the work of the yearly meeting. Each monthly meeting and preparative meeting is asked to appoint at least one representative to attend these meetings, participate in the business and report back to the home meeting. Worship groups may choose to send a representative. Friends serving in YM positions of responsibility serve in corresponding positions at representative meeting. All Friends are welcomed and encouraged to take part in the representative meeting business discernment.

Committees of yearly and representative meeting

The nature and function of all committees established by the yearly meeting change as time and experience reveal new opportunities for Friends. Usually constituted by the yearly meeting or occasionally following action of the representative meeting, such committees and their functions are described in the Handbook. The yearly meeting nominating committee recommends to the yearly meeting names to fill positions on these committees. Current standing committees are:

[this section was added]

Clerk's Advisory Committee was established in 1999 by yearly meeting. This committee is comprised of the clerks of the standing committees of SAYMA. The clerk of SAYMA convenes this committee as an advisory committee when need arises and as a means to improve communication within SAYMA.

The Ecological Concerns Network was established in 2001 by yearly meeting. This committee was formed to provide assistance, including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in SAYMA who are following their leadings to work on environmental concerns. It also works toward raising the level of awareness in SAYMA of earth care issues.

Finance Committee prepares the annual budget for SAYMA. It works with Personnel Committee in establishing compensation policies for SAYMA's employees.

Ministry & Nurture Committee (M&N), formed in 1990, supports and supplements the work of the monthly meetings' ministry and nurture groups and addresses spiritual issues that span the yearly meeting community.

The committee is comprised of representatives of each monthly meeting.

[Composition and terms of service on M&N Committee pending action of YM on M&N committee recommendation]

It nurtures meetings and worship groups by:

- ◆ *Being mindful of the state of the spirit in meetings and worship groups. "...How the Truth has prospered amongst them...?" (Query 1682)*
- *Nurturing the yearly meeting by being a spiritual presence during meetings.*
- *Providing spiritual support for the yearly meeting clerks.*
- *Encouraging intervisitation and regional gatherings;*
- *Facilitating communication and information sharing;*
- *Providing resources and help regarding membership issues and Quaker faith and practice;*
- ◆ *Organizing educational workshops, often during yearly and representative meeting sessions;*
- ◆ *Responding to requests from meetings and worship groups within the yearly meeting for involvement in sensitive situations, particularly in areas of spiritual life and Quaker process that face meetings, are between meetings, or between meetings and worship groups. Possible responses include listening, consultation and /or arranging clearness committees.*
- ◆ *Facilitating clearness and accountability for Friends seeking endorsement by the yearly meeting for ministry to which they are called.*
- *Providing a clearness process and holding accountable released Friends who receive financial assistance from SAYMA's Released Friend Fund;*
- *Administering the disbursement and accounting of the Spiritual Development Fund.*

Nominating Committee discerns the gifts of SAYMA Friends whose names can be brought forward to fill the positions of responsibility of yearly meeting. A slate of nominees is presented for consideration at yearly meeting. If positions are unfilled at the close of yearly meeting, names are brought forward for consideration at representative meeting.

[Composition and terms of service on Nominating Committee pending action of YM on Nominating committee recommendation]

Peace and Social Concerns Committee was created in 2002. This committee is charged to: [Taken from YM 04 charge]

- ◆ *Nurture minutes in the area of peace and social concerns from monthly meetings, and facilitate their seasoning by the members of the yearly meeting.*
- ◆ *Actively solicit feedback from the monthly meetings;*
- ◆ *Assist in presentation of seasoned minutes to the Yearly Meeting;*
- ◆ *Foster communication and interaction among the monthly meetings in SAYMA about our concerns and actions;*
- ◆ *Operate as part of the whole by coordination with other committees working within SAYMA.*

Personnel Committee was formed in 1999 as a replacement for the Administrative Assistant Oversight committee. This committee develops policies and procedures that define the hiring and supervision of SAYMA employees and volunteers.

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Steering Committee was established in 1994 to coordinate the activities of SAYF and to develop policies, procedures and guidelines for youth and adult volunteers. The clerk of this committee is responsible for supervising the work of the SAYF Administrative Assistant.

Southern Appalachian Young Friends Oversight Committee was established in 1995 to serve as a sounding board for concerns raised by the SAYF Steering committee, parents, SAYF participants and the yearly meeting.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee serves SAYMA by attending to the myriad details involved in planning and providing the program and worship opportunities for all those who attend yearly meeting sessions.

[pages 17-18]

2. POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Through the discernment of the Nominating committee and the approval of yearly meeting the following positions are maintained. To encourage broad participation and growth of leadership Friends usually do not serve in these positions for more than two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms. Term of office begins at the close of the yearly meeting session at which appointment is approved. Those completing terms of service assist in carrying out the immediate mandates of the yearly meeting. Full description of the duties associated with these positions is found in the handbook.

Clerk

- ◆ Presides at yearly and representative meeting sessions;
- ◆ Carries out or delegates actions authorized by either of the above;
- ◆ Receives and responds to yearly meeting correspondence;
- ◆ Prepares and sees to the distribution of agendas of yearly and representative meeting sessions;
- ◆ Appoints ad hoc committees as necessary to perform functions not included in other committees or positions of responsibility;
- ◆ Supervises the administrative assistant.

Assistant Clerk

- ◆ Attends yearly and representative meeting sessions and fulfills the duties of the clerk in the absence of the latter;
- ◆ Assists the clerk as needed and assumes delegated duties;
- ◆ Serves as clerk of the Personnel Committee.

Recording Clerk

- ◆ Attends yearly and representative meeting sessions;
- ◆ In collaboration with the clerk, prepares the minutes of the proceedings;

- ◆ Records Minutes “in the face of the meeting”: creating and waiting for approval of the meeting as each piece of business is done or reading the minutes back to the meeting for approval by the last session.

Treasurer

- ◆ Receives and deposits in appropriate accounts all yearly meeting funds including monthly meeting assessments, yearly meeting registrations and contributions and gifts;
- ◆ Makes or supervises all disbursements as approved by the yearly and representative meetings or the clerk;
- ◆ Maintains records supporting all transactions;
- ◆ Presents annual financial reports to yearly meeting and interim reports to representative meeting;
- ◆ Collaborates with the Finance Committee in preparation of the annual budget.

Assistant Treasurer

- ◆ Assists treasurer as needed
- ◆ Substitutes for the treasurer when needed

Newsletter Editor

- ◆ May maintain a network of meeting correspondents;
- ◆ Prepares the quarterly issues of Southern Appalachian Friend;
- ◆ Sees to the distribution of the newsletter to meetings and those individuals who are isolated from a meeting.

Clerks of committees

- ◆ Convene the committees and conduct the business of the committees;
- ◆ Report the progress of the work and recommendations of the committee to yearly and representative meetings;
- ◆ For those committees with budget lines, account for expenditures of the committee.

[This section was updated. The historical information was moved to the previous section on Quaker history.]

Representatives to wider Quaker organizations.

Contact with and experience of Quaker communities and organizations beyond our yearly meeting provides Friends with deeper understanding of how the Spirit is working throughout the breadth of Quakerdom; and provides opportunities for service to these organizations by SAYMA Friends. SAYMA appoints representatives or contacts to the following wider Quaker organizations:

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Friends Service Committee/Southeastern Regional Office (AFSC/SERO)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

Friends General Conference (FGC)

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)

Friends Peace Teams

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWWC) – Section of the Americas Quaker House

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

Annual reports from the representative or contact are expected. Terms of service to these organizations are determined by the needs of the respective organizations.

[page 18]

3. Staff of SAYMA

As the complexity of maintaining good process and communication internally and externally has increased, the yearly meeting has seen fit to employ persons to fulfill specific duties. Full job descriptions are maintained by the Personnel committee, which also has responsibility for ensuring that our employees are fairly supervised and compensated.

Administrative Assistant

- ◆ *Maintains an office and mailing address for the yearly meeting;*
- ◆ *Serves as initial contact for those outside the yearly meeting;*
- ◆ *Serves as an information resource for those in the yearly meeting*
- ◆ *Retains all SAYMA documents (minutes, epistles, newsletters and correspondence;)*
- ◆ *Distributes agendas and registration materials for representative meetings to appropriate persons;*
- ◆ *In collaboration with the clerk and recording clerk distributes minutes of representative and yearly meeting sessions to monthly meeting clerks and representatives, committee clerks, other persons in positions of responsibility and representatives to wider Quaker organizations;*
- ◆ *Gathers, compiles and reports annual membership statistics;*
- ◆ *Maintains a database of members of SAYMA and prepares, updates, and distributes the Directory;*
- ◆ *Forwards copies of SAYMA documents and statistics to the appropriate Friends historical libraries and organizations.*

[This was added]

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Administrative Assistant

- ◆ *Maintains the records of the SAYF program;*
- ◆ *Coordinates retreat preparation, registration, and follow-up for SAYF retreats and activities in coordination with the retreat planning committee;*
- ◆ *Maintains the financial records for the program and disburses and collects funds.*

[This section was added]

4. Programs of the Yearly Meeting

[We have taken an excerpt from the mission statement of the SAYF and decided to leave out the southeast, because although SAYF is an inclusive program, some Friends had question about stating boundaries.]

***Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF)** is program, under the care of SAYMA, which has the express purpose of creating a loving, caring, joyful Quaker spiritual community for teens. SAYF seeks to foster a safe space for Young Friends to grow and explore Friends' testimonies, values, process and spirituality through teen-led retreats, worship, conferences, service projects, business meetings, and other teen-led activities. A lead FAP (Friendly Adult Presence) assists the planning committee with adequate onsite FAPs to provide supervision. A nurturing committee of Young Friends oversees the spiritual welfare of the community. (See committee section for oversight and steering committee)*

Part IV TESTIFYING TO THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

[This introduction to the Testimonies was added]

Introduction *Within the tradition of Friends, testimonies are revelations of God's will, outward expressions of the inner workings of the Spirit that have been collectively accepted across time. Although not creedal in nature, they still serve a teaching function and guide Friends in faithfulness to principles around which the Religious Society of Friends has united. Testimonies finally bind no Friend's conscience, but they inform the individual of what the Religious Society of Friends regards as important in one's relation to God and with all of creation. In this sense, testimonies help mold our conscience and outward behavior. They are not exhaustive, in that they do not include everything that is required of a Friend, but they lay down principles that guide those who choose to live among us. They evolve with changing circumstances, even as they remain rooted in Friends tradition of listening to the Divine. Testimonies and their associated queries, if revisited regularly, are a source of inward personal and corporate renewal.*

American Friends Service Committee

SAYMA appoints representatives to two levels of American Friends Service Committee governance. SAYMA has two representatives to the AFSC Corporation, which meets once a year to learn about current developments and challenges in the work of AFSC, provide broad guidance, and appoint members of the AFSC Board. Representatives to the Corporation for the past year were Carol Lamm and Sallie Prugh. SAYMA also appoints members of the AFSC Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Executive Committee. Ginny Baumann serves in that capacity.

American Friends Service Committee Corporation

Last fall's annual meeting of the AFSC Corporation took place November 5 and 6, 2004, a few days after the U.S. election. Voters in many states had just set back the cause of equality under the law by passing anti-gay-marriage measures; control of both houses of Congress had shifted to factions unsympathetic to groups whose interests AFSC supports; and the country as a whole had re-elected the president who had taken the country into the war in Iraq under false pretenses. Paul Lacey, clerk, reminded Friends that we cannot wait for the ideal time to launch new campaigns, but we must work in whatever time we have; even in the pitch dark of night there is a call to see Light.

During the visioning process several years ago, six goals were established to help focus the work of AFSC. The staff realized that the organization would need much more money to address all these goals. When donors were approached for the additional money, they felt that goals were too broad for AFSC to make an impact. Therefore, the following goals have become the "First Focus": Peace and Conflict Resolution and Migration and Human Mobility.

AFSC continues to do work much wonderful work in the name of Friends. A few highlights of the past year:

- * AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit about the human cost of the Iraq War has toured many U.S. cities. The exhibit includes a pair of boots honoring each U.S. military casualty, a field of shoes, a Wall of Remembrance to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the conflict, and a multimedia display exploring the history, costs and consequences of the war. The exhibit has touched many hearts and has provided a focus for efforts to communicate about the war's impact on real people.

- * The Wage Peace campaign encourages the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. AFSC has produced two-minute video, downloadable from the AFSC web site, that simply and effectively presents the case for withdrawal using names, images and just a few words. AFSC is sponsoring a petition and offers a Wage Peace bracelet.

- * In Iraq, AFSC supported water projects implemented by CARE. AFSC's representatives to Iraq, who had re-located to Amman along with most other international NGO workers for safety, shared their concern about their friend and colleague, Margaret Hassan of CARE, who had been kidnaped in Iraq.

- * AFSC's Working Party on Global Economics produced a thoughtful report, *Putting Dignity & Rights at the Heart of the Global Economy: A Quaker Perspective*, the result of two years work by a diverse group with very different analyses of past and present trends, their causes and consequences.

- * AFSC has come to understand immigrant rights as a leading indicator of human rights more generally. When human rights are endangered, immigrant rights are typically the first to face the threat. This puts AFSC's immigrant rights work in a broader context.

As we met, the Material Assistance Program was facing significant questions about its future. Many of the ways in which AFSC has contributed to relief efforts in the past, including shipments of used clothing and blankets, even un-used mattresses donated for hospitals, are now being declined by other countries for a variety of reasons. With no outlet for the generosity of Friends and others who contributed material goods through AFSC, volunteer and staff leaders were considering how AFSC could best continue to contribute.

Stockpiling emergency and relief kits that could be delivered quickly was one possibility.

On a practical front, a generation of AFSC's most faithful financial supporters is passing on. Many are leaving bequests to AFSC in their wills, contributing to an increase in revenue that is anticipated to peak in the next few years. AFSC is seeking the next generation of faithful supporters. World events sometimes result in large numbers of new contributors, which happened in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004: 100,000 new contributors were logged. The challenge is helping contributors turn an impulse to help in a crisis into a long-term commitment to supporting AFSC's work to build a better world.

Report to SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2005 from the SAYMA representative to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Southeastern Regional Office (SERO) Executive Committee

One of SERO's strengths is its highly-motivated staff, all of whom have a clear vision of the changes they want to support in our region and in the wider world. These staff have built up strong networks with progressive movements and individuals in the South East, especially around issues of migrant rights and peace building (including emergency aid). These programs deserve greater attention and resources.

In the past year, faced with difficult budget choices, it has been impressive to see the SERO Board open up new ideas for joint work between our programs, rather than simply making cuts. Staff have invested imagination and a huge amount of work in starting to cooperate more closely around shared goals. New proposals for joint activities, put together by the Program Directors, have been welcomed by AFSC National, and new funding will allow for some expansion of SERO's work in the coming year.

This year, Debra Johnson finished serving on AFSC SERO Executive Committee. She visited Iraq as part of a Quaker/AFSC delegation in June 2002, and then joined SERO EC in September 2002. She has been a very active EC member, serving on several EC committees, as well as being a local committee member for the Middle East Peace Education Program. Her service is much appreciated and her insights will be missed.

Regional Programs:

The Southeastern Region currently has seven programs with offices in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Most of these programs are reaching out to the other states included in SERO (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia). With the exception of American Friends Immigrant Services, the programs are at the moment operating on the basis of one staff member.

Migration and Economic Justice:

American Friends Immigrant Services

AFIS combines legal representation of immigrants with supporting immigrants who want to organize around policies directly affecting them. As well as pursuing immigration status cases for clients visiting the office in Miami, AFIS currently undertakes outreach in two rural areas of Florida, as well as assisting the Mobile Mexican Consulate (including "Know Your Rights" campaigning). Faced with extensive demand for legal services and few staff, AFIS is recruiting law students to be trained in rights counseling. Issues that have been a priority in AFIS' advocacy include: slavery in agricultural work; rights of day laborers; access to drivers licenses; and in-state tuition rates for immigrant children. As part of Friends' historic testimony against slavery, AFIS united with the Taco Bell Boycott, led by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Recent concessions by their parent company, YUM! Brands, resulted in ending the boycott and a major victory for corporate responsibility. There is strong demand among migrant rights movements in the region for AFIS to continue and expand its work. Jeanette Smith is Program Director of AFIS, based in Miami.

ORITA Youth Program

ORITA builds the skills of emerging community leaders, especially focusing on sustainable livelihoods and on policies for equitable economic development. ORITA helps young people connect with the experience of communities around the world. Examples of work include: (1) The Youth Exchange through which young people from Rwanda and Kenya educate U.S. youth about the impact of debt. These U.S. youth then participate by taking the message of debt cancellation to 36 college campuses. (2) Helping coordinate the Eyes Wide Open exhibit in Greensboro, at which over 3,000 people attended. Ann Lennon is Program Director of ORITA, based in High Point, North Carolina.

Project Voice

This is part of the national AFSC Project Voice initiative that focuses on human dignity, immigrants' rights and legalization for all migrant communities. SERO's Project Voice work is nurturing growth of organizations and networks representing recent migrant communities in their efforts to gain access and participate fully in civil society. It is also strengthening alliances with non-immigrant communities in order to promote understanding of shared human aspirations. In its first six months in the SERO region, Project Voice has built important relationships within the human rights movement in the South. Examples of this have been: visiting Mexican poultry workers in Alabama, participating in Latino community leadership development workshop at the Highlander Center; and linking with the Togolese community in North Carolina. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers Truth Tour gave a further opportunity for outreach to human rights organizers and economic justice groups. Outreach to a variety of faith groups regarding migrant rights has been an important part of the work so far. Antonio Vasquez is the Program Director for Project Voice, based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Peace building

Middle East Peace Education Program

MEPEP enhances knowledge in the SERO region about the possibilities of peaceful resolution of Middle East conflicts (especially Israel/Palestine and Iraq), aiming to bring balance and truth to the US public's understanding of the issues. It encourages a range of actions to support US policies that would promote peace. MEPEP's activities include: film showings, speaker tours, conferences and discussions; support for the Atlanta-Ramallah Sister City Project; promotion of relevant publications and of fair trade goods from the region. MEPEP is building a knowledgeable constituency in this region which can advocate for peace, reconciliation and justice in the Middle East. Samir Moukaddam is Program Director of MEPEP, based in Atlanta.

Africa Peace Education Program

APEP organizes around key issues facing Africa: for example, HIV/AIDS, empowering women and youth, and banning landmines. Through public events, workshops and speakers, students, schools, faith-based groups and other grassroots organizations are engaged in lifting up these issues in a public discourse about Africa. Two examples of rewarding initiatives within APEP this year have been: the Voter Empowerment Project, focused especially on registration of young people through contact with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU); and the HBCU/Quaker Study-Work Abroad Program through which students attended university in Namibia. Tejan Muata is Program Director for APEP, based in Atlanta.

Help Increase the Peace Program

HIP is a conflict transformation program that empowers young people and their allies to reduce violence, strengthen cross-racial and cross-cultural understanding and become agents for social change. It trains young people to find alternatives to violence and to work through issues of prejudice, diversity, leadership development and other sources of concern for young people. HIP continues to build on interest in its program and methods; it is creating new materials; and supporting HIP facilitators throughout the region. Currently, HIP is providing the program in three schools in the Atlanta area as well as working with young people on probation. Angela Henderson is Program Director for HIP, based in Atlanta.

Emergency and Material Assistance Program

EMAP's goal remains making way for people to survive a crisis, be it from war, natural disasters, displacement or long-term struggles for peace and justice or from deep poverty. EMAP collects health and school supplies, clothing and blankets. As well as sending hundreds of hygiene and education kits to Philadelphia for international distribution, it is increasing the number of outlets for used clothing, blankets and other supplies within the Southeast. Health and education kits can be prepared on an on-going basis and be ready for shipment immediately to any disaster-stricken area. This has proven to be a good way to involve youth and children, offering a practical awareness-raising approach about peace issues. Peggie Baxter is Program Director of EMAP, based in High Point, North Carolina.

SAYMA Fiscal Year 2005 -- Approved at YM June 2004

Fiscal Year: October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 (transition quarter 7/1/04-9/30/04) -- Compiled for 2005 Yearly Meeting on June 6, 2005

	Budget FY2004	Actual FY2004	Transition Budget	Budget FY 2005	Actual FY2005
Income					
Assessments	\$32,500	\$39,619.27	\$3,179.75	\$44,200	\$26,531.25
Bank Interest	\$100	\$235.76	\$25.86	\$50	\$86.28
Contributions	\$100	\$645.00		\$300	\$163.00
F&P Sales	\$100	\$386.34		\$250	\$45.10
Newsletter					
SAYF Receipts	\$5,100			\$500	
YM Total Receipts	\$26,500	\$24,565		\$25,000	\$20,848
YM Receipts	\$24,100	\$22,109.00		\$25,000	\$20,847.50
YM Scholarship Donations	\$900				
YM Book Sales	\$1,500	\$2,456.22			
Total Income	\$64,400	\$65,451.39	\$3,205.61	\$70,300	\$47,673.13
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES					
Yearly Meeting	\$25,000	\$25,471.94		\$25,000	\$702.55
Yearly Meeting - Facilities		\$20,805.99			
Print/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc					\$702.55
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM Coordinator	\$1,500	\$2,406.52			\$0.00
Asst Coordinator					
Supplies/Stationery					
Scholarship WQO Reps					
YM Bookstore		\$2,259.43			
SAYF Operation & Admin Transfers	\$2,600	\$2,300.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000	\$2,400.00
SAYF Retreats	\$7,100				
Delegate Expenses	\$6,800	\$4,891.89	\$1,337.95	\$6,800	\$4,901.12
Rep Mtgs	\$300	\$429.75		\$300	\$60.00
Delto WQOs	\$6,500	\$4,462.14	\$1,337.95	\$6,500	\$4,841.12
Committees	\$1,200	\$387.81	\$148.16	\$1,200	\$462.88
Ministry and Nurture	\$1,000	\$158.72		\$700	\$128.00
Ecological Concerns	\$200	\$200.00		\$300	\$108.00
Faith and Practice		\$29.09	\$148.16	\$200	\$168.64
Nominating					\$58.24
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$400			\$500	\$615.00
SAYMA Personnel	\$16,600	\$15,573.68	\$4,576.20	\$18,400	\$12,547.68
SAYMA Staff Training	\$1,000			\$0	\$300.00
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,000	\$2,862.23	\$187.03	\$3,000	\$3,932.11
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses					\$1,234.97
Postage					\$880.01
Duplication					\$1,553.46
Misc. Office					\$263.67
SAYMA Newsletter	\$2,000	\$1,011.42	\$277.75	\$1,300	\$812.98
SAYMA Directory	\$600			\$600	
SAYMA Treasurer		\$438.77		\$300	\$220.11
SAYMA F&P	\$500	\$388.25		\$500	
SAYMA IRS Penalties, Interest		\$1,366.10			\$190.31
Total Operational Disbursements	\$68,300	\$54,692.09	\$8,027.09	\$60,600	\$27,084.74
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS					
Transfers To Funds	\$2,800	\$2,800.00		\$3,300	\$3,300.00
Spiritual Development Fund	\$500	\$500.00		\$500	\$500.00
Released Friend Fund	\$400	\$400.00		\$400	\$400.00
FWCC - 3rd Wild Del	\$650	\$650.00		\$650	\$650.00
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000.00		\$1,000	\$1,000.00
YouthQuake	\$250	\$250.00		\$250	\$250.00
Young Adult Friends Scholarships				\$500	\$500.00
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$6,250	\$6,250.00		\$6,400	\$3,300.00
AFSC	\$800	\$800.00		\$800	\$800.00
FCNY	\$800	\$800.00		\$800	\$800.00
FGC	\$800	\$800.00		\$800	\$800.00
FWCC	\$800	\$800.00		\$800	\$800.00
Right Sharing of World Res	\$800	\$800.00		\$800	
Quaker House	\$800	\$800.00		\$800	
Friends for LGBT Concerns	\$200	\$200.00		\$200	
Quaker Baritone Witness	\$400	\$400.00		\$400	
Friends Peace Teams	\$150	\$150.00		\$300	
Wm Penn House	\$200	\$200.00		\$200	
Quaker Eco-Witness NL	\$400	\$400.00		\$400	
Gaugford College Archiving	\$100	\$100.00		\$100	\$100.00
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$0			\$0	
Other	\$100				
Total Projects	\$9,150	\$9,050.00	\$0.00	\$9,700	\$6,600.00
Total Disbursements	\$77,450	\$63,742.09	\$8,027.09	\$70,300	\$33,684.74
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$13,050)	\$1,709.30	(\$4,821.48)	\$0	\$13,988.39

**SAYF Steering Committee
Report to SAYMA Meeting for Business, June, 2005**

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) hosted 7 retreats during the past year. Six have been completed and the last is occurring here at our SAYMA gathering. For the six earlier retreats, there were an average of 32 SAYFers per retreat; 66 Young Friends came to at least one retreat during the past year. Details of each retreat are described below. In addition, we held two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee meetings and those also are outlined below.

SAYF Retreats:

1. Chapel Hill Retreat September 17-19, 2004 -- Theme: Community Building
 # of SAYFers 24 # of FAPs 5
 Activities included a workshop on Quaker way of decision making led by Matt Drake from Chapel Hill Meeting and a trip to Jordan lake.
2. Penn Center Retreat October 22-24, 2004 -- Theme: Service Project:
 # of SAYFers 30 # of FAPs 7
 Activities included several service projects in the community and a trip to the beach.
3. W. Knoxville Retreat November 12-14, 2004 -- Theme: Social Action
 # of SAYFers 34 # of FAPs 9
 Activities included a workshop with 3 different speakers presenting on different aspects of conscientious objector status, a video about the role of young people in changing the government of Serbia, and a worship sharing time.
4. Atlanta Retreat January 14-16, 2005 -- Theme: Diversitys
 # of SAYFers 40 # of FAPs 7
 Activities included watching and discussing the movie "Do the Right Thing" and bowling.
5. Asheville Retreat March 11-13, 2005 -- Theme: Leadership
 # of SAYFers 32 # of FAPs 7
 Activities included a question and answer panel on Leadership and a roller skating party.
6. Hard Labor Creek State Park Retreat April 15-17, 2005 -- Theme: Sanctuary
 # of SAYFers 34 # of FAPs 8
 Activities included swimming, boating, campfire, a star walk, and a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Laughter.

Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Black Mountain, NC August 20-22, 2004 | # of Nurturing Committee Members | 17 |
| | # of Steering Committee Members | 6 |
| 2. W. Knoxville, TN February 18-20, 2005 | # of Nurturing Committee Members | 14 |
| | # of Steering Committee Members | 5 |
| | # of Oversight Committee Members | 2 |
| | # of Oversight Committee Members | 1 |

In August, the Steering Committee revised the job description for the SAYF Administrative Assistant and completed the evaluation for this position. We spent considerable time discussing how to improve the understanding and practice of Quaker process during SAYF retreats, particularly during Nurturing Committee Meetings.

Due to the extended illness of our co-clerk, Ceal Wutka joined the Steering Committee in February to complete Jeremiah Gold-Hopton's term. We discussed and affirmed the need for an adult presence at Nurturing Committee meetings to assure a spiritual focus and good Quaker process. We developed guidelines for young children at SAYF retreats, noting that they are to be under the care of their parents at all times. Together, the Nurturing and Steering Committees revised the procedure for selecting Nurturing Committee Clerks.

Overall, the Steering Committee's focus this year has been on developing effective and appropriate clerking among the Young Friends, encouraging individual and corporate responsibility and leadership, deepening spiritual experience at SAYF retreats, and providing an environment for SAYMA youth that is safe, enjoyable, and challenging.

-- Kathleen Mavournin, Co-Clerk

Appendix D
Reports Not Presented
in Session

Ad Hoc e-Communication Committee Report

Friends Peace Teams Representative Report

Web Manager Report

William Penn House Representative Report

Quaker House Representative Report

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representatives Report

FWCC Representative Report

FCNL Representative Report

FCNL Minute on Conscientious Objection to War

FCNL Minute on Moral Values

Ad Hoc Committee on Worship Groups Report

Junior Yearly Meeting Ad Hoc Committee Report

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Steering Committee Report

SAYMA June 2005 Census

**Ad Hoc e-Communication Committee
6-9-05 Report to Yearly Meeting**

Earlier this year we collected a substantial number of responses to our questionnaire and gleaned from them several issues that we have started to work on. The committee thanks all those Friends who contributed their thoughts and feelings to our considerations.

We found that Yearly Meeting's electronic communications concerns naturally fall into three clusters. They are 1) the SAYMA Listserv, 2) the SAYMA Website and 3) General Issues regarding Yearly Meeting's uses of electronic communications.

We have formed three subcommittees to each focus on one of the three clusters. The subcommittees have begun addressing their respective issues and questions. We expect to have some proposals to bring to Fall Representative Meeting and to ask Rep. Meeting then if they would approve implementation of one or two simple proposals and if they would approve distribution of some other more complex proposals to Monthly Meetings for their consideration and feedback.

We hope to bring a full slate of seasoned proposals that would address all of Yearly Meeting's electronic communications questions and issues to 2006 Yearly Meeting for its action.

**Friends Peace Teams Representative Report
Submitted by Bob Welsh**

This past year has been a momentous one for Friends Peace Teams. Working with Steve Baumgartner, Executive Director of Pendle Hill, the FPT Coordinating Committee, to which I have been SAYMA's designated representative, took a close look at FPT's basic organization and concluded that a complete overhaul was needed. So at the Fall 2004 meeting the Coordinating Committee approved the following changes: In future, FPT will have a governing Board (to replace the Coordinating Committee) and will seek to hire an Executive Director (to raise funds for FPT and to support the heroic volunteer efforts of Val Liveoak and David Zarembka). To accomplish this change, a significant fund-raising drive is currently being undertaken by the four or five former Coordinating Committee members who have volunteered to serve as the nucleus of the new Board. I, Bob Welsh, have decided that I cannot as an individual Friend serve on the new Board (and Yearly Meetings are not being asked to appoint persons to this new Board--it will be made up of individual Friends chosen by the nucleus of the Board currently serving). So, the question is, Will there be a role in the new organizational structure for a representative from SAYMA?

The tentative answer is yes--the plan is to form an Advisory Board and to invite Yearly Meetings to send a representative to a (tentatively) once-a-year meeting of this Advisory Board. I have two recommendations to make to SAYMA: First, SAYMA should continue to make a financial contribution each year to Friends Peace Teams. Their work, particularly through the African Great Lakes Initiative in central Africa, continues to be vital in many ways, involving both peacemaking and community-rebuilding, and being carried out increasingly by African Friends. Second, SAYMA should appoint a representative to the new Advisory Board and support that person's attendance at the annual meeting of that Board. This will normally involve a travel expense of about \$300-350 each year. I will add that I would like to be replaced in this position as rep to FPT if a replacement can be found. Can the Nominating Committee find a SAYMA Friend to take my place?

The attached letter from the Chair of the FPT Board explains further the new direction FPT will be taking.

May 2005 -- Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you the revised mission statement that was approved at the April 2005 meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Friends Peace Teams (FPT).

MISSION STATEMENT Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peace-building, healing and reconciliation. FPT's programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

This is an exciting time. For the past 11 years, FPT has done important peace-building work. Our African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya includes work with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), community trauma healing and reconciliation programs, and workcamps. We have partnered with Colombians to begin an AVP program there. We are discovering, refining and adapting Quaker processes for clearness, support and oversight to strengthen the spiritual basis of peace team work by Quakers and non-Friends alike. We hope to be able to continue and expand these programs. (For more information see our website, (www.friendspeacetams.org))

The work has been accomplished mainly by volunteer efforts. We have reached the point that, in order to continue, we need an established office and paid staff. We have revised our governance structure and approved an ongoing Board of Directors. We are in the process of discerning what staffing model will best support our mission and facilitate growth faithful to the Spirit. We are undertaking a major fundraising campaign to finance these changes.

As in the past, we invite Yearly Meetings to participate in this peace work by naming a Yearly Meeting representative to the Advisory Council of FPT. These people would represent your Yearly Meeting to FPT at our annual meeting (dates to be determined), and provide information about FPT and its work to your Yearly Meeting. We recommend that the representatives be named to a three-year term, renewable twice. Please send the names and contact information of your representatives to us by Sept. 15, 2005 using the address above. If a copy of this message should be sent to the Nominating committee of your Yearly Meeting, please do so, or inform us of the name and address to whom it should be sent and we'll send one. We appreciate the support your Yearly Meeting has given us in the past, and hope for its continuation.

Peace, Michael Fallahay, Clerk

Report to Yearly Meeting 2005 from Web Manager

In my report to last Yearly Meeting, I stated that "the SAYMA web site www.sayma.org is first of all a medium for increasing communication among the individuals and Meetings within SAYMA." This is still the case. This year I have made no changes to the layout of the web site. My focus has been on providing timely information for SAYMA Friends---minutes of Yearly Meeting 2004 and the Representative Meetings, program and registration information for this Yearly Meeting, the proposed changes to the *Guide to Our Faith and Practice*, the calendar of Yearly Meeting events, and so on. The web site now has all issues of the *Southern Appalachian Friend* from first month 2003 to the most recent. It also features the current positions of responsibility roster, updated at each Representative Meeting.

There is a page for each monthly meeting and worship group in SAYMA, listing basic information such as the time and place of meetings and a phone number. I depend on you to notify me about changes in this information. Also, each meeting and worship group has a default e-mail address, such as Berea@SAYMA.org. Let me know if you have a contact person to whom messages to your Meeting should be forwarded.

Around the time of last Yearly Meeting, I converted SAYMA web mail to an account with spam filtering. This has greatly reduced the quantity of junk mail that SAYMA addresses receive.

The web site has the potential to be a tool used by Yearly Meeting committees and a means of outreach to Friends and non-Friends around the country and the world. However, these uses are not well developed. I feel we should move ahead in small steps, advancing in those areas that have the clearest benefits. The ad hoc committee on electronic communication is considering guidelines for web site content and administration. >From this work may come the next direction in which to advance.

My thanks goes to those of you who provided me with information for posting, and to Ceal Wutka for taking over while I was out of the country.

Submitted by Tim Lamm,
Berea Friends Meeting

Note: The following e-mail addresses may be used to reach committee clerks and other people with Yearly Meeting responsibilities:

AdminAsst@sayma.org SAYMA Administrative Assistant
ChildcareContact@sayma.org For childcare at Rep Meetings
Clerk@sayma.org Yearly Meeting clerk
Hospitality@sayma.org For hospitality at Rep Meetings
Nominating@sayma.org Nominating Committee clerk
Nurture@sayma.org Ministry & Nurture clerk
Planning@sayma.org YM Planning Committee clerk
RecordingClerk@sayma.org Yearly Meeting recording clerk
Registrar@sayma.org Yearly Meeting registrar
SAFEEditor@sayma.org Southern Appalachian Friend editors
SAYFAdminAsst@sayma.org SAYF administrative assistant
Treasurer@sayma.org SAYMA treasurer
WebMaster@sayma.org SAYMA web manager

**William Penn House Representative's Report
to Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting -- June 2005**

Going back to William Penn House after one and one half years, to its annual National Consultative Committee meeting, staying there as a guest instead of staff, I find a stark contrast between the bustle of the city and the quiet space at the house. The next morning, at breakfast, a lively, friendly conversation replaces the stillness of the night before. I am rested and refreshed, ready for an active day in DC -- a morning of William Penn House planning and work, afternoon errands and entertainment that evening.

William Penn House is a 6000 square foot residence located six blocks from the US capital in a neighborhood where senators and congresspersons live. It is within walking distance of Congress, FCNL, the Smithsonian museums, and close to both metro and Amtrak. A city bus stops in front of its door. The house has dorm space to sleep 30, a nice common area including living room, and two dining rooms, meeting room and a welcoming yard front and back. It welcomes all Quakers and non-Friends who are on a shared mission of peace, social justice, or education. Rates are \$35 per night for individuals, with group rate reductions. Groups may receive programming in human services or training on a specific topic using the expertise of Washington's vast array of non-profits or public officials.

William Penn House began in 1966 as a place where Friends and other advocates could stay to lobby and demonstrate. This heritage continues, combined with educational programming, and including young adult Quaker lobbying weekends, and Quaker youth seminars. A new initiative, a peace studies curriculum based on multi-track diplomacy, is available to assist educators in teaching peace studies. William Penn House is a vibrant force for social change in our nation's capitol. It provides a Quaker presence which quietly

affects the lives of several thousand guests each year.

When I worked there, I was rewarded by watching many people drawn to Quakerism during their stay. Each day begins with meeting for worship. On many occasions, I saw recent visitors to the house on programs like 60 Minutes. I watched future Quaker leaders develop at Quaker Youth seminars and other programming for young Friends. And I met many older Quakers whose lives were changed when, as youth, they came to a house activity.

I encourage Friends to visit William Penn House, and to let Friends in their meetings know it is a resource for them.

Submitted by Errol Hess

Quaker House Representative Report to SAYMA

2005 Counseling:

1. Quaker House staff have held training for the GI Rights hotline in South Bend, Indiana and in Nashville, Tennessee (with Nashville Friends Meeting).
2. March and April GI Rights hotline call statistics:
March: 183
April: 160

Note: A call in these statistics is when actual contact is made with a caller and helpful information is given. A vast majority of calls are from men in the Army. Just over 40 calls each month were AWOL or considering AWOL.

Financial:

1. A budget for 2005-2006 of \$87,741.71 was approved in May.
2. From Chuck Fager, on May donations: It is gratifying to report that Quaker House took in \$5055 in May. With that, our total operating income for the Fiscal Year as of May 31 was \$85210. This is \$2010 over our goal for the year of \$83200, with a month left to go. In addition, we received a special donation of \$3000 from one of our main supportive meetings, designated for the house renovation fund; it is not included in the operating figures above. This season is not usually a high point in our donation cycle; still, donation envelopes continue to trickle in. So financially, at least, we are doing well at the moment. This is necessary, of course, to keep us afloat and able to continue our Friends witness.
3. The Quaker House building needs renovation work, and Quaker House will launch a capital campaign in the next few months.

Director's Activities:

1. Chuck Fager was very involved in the planning of the March 19th peace rally in Fayetteville.
2. Chuck Fager's travels have included Medford Meeting (NJ), Kendal Longwood Quaker Retirement Community, Winston-Salem (NC) meeting (pastoral), Valley Meeting (VA), Eastern Mennonite University (VA), and Golsdboro Meeting (NC).
3. Chuck Fager is part of the planning group for a peace church conference in Indianapolis in September. A peace church conference is also being planned for Fayetteville in November.

-- Geoffrey Pratt

Report from Quaker Earthcare Witness Representatives to SAYMA -- Sixth Month 2005

Quaker Earthcare Witness is an organization of North American and Canadian Friends working to integrate concern for God's Creation into Friends beliefs and practices. By 2012, the 25th anniversary of QEW (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature), we hope earthcare, peace, simplicity, and justice will become an integrated testimony in the Religious Society of Friends.

During the past year, the clerkship transitioned from our own Kim Carlyle to Barbara Williamson of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The fall 2004 QEW Steering Committee and Gathering was in Burlington, New Jersey. A highlight was being in the Mount Holly Meeting House where John Woolman worshipped. Plus, hearing Ned Stow, energy lobbyist with Friends Committee on National Legislation. The spring 2005 meeting was at the Cenacle Conference and Retreat Center in Chicago, Illinois where we expect to hold our future spring meetings.

The Outreach Committee continued to look at how to communicate the QEW Vision and Witness statement through visitation. Yearly Meeting representatives to QEW will serve as links to Monthly Meetings in several ways: listening and connecting with Friends in all Monthly Meetings, offering support to those in Monthly Meetings who are already "quaking" in their concern for Earthcare so that they can move among Friends helping Meetings identify those persons who have Earthcare concerns and are not yet aware of their call

The Quaker Eco-Witness for National Legislation Project (QEW-NL) has merged into QEW and will be included in the QEW budget. So give accordingly as you will now be supporting both with your gift. Now that Quaker Earthcare Witness is an official member of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) we have two QEW members attending the FCNL annual meeting and other functions. This relationship makes it imperative for all Friends at the Monthly Meeting level to be involved when FCNL asks for legislative priorities. "We seek...an earth restored." must go forward. Additionally, FCNL is making changes to their web site so that contacting elected officials is expedited.

A number of QEW Friends enjoyed a trip to Costa Rica to see and work first hand with the sustainable agriculture project, Finca la Bella (Beautiful Farm) under the care of QEW.

Our web site _ www.QuakerEarthcare.org is frequently updated and provides a wealth of information including the latest issues of BeFriending Creation and Quaker Eco-Bulletin which you can receive by mail or e-mail, lists of our publications, contact information for presentations, and links to other related organizations.

Please support the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness with your participation , prayers, and financial contributions as Meetings and individuals.

Alice Wald & Joyce Rouse
SAYMA Representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness

FWCC Representative's Report 2005

FWCC has been in a time of transition at various levels. Both the world office and the office of the Section of the Americas have moved, seeking more economical locations. There have been staff changes particularly at the World Office. (Margaret Fraser of the UK is executive secretary at the Section of the Americas in Philadelphia, and Nancy Irving from the US is executive secretary of the World Office in London.)

The Section of the Americas seems to be turning its energy from these changes into momentum. The Section has started a development campaign. The campaign is obviously to raise money, but it is also

to start some new programs. The program most recently added is to send a representative from each Section to the boards of the Quaker United Nations Offices both in New York and Geneva. Although FWCC is the entity that enables the QUNO offices to exist conceptually, the physical existence and facilitation has largely been through other Quaker bodies. FWCC would like to become more actively involved and permit the participation with QUNO by Sections (Africa and Asia) that otherwise would not be directly involved.

While on the subject of finances, the Wider Quaker Fellowship (WQF), which is a program of the Section, is expected to be self-funding. This means that if you or your meeting is receiving the mailing of pamphlets that WQF sends out, it would be helpful to send a contribution earmarked for WQF to offset the cost of the mailing, just like a subscription for Pendle Hill pamphlets. Currently the number of mailings has lessened and the mailings may stop according to the financial situation of WQF. The WQF mailings supply reading material from across the spectrum of Friends. Also as the Spanish-speaking population grows in our part of the US, WQF is an important source of Spanish materials.

The FWCC program that probably affects lives most deeply is the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. The 2006 pilgrimage will take place in the US Midwest. The Section office is receiving requests from potential leaders and pilgrims (youth 16-18 years old).

At a more "local" level SAYMA and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) jointly hosted the southeast regional gathering at Snow Camp, NC. SAYMA's work crew consisted of your FWCC representatives, Jane Goldthwait and Susan Carlyle for the Ecological Concerns Network. The gathering focused on the outreach of the yearly meetings within the region. Thanks to Susan's presence we all washed dishes instead of using disposables. This fall SAYMA is again slated to co-host a regional gathering, this time within SAYMA's geographic boundary. This is your chance to meet Quakers from other yearly meetings and traditions who want to dialogue with you.

At the annual meeting in March five of the six yearly meetings that make up the southeast region discussed the World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF) that will be taking place in England in August of this year. (WGYF is not a program of FWCC. However, FWCC has been happy to help promote the gathering.) At that time Jamaica Yearly Meeting (JYM), a member of our region, had not twinned with another yearly meeting for help with finances. We decided that as a region we would support the Jamaican delegate. Jamaica YM has chosen Carnel Campbell, the president of JYM Young Friends. He is also active in his monthly meeting. Jamaica YM has committed to helping him with his visa fees and incidental costs. It costs approximately \$2,000 per delegate. SAYMA's share would be \$400. Anyone wishing to donate to the WGYF may send their contribution made out to "World Gathering of Young Friends 2005." Send your donation to Northwest Yearly Meeting, North Seattle Friends Church, 7740 24th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Donations may be earmarked for the Jamaican delegate to the WGYF.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Weir

FCNL ANNUAL MEETING -- Nov. 11 to 14, 2004
Reported by Joyce Johnson

I attended the annual meeting of FCNL in Washington, DC as a representative of SAYMA. Carol Nickle was the other representative. Carol brought a young adult from her meeting to attend and I brought Micah Maren-Hogan from Celso Friends Meeting. Micah is writing a separate report.

The most important business was to approve the legislative priorities for FCNL for the 109th Congress. There was final approval for five priorities and these are attached. 50% of the monthly meetings responded to the priority list.

We also approved a Minute on Moral Values. FCNL bases its public policy positions on moral and

religious values. We seek a dialogue about our moral values and how we are attempting to apply them to national policy with followers of all faiths, traditions, and beliefs, and with those whose primary concern is the "security" of our nation. A copy of the minute is attached.

We also approved a minute on Conscientious Objection to War. This is also attached. FCNL has a new brochure available "War is not the $\alpha\nu\sigma\omega\epsilon\rho$... and neither is the resumption of the draft!" I recommend all meetings to send for this.

I attended two workshops on Lobbying and Clerking that were very helpful. David Culp from the FCNL staff suggested that in North Carolina, we try to build coalitions in our area to work on issues of concern. This might then have more effect on our legislators.

There was an opportunity to attend the new Museum of American Indians at the Smithsonian. It is really a beautiful museum and should be on everyone's list when you visit Washington, DC. FCNL continues to support legislation to correct the injustice done to Native Americans in the US. Important bills are pending in Congress now, the S.556 and H.R. 2440, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Their health care system needs to be funded to provide adequate health care. They presently receive less health care than non-Indians on Medicaid and Medicare.

JOE VOLK Said "We must replace the politics of fear with the politics of hope."

Minute on Conscientious Objection to War -- Friends Committee on National Legislation (approved by the General Committee 11/14/04)

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we share an abiding faith that heeding the Inner Light present in every person empowers all people to resolve disputes without resorting to the machinery of war. The earliest Friends "testif[ied] to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never more move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for Kingdoms of this world."

1. Friends have long followed this testimony of peace by opposing the institution of military conscription, refusing to participate in war-making, even when they suffered for their acts of conscience. In 1651, George Fox, a founder of the Religious Society of Friends, twice declined offers of freedom from imprisonment in exchange for serving in the Commonwealth's army, stating "I told them that I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars."
2. And in 1656, Friends in Great Britain cautioned "that care be taken, that as any are called before outward powers of the nation, that in the light, obedience to the Lord be given."
3. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the absolute refusal of Quakers to fight was so familiar that at least five colonies -- New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Rhode Island -- allowed Friends to be exempted from obligatory military service. (Pennsylvania, because of its Quaker roots, did not even adopt a military conscription act until 1775).
4. Conscientious objection has remained an important expression of Friends' peace testimony in all the major wars, from the Revolution through the present conflicts.
5. Friends have also long been opposed to supporting war making, even indirectly. Some avoid employment or investment in war industries. Some decline to register with the Selective Service System or to cooperate with conscription, or undertake non-combatant military service. Some refuse to pay war taxes voluntarily. During the Revolutionary War, Friends approved minutes similar to that of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting: "that a tax levied for the purchasing of drums, colours, and other warlike purposes, cannot be paid consistent with our Christian testimony."
6. Many individual Friends and Quaker organizations refused to pay the federal telephone tax imposed to help finance the Vietnam War.
7. Some Friends continue to ask that their taxes be applied only to non-military uses; and some Quaker organizations affirm such employees by refusing to cooperate with Internal Revenue Service withholding requirements or levies on their wages.

8. In faithfulness to this historic peace testimony, Friends today uphold all whose conscience calls them to refuse participation in warfare. John F. Kennedy said, "War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today."
9. We call upon our government and the people of the United States to recognize and honor the conscientious objector to military service or war taxes. We support the recognition of the rights of persons not to be subjected to military registration, military service, or continued military service. We support the inclusion of a "check-off box" or other means for persons to declare their conscientious objection to war on military registration forms that they currently are required to complete and file with the Selective Service System upon turning eighteen. We support enactment of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act. We urge all Friends monthly meetings and churches to provide counsel and support to those who seek recognition as conscientious objectors. From his deep experience in war and governance, Dwight D. Eisenhower counseled that "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."
10. The witness of those who object to participating in preparation for war and in war making calls all of us back to this truth, reminding us that true "peace and security can be achieved only by peaceful means."
11. War is not the answer.

**FCNL Minute on Moral Values
Approved by the General Committee -- Nov. 13, 2004**

The Friends committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a faith based Quaker organization. As seekers of truth, and Christians, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.

FCNL bases its public policy positions on moral and religious values.

FCNL has been witnessing on a nonpartisan basis in Washington for more than 60 years, seeking to create a world without war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored.

We talk with members of Congress and their staff about our values as they relate to pending legislation and national policy.

We believe moral values should be a prime component of electoral, legislative and public policy. Individuals have a right and responsibility as citizens to express their views within the framework of the First amendment of the Constitution.

We invite all who are followers of Jesus and all people of faith to consider ways in which Christ's total message of peace, forgiveness, justice, succor to the poor, the helpless, the scapegoated, and the outcast should be included in the definition of moral values. We recall the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11) and Jesus quoting Isaiah in Luke 4:18: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me...to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, release for the oppressed..."

We seek a dialogue about our moral values and how we are attempting to apply them to national policy with followers of all faiths, traditions, and beliefs, and with those whose primary concern is the "security" of our nation.

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Worship Groups

The original recommendations presented last year were sent to Ministry & Nurture and Faith & Practice. Ministry and Nurture made their recommendations as well sending on to Faith and Practice. Faith and Practice determined that they could not discern the appropriate needed changes in practice and procedure thus returning the work to the two committees.

The joint work recommended to the Ministry and Nurture committee and the ad hoc committee on Worship Groups to discern the best approach to work with worship groups moving from that status to preparative meetings and full Monthly Meetings has not begun. We will be doing some of that work at the committee time this 6th day. When we have prepared a joint recommendation it will be sent to all Monthly, Preparative Meetings and Worship groups for review, comments and revisions. These will then be considered, incorporated and sent on to the Faith and Practice committee for inclusion into their work.

Report from Junior Yearly Meeting Ad Hoc Committee

The recommendations from the committee were approved at the April Representative Meeting with understanding that further details would be forth coming after this Yearly Meeting. This report is a brief review and follow-up on the suggestions from that meeting.

The JYM Program Committee purpose is to hire the JYM Coordinator, supervise his or her work, and support the children's program. They will also develop policy, guidelines for volunteers, and be available to the coordinator for consultation and direction. The following is being brought forth for approval of Yearly Meeting.

We propose that this committee be made up of four adults appointed by the nominating committee with input from the current committee, to serve for two year staggered terms. They may be encouraged to consider a second term.

The current Ad Hoc committee will work with the nominating committee to bring forth individuals for these positions if this recommendation is approved.

A budget will be prepared for the JYM program and presented to the finance committee after the current Yearly Meeting recognizing the need to carefully evaluate expenses.

SAYF Steering Committee Report to SAYMA Meeting for Business, June, 2005

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) hosted 7 retreats during the past year. Six have been completed and the last is occurring here at our SAYMA gathering. For the six earlier retreats, there were an average of 32 SAYFers per retreat; 66 Young Friends came to at least one retreat during the past year. Details of each retreat are described below. In addition, we held two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee meetings and those also are outlined below.

SAYF Retreats:

1. Chapel Hill Retreat September 17-19, 2004 -- Theme: Community Building

of SAYFers 24 # of FAPs 5

Activities included a workshop on Quaker way of decision making led by Matt Drake from Chapel Hill Meeting and a trip to Jordan lake.

2. Penn Center Retreat October 22-24, 2004 -- Theme: Service Project:

of SAYFers 30 # of FAPs 7

Activities included several service projects in the community and a trip to the beach.

3. W. Knoxville Retreat November 12-14, 2004 -- Theme: Social Action

of SAYFers 34 # of FAPs 9

Activities included a workshop with 3 different speakers presenting on different aspects of conscientious objector status, a video about the role of young people in changing the government of Serbia, and a worship sharing time.

4. Atlanta Retreat January 14-16, 2005 -- Theme: Diversitys

of SAYFers 40 # of FAPs 7

Activities included watching and discussing the movie "Do the Right Thing" and bowling.

5. Asheville Retreat March 11-13, 2005 -- Theme: Leadership

of SAYFers 32 # of FAPs 7

Activities included a question and answer panel on Leadership and a roller skating party.

6. Hard Labor Creek State Park Retreat April 15-17, 2005 -- Theme: Sanctuary

of SAYFers 34 # of FAPs 8

Activities included swimming, boating, campfire, a star walk, and a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Laughter.

Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees

1. Black Mountain, NC August 20-22, 2004 # of Nurturing Committee Members 17

of Steering Committee Members 6 # of Oversight Committee Members 2

2. W. Knoxville, TN February 18-20, 2005 # of Nurturing Committee Members 14

of Steering Committee Members 5 # of Oversight Committee Members 1

In August, the Steering Committee revised the job description for the SAYF Administrative Assistant and completed the evaluation for this position. We spent considerable time discussing how to improve the understanding and practice of Quaker process during SAYF retreats, particularly during Nurturing Committee Meetings.

Due to the extended illness of our co-clerk, Ceal Wutka joined the Steering Committee in February to complete Jeremiah Gold-Hopton's term. We discussed and affirmed the need for an adult presence at Nurturing Committee meetings to assure a spiritual focus and good Quaker process. We developed guidelines for young children at SAYF retreats, noting that they are to be under the care of their parents at all times. Together, the Nurturing and Steering Committees revised the procedure for selecting Nurturing Committee Clerks.

Overall, the Steering Committee's focus this year has been on developing effective and appropriate clerking among the Young Friends, encouraging individual and corporate responsibility and leadership, deepening spiritual experience at SAYF retreats, and providing an environment for SAYMA youth that is safe, enjoyable, and challenging.

-- Kathleen Mavournin, Co-Clerk

SAYMA June 2005 Census -- Report to the Yearly Meeting

MM, PM, or WG
(monthly meeting,
preparative meeting,
or worship group)

[*] = *PM/WG*
has care of *under*
PM/WG(s) *care*
(*see next column*) *of...*

Question 1 meaning of "member"			Question 2 meaning of "regular attender"		Question 3 events in life of MM/PM/WG									
distinction made?	consist of F&P proceed?	alternate distinction?	comes often, without F&P membership procedure?	if not, what meaning?	marriage or c.o.c.									
					c/o MM, memb/attend	not c/o MM, memb/att	c/o MM, non-attender(s)	birth/adoption	death	membshp transf to MM	membsh transf out or w/drawn	attend became memb	attend > reg att	reg attend/memb stopped attend
a	b	c	a	b	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j

Anneewakee Crk WG	SAYMA		Y	Y									3	2	
Asheville FM															
Athens FM									2		1				
Atlanta FM [*]		Y	Y	Y	Y	2	1		2	2	9				
Auburn WG															
Berea FM		Y	Y	Y	Y				1			1	4		
Birmingham FM [*]		N	Y	note	Y							2	1		
Boone FM		Y	Y	Y	Y							Y	Y		
Brevard FM		Y	Y	Y	Y			1	1			1	7	4	
Celo FM		Y	Y	note	Y	note						2	8		
Charleston FM		N	Y	Y	Y						1	2			
Chattanooga FM		Y	Y	note	Y	Y			1	2	2	7	6		
Clarksville WG	Nashville														
Clemson WG	Greenville	N	Y	Y	Y	note		Y				2	1		
Gwinnett WG	Atlanta														
Columbia FM [*]												4	1		
Cookeville PM	Nashville	Y	Y	Y	Y							3			
Crossville FM		Y	Y	Y	Y							2			
Foxfire FM		Y	Y	Y	Y							2	1		
Greenville FM [*]		Y	Y	Y	Y						1	5	4		
Huntsville FM		Y	Y	Y	Y			1			1	2	1		
Memphis FM		Y	Y	Y	Y					1	1	4	4		
Murfreesboro WG	Nashville	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y				1			
Nashville FM [*]		Y	Y	Y	Y			2	1		2	9	9		
New Moon WG		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y				2	2		
Oxford FM		Y	Y	Y	Y	note		1	1		1	2			
Royal WG	B'ham	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y				2			
Sevier County WG		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y				10	3		
Sewanee WG	Chatt	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y				1			
Swannanoa Valley FM		Y	Y	Y	Y			2	1	4		1	9	2	
West Knoxville FM		Y	Y	Y	Y			1			1	5	1		
					event totals >	2	2	1	7	3	11	7	21	95	46

Questions 1-3 & the "other yearly meeting" count are for SAYMA's perspective on itself. We send the total of members & regular attenders to FWCC. Various Quaker organizations use such totals.

Key:		
Y = Yes	X = don't routinely collect this info	// = not applicable
N = No	? = don't know	

Notes		Question 4				YM grand total
		count of individuals				
		sub-totals			MM/PM/WG total	
		members	member of other YM	regular attender		
a	b	c	d			
			5	5		
	Estimate based on 2003 Directory update >>		115	115		
	Estimate based on 11-04 Directory update >>		17	17		
	# reg attenders estimated >>	137	165	302		
		21	8	29		
	<< only for some positions of responsibility (clerk, mtghse board clerk, M&N clerk)	18	2	15	35	
	estimate>>			11	11	
		16		16	32	
	<< children of members are associate members; reg att is one who comes to mtg often, participates on a committee, contributes financially	28	4	50	82	
		19			19	
	<< we go by the Faith & Practice definition	24		11	35	
	<< come often & participate in other than worship (dinners, discuss, celeb, etc)			5	5	
	<< not surveyed this year					
		19		26	45	
				13	13	
		7			7	
		7	1	12	20	
		6	1	10	17	
		5	2	11	18	
		49	1	17	67	
				5	5	
		54	3	60	117	
				4	4	
	<< we also include those who cannot attend regularly due to illness or work, but who give of their money, time, other gifts, and who attend meeting for business	8		14	22	
				4	4	
				8	8	
				4	4	
		31	1	18	50	
		63		39	102	
		512	15	663	1190	
		total individuals >				

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