

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting #36
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
June 8-11, 2006**

June 8, 2006 – Fifth Day (Thursday)

36-1 Opening Prayer

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1a

36-2 Greetings

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the 36th yearly meeting of SAYMA.

36-3 Introduction of Visitors

Deborah Fisch – representing FGC. A traveling minute was read from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).
Liz Oppenheimer – representing FGC Traveling Ministries. A letter of travel was read.
Anna Sandidge – new coordinator of Friends Peace Teams.
David Bucura – Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams, from Rwanda.
Tonda Rader – Earlham School of Religion.

Also introduced, assisting the front table – Hannah MacDermott

36-4 Announcements

- Site Coordinator announcements were given by Steve Livingston.
- Reading Table. This year, reports from Wider Quaker Organizations and SAYMA committees can be found on the reading table in the binders.
- Sign Up for Electronic Minutes.
- The Administrative Assistant position opening was announced by Sallie Prugh of the Personnel Committee.
- Columbia Friends Meeting announced a project regarding Hiroshima and sending a \$4.17 book to political leaders.
- On Friday evening, there will be a short movie on the Guatemalan scholarship program at 9:40pm in Jensen.

36-5 Agenda Review

The Clerk explained the organization and priorities of the yearly meeting business agenda. This year, on the agenda, there are mainly infrastructure concerns. There will be times for some representatives to report on their work as well.

The agenda was approved.

36-6 Calendar

Posted on wall (and in the April minutes)

The April 14th, 2007 Representative Meeting will be in Nashville.

The tentative date for the 2008 Yearly meeting is June 11-15th

36-7 Epistle Committee

The clerk asked that two or three people volunteer as an epistle committee. Penelope Wright (Nashville), Barbara Esther (Asheville), and Peter Buck (Asheville) volunteered.

Friends Approved.

36-8 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, David Ciscel, distributed the report of the Yearly Meeting's finances. See Appendix B for the entire report. The SAYMA 2006 budget is in good shape and currently is in surplus. The treasurer attributed this to two factors: 1) Monthly meetings are paying on a quarterly basis, thus keeping SAYMA in funds all year long and 2) Several individual SAYMA Friends have contributed donations and several Meetings have contributed beyond their assessments.

- Assessments of \$60 per monthly meeting member will remain the same for 2007.
- There was a correction: Chattanooga Friends Meeting has given \$1900 in FY 2006.
- The report from the finance committee will be on Friday.
- Friends spoke about how the added contributions have given an amount of ease to the work of SAYMA.
- The Treasurer also announced that the Assistant Treasurer position was open and requested that Friends so led talk to him during Yearly Meeting.

Friends accepted the report.

36-9 Nominating Committee

Sharon Annis gave the report. Friends were reminded, if there is an opening that calls to you or could be appropriate for a Friend that is not present, please speak to a member of the nominating committee: Errol Hess, Penelope Wright, Perry Treadwell, Jane Thistlethwaite, Sharon Annis.

(a) Sharon Annis gave a proposed minute regarding Nominating Committee structure from 2005. Friends gave several concerns regarding the selection of the Naming Committee – these included questioning the need for change from the past and asking for other avenues for members of the Naming Committee to come forth from the larger body of the yearly meeting.

In the light of these concerns, the minute was edited and approved as follows:

The Nominating Committee of SAYMA shall be composed of a clerk plus a minimum of 3 additional members, who are active in the YM and who are from at least 3 different monthly meetings. These individuals would serve two year staggered terms. Names for the nominating committee would be brought forward for approval during yearly meeting sessions by the Naming Committee or may be forwarded to the yearly meeting as appointees through discernment by their monthly meeting.

An intentional focus on involving Young Adult Friends in this work is important to the yearly meeting. The nominating 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. The nominating committee is also to seek input from Monthly Meetings and Worship groups about individuals that are interested in extending their involvement in Wider Quaker Organizations including SAYMA.

The Naming Committee is composed of 3 individuals whose names are brought by the Clerk and up to 3 volunteers from the floor of Yearly Meeting, all to be approved by the Yearly Meeting. Their task is to identify and bring forth names to serve on the Nominating Committee, and the name of an individual to serve as nominating committee clerk. This committee would serve during the yearly meeting session.

Friends Approved this Minute.

(b) LeeAnn Swarm, Bob McGahey and Larry Ingle were recommended to serve as the 2006 SAYMA Naming Committee.

Friends Approved.

(c) Sharon Annis presented a list of the current slate of nominees for SAYMA positions and openings. Friends were encouraged to review the list.

Friends approved that Kristi Estes, Clerk, Bob McGahey, clerk of Ministry and Nurture, Adrienne Labotka, co-clerk of SAYF Steering, and Steve Livingston, Site Coordinator, have one year extended to their terms. Their terms will now end in 2007. Penelope Wright's tenure of Worship Liaison was incorrectly written as ending in 2007. It will end in 2006.

Carol Ciscel was approved for a one-year tenure as the clerk of the YMPC. Ceal Wutka has been approved for a two-year term as the Workshop coordinator.

A recommendation for appointees to FGC's Travelling Ministries Conference was referred back to the committee to bring forth a proposal for SAYMA participation in this conference before specific names were brought forth.

Friends Approved these recommendations.

(The complete listing of all positions of responsibility, including all those approved at this Yearly Meeting are included in Appendix G.)

36-10 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

The report was given by Bob McGahey and is attached in Appendix C.

36-11 Electronic Communications Committee Report

The report was given by Bill Reynolds. (attached in Appendix C)

There are currently three ECC subcommittees addressing different concerns:

1. General concerns re: SAYMA and ECC.
2. Website concerns.
3. Listserve Concerns.

There are three proposals being worked on.

The first was a "Proposed general statement about Electronic communications of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association." Feedback was given to the committee. Concerned Friends were asked to communicate directly with the committee.

The second proposal was regarding website policies. Friends were asked to review the proposal and bring concerns to the committee. It will be brought back later in Yearly Meeting sessions.

The third proposal was regarding a proposal that there be three SAYMA listserves: Important SAYMA announcements, General Announcements, and Discussion. The clerk noted that this proposal had been brought to three different representative meetings previous to Yearly Meeting and that these were guidelines, not necessarily rules.

A Friend encouraged us to remember that the work of Elders is to love us back into the light and nurture the many gifts of the meeting. [*clerk's note: This was in reference to the possible use of "elders" to monitor the listserves*]

There were no concerns given regarding the division of the listserves, but there were several concerns given regarding the guidelines and security of the discussion listserve and the financial cost of face to face meetings of Elders.

The division of the listserves was approved. The committee was asked to consider the concerns that were raised.

36-13 Faith and Practice Revision Committee Report

Free Polazzo, the clerk of Faith and Practice gave a reading of the proposed changes. These will be considered tomorrow. Proposed changes are in Appendix C.

June 9, 2006 – (Sixth Day) Friday

36-14 Opening Reading: Minute on Non-Discrimination

Brevard Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirms our fundamental understanding that there is that of God within every person. Recognizing the power and presence of the Inner Light in all people, we welcome all individuals regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, natural abilities, and/or national origin to join us in our collective search for equality, truth and justice.

In all aspects of life, it is our wish to recognize as fully as we can the Light within us all by keeping open to the many reflections of that Light. As Quakers, mindful of being effective witnesses for social justice, we commit ourselves to educating ourselves and others about any condition which leads society to be hostile to any group. We also commit ourselves to action to end ignorance about, prejudice toward, and discrimination against any people based on their age, race, gender, sexual orientation, natural abilities, and/or national origin both within the Religious Society of Friends and the society at large.

We believe that Friends' testimony of equality requires a single standard of treatment for all human beings and that all people share in the Light. We affirm that we welcome to our Meeting all who share our search for Truth. We **therefore** extend our loving care, concern, and support to all individuals in our Meeting community.

36-15 Introductions

Galen Labotka – assisting the clerk's table from W. Knoxville FM, acting clerk of Young Adult Friends, representative to the World Gathering of Young Friends in England in 2005.

Nancy Diaz – Pendle Hill representative with a traveling letter from Pendle Hill.

36-16 Announcements

- Green Walkabout leaving from outside the Environmental Leadership Office in Sunderland.
- Reminder of Administrative Assistant Position opening. Please see Sallie Prugh.
- Reminder of video showing about the Friends Scholarship program in Guatemala.
- Clean-up Volunteer needed for Chat & Chew on Saturday night.
- Reminder that Bookstore purchases are requested to be made before 1:30pm today.

36-17 Roll Call

The following meetings were represented at the beginning of this session. A complete list of attenders to SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2006 is in Appendix A.

Aneewakee Creek Worship Group, Atlanta Friends Meeting, Berea Friends Meeting, Birmingham Friends Meeting, Boone Friends Meeting, Brevard Friends Meeting, Canton Worship Group, Chattanooga Friends Meeting, Columbia Friends Meeting, Cookeville Preparative Meeting, Foxfire Friends Meeting, Gwinnette Preparative Meeting, Hunstville Area Friends Meeting, Memphis Friends Meeting, Nashville Friends Meeting, New Moon Worship Group, Royal Worship Group, Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, West Knoxville Friends Meeting.

36-18 Agenda Review

Addition to agenda: adding Electronic Communications Committee consideration after site selection.

Addition Approved.

36-19 Nominating Committee

The clerk of the Nominating committee addressed these issues:

(a) A clarification: the members on Ministry & Nurture are made up of representatives to be appointed from every monthly meeting. Additionally, there are also three appointed positions on M&N to come from the general body. These three positions are what have openings

(b) There was clarification of the role of the Ministry and Nurture liaison to the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (YMPC).

(c) The Nominating Committee gave a proposal for a reconfigured position to be known as “Worship Coordinator” for the YMPC. This person will coordinate worship sharing and all other worship opportunities. **Friends accepted this proposal.**

(d) The 2006 FGC traveling ministries consultation is on how monthly meetings address emerging gifts of ministry throughout Friends’ lives and how they take responsibility for nurturing these gifts. The cost to SAYMA would be transportation only, with travel scholarships available. **The meeting approved** sending two representatives with an encouragement that the delegates make a commitment to share the skills learned within SAYMA’s monthly meetings as they are able. Nominations will carry with them the concern that the individuals nominated be chosen with consideration to that requested commitment.

(e) These following nominations were presented and approved:

Peace and Social Concerns: Kay Smith (Birmingham –Dec 05-June 07),
Jerry Litrovella (Chattanooga December 05-June 07)
SAYF Steering Committee: Mark LaMay (West Knoxville - June 06-08),
Laura Norlin (Atlanta – June 06-08)
Bookstore: Kay Smith (Birmingham 06-08), Missy Ivy (West Knoxville 06-08)
Gary Briggs: FLGBTQC representative (Asheville June 06-08)

36-20- Faith & Practice Revisions Committee

Refer to the proposals in Appendix C. The following parts of the proposal were approved with these changes:

Page 2 of 8: “Yearly Meeting Section” #1 and #2. **Friends Approved.**

Page 3 of 8: #2 Added “within SAYMA” to the end of the first sentence....”must establish an association with an existing monthly meeting *within SAYMA.*”

#3 Last sentence - omitted “new”, and replaced “even” with “especially”....”M&N is also available to work with meetings and nearby worship groups especially where there are raw feelings....” **Friends Approved.**

Page 4-5 of 8: Peace Testimony Section.

#5 Changed the first sentence, making 2 sentences. “Friends aid victims of violence, whether from war, crime, community, or family strife out of the belief that each person is uniquely valuable. For the same reason, Friends also reach out to the perpetrators of violence.” **Friends approved through paragraph 6.**

36-21. Anna Sandidge – Friends Peace Teams Coordinator

Anna spoke about the various programs of FPT through the African Great Lakes Initiative. She talked about one of the projects, trauma healing through experiential community building programs bringing Hutu and Tutsi together. FPT hopes to bring that work into Latin America and the United States. Representatives from Yearly Meetings to FPT serve on FPT’s decision making body, and Anna encouraged the Yearly Meeting body to talk to her and David Baccura about FPT’s work.

36-22. Tim Barner & Kathy Guthrie – Friends Committee on National Legislation

The representatives spoke on how the representatives from our Yearly Meeting have served on the FCNL policy committee and development committee, and the gratitude FCNL has for SAYMA’s involvement. They encouraged individuals and monthly meetings within the Yearly Meeting to build democracy through engagement in local lobbying and lobby trainings. FCNL is able to send staff to a monthly meeting to do an initial lobby training if requested. They also encouraged individuals to sign up on the website for weekly action

items and to become Meeting contacts. There will be an FCNL meeting tomorrow in the small conference room. Current FCNL initiatives were explained and information provided for response.

36-23. Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) Representative Report

Gary Briggs, FLGBTQC rep, spoke regarding SAYMA's work on FLGBTQC issues and Cookeville's successful sponsorship of Peterson Toscano's program: "Doing Time at the Homonomo Halfway House." FLGBTQC's midwinter gathering will be just north of Greensboro, NC from February 16th-19th. Max Carter will be the plenary speaker on the theme, "Many Voices, One Spirit." There will be one semi-programmed meeting for worship. Gary spoke regarding the denial of use of land by FUM's Quaker Lake retreat center. In response, Piedmont Friends Fellowship's retreat at Quaker Lake facilities in the spring was focused on discrimination; they invited FLGBTQC members to speak and be present.

This report was accepted. A complete report is in Attachment D.

36-24. Budget

The Finance Committee made the 2007 budget available for reading before consideration tomorrow. It is in Appendix B.

June 10, 2006 – (Seventh Day) Saturday

36-25 Opening Reading

"The day was Friday, and we were mindful that within a few hours we would be going in separate directions, never to be gathered under the same circumstances again. As we met for worship that morning we were faced with the decision, whether or not to approve the epistle. We had laboured for several hours the day before, and it looked as though preferences for wording and other concerns would make it impossible to approve the final draft.

However, something happened which transformed the feeling of our meeting... [A New England Friend] said something like, 'I know that the blood of Christ and the Atonement are very important issues for some Friends, and I don't see anything in the epistle which addresses those convictions....'

In the discussion that followed, [an] evangelical Friend expressed his concern that the number of references to Christ might be difficult for Friends not used to Christ-language. What had begun as an act of loving concern for other Friends transformed the meeting into a unified whole. The discussion had changed from persons wanting to ensure that their concerns were heard to wanting to ensure that the concerns of others were heard and that their needs were met. We had indeed experienced the transforming power of God's love."

- Paul Anderson, quoted in *Quaker Faith and Practice: the book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, 1994, #2.92*

36-26 Introductions

Chuck Fager – Quaker House, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Dick Houghten – Nashville Friends Meeting, assisting the Clerk's table

36-27 Roll Call (for meetings *not* present at yesterday's roll call)

Present at the beginning of this session: Asheville Friends Meeting, Celo Friends Meeting, Crossville Friends Meeting, Greenville Friends Meeting.

36-28 Agenda Revisions

The following reports will be omitted from the agenda, but are available in Appendix C:

- The Logo Committee report and materials regarding access to logo will be brought to September Representative Meeting.
- Web Design concern - Talk to Tim Lamm, the web manager if you feel led to redesign the SAYMA website
- Ecological Concerns Network has a report at the Reading Table is looking for contact persons from each Meeting.
- Peace and Social Concerns report is posted at the Reading Table. They are working on concern around torture and invite Meetings to communicate with them regarding their concerns around a minute on torture.

The changes in the agenda were approved.

36-29 Announcements

- Housekeeping, Keys, Name Tags.
- RWSR: Who, What, Why, and Where? Will meet on porch during lunch.
- Friends Journal: the price of subscription is increasing. They are also recommending their first anthology "Answering Terror: Responses to War and Peace after 911."

36-30 Continuing Concerns

The clerk asked to enter into the record some of the larger concerns that were brought up yesterday – to be recorded but not addressed directly today:

- We hear concerns that the dissemination of our work across a large geographical region is difficult. (consultations, conferences, centers, and WQO's).
- We hear concerns that there is an impression of one geographical area or meeting representing the Yearly Meeting to the exclusion of the others.
- We hear concerns about how we select non-routine appointees.
- We hear concerns about how we nurture each other amidst conflict.

We do not want to ignore these concerns, but we have other work to do today. We ask as these concerns arise to hold them and to look for way to open.

Friends Approved this Minute

36-31 Personnel Report

There is a personnel report at the Reading Table. Mary Calhoun has resigned as of June 30th, and there is a need for a new person for the Administrative Assistant Position. A search committee has been convened and will meet today at 4:00pm. The search committee consists of Sharon Annis, Errol Hess, Sally Prugh, and Kristi Estes. There is also a working group - if there is an interim period of Tim Lamm (website), Penelope Wright (emails), David Ciscel (finances), Errol Hess (Kitenet), and Sharon Annis (physical property). The position is open to anyone within SAYMA.

The meeting minuted their appreciation for Mary Calhoun's seven years of work as SAYMA's Administrative Assistant:

Friends gave their thanks for the numerous occasions that Mary took time to help them – with Southern Appalachian Friend, with the Internal Revenue Service, with Faith and Practice reports, and with clerking responsibilities. Others thanked Mary for her work helping the listserv run smoothly, answering the phones at times different than her regularly scheduled hours, rescuing them from computer emergencies, and typing up reports for them.

Friends also spoke of how Mary had helped them learn important truths – about themselves and about the world around them. One friend said that Mary helped her to learn that administrative details can be vitally connected to the life of the Spirit in the Yearly Meeting. Another Friend noted, "Some people define their jobs in the narrowest possible sense and do as little as possible. Others define their jobs in the broadest possible sense, and Mary has done that. Mary talked with me late into the night and helped me feel part of an organization that means a lot to me." A Friend who saw herself as sharing many similar characteristics to Mary said that she appreciated the challenge they were both able to give each other in seeing how they both come across to other people – and of the gift of the knowledge of SAYMA's history that Mary carries. She said that

her conversations with Mary were “most precious” to her. Another Friend said that Mary taught him about sharing gifts we didn’t know we had with people that didn’t know that they needed them. A former clerk who started her work at the same time as Mary started hers said, “We started together in our respective roles, and we labored together because we were each finding our way, and it is through our love for each other that we found our way and will continue.”

A Friend also sang out her appreciation to Mary, “Tis a gift to be efficient, tis a gift to be on time, tis a gift to separate the members from attenders.... You are a gift to us and we will hold you always in the light.”

36-32 Finance Committee Report

For the 2007 proposed budget there is a change in expected contributions from \$500 to \$3100 There is a COLA increase to SAYMA personnel. There is a doubling of money for the Faith and Practice Committee due to increased copying expenses. There is also an increase of funds to contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations. There was an error in the printed fund allocations. Quaker Earthcare Witness should be marked to be receiving \$600. Questions and concerns were addressed. The final 2007 budget will be proposed at the September Representative meeting. If there are any specific proposals, please get them to the Finance Committee before that meeting.

Friends approved this minute.

36-33 Electronic Communications Committee

The clerk read the charge of ECC formulated during the 109th Representative Meeting at Berea.

(a) The first proposal brought forward was the general statement regarding our faith and practice as it relates to electronic communications. **It was edited and approved as follows:**

Our faith and practice as it relates to electronic communications, specifically website, listserv, and email.

Historically, Friends have been “part of the world but not of it.” Learning to incorporate new technology without losing our practice of Spiritual Discernment has been part of that history.

Our experience leads us to affirm that electronic communications is not appropriate for discernment of the Spirit and determining the “sense of the Meeting” in our Committee and Yearly Meeting work. We are also reminded that our Testimony of Equality calls us to insure we fully include all SAYMA Friends in all Yearly Meeting communications by providing sufficient non-electronic communications as well to all who, either by choice or by circumstances, do not involve themselves in or do not have access to electronic communications.

Electronic communications supports our work in many ways such as sharing information, ideas, suggestions for agendas, for directions for actions, for researching and sharing background information and data. Use of electronic communication also supports our ecological concerns about paper reduction.

(b) The second proposal relates to the SAYMA discussion listserv. Friends were in unity regarding the “Guidelines for Content” section with the deletion of “sometimes” from the second to last sentence. Friends noted that these guidelines could be appropriate for a Meeting for Worship with attention to business. The guidelines follow:

1. SAYMA DISCUSSION LISTSERVE GUIDELINES FOR CONTENT:

This list is for the SAYMA community to discuss general issues of concern to Quakers. (For further information about Friends' concerns see Quaker.org). This list is especially for those who like electronic back and forth discussion about views, opinions, etc. Please compose your postings to this list to reflect the fundamental Quaker value that “there is that of God in Everyone”. When responding to another post, respond to that of God in the author or subject of that post. This means express your perspective sincerely without passing judgement on the other's motives, character, intelligence or integrity. It is good to allow time to pass for seasoning your

thoughts before posting a response. Please also be moderate in your quantity of postings in order to avoid overwhelming subscribers.

Friends approved these guidelines.

The rest of the document regarding the SAYMA discussion listserv was sent back to committee with several concerns. 1) There was a concern regarding anonymous or alias postings, 2) There was a concern regarding the last sentence that addressed removing people from the list for repeatedly breaking the guidelines. A Friend recommended that moderators approach difficulties using positive reinforcement first. Another Friend asked that the document be specific regarding how the list moderators would be chosen.

The ECC will take these concerns into consideration.

36-34 Ministry and Nurture Committee

Friends General Conference's Traveling Ministries Committee Consultation for Yearly Meetings.

- At our April 2006 meeting, we discerned that we will send two Friends seasoned in our yearly meeting, one older and one younger, to represent SAYMA at this consultation in November 2006 in the Pittsburg area.
- Necessary travel expenses will be available from the Spiritual Development Fund.
- We will work with these Friends to gather the information to be taken on our behalf to the consultations (how are monthly meetings and the yearly meetings nurturing emerging ministries?). Upon their return they will report back to us and we will discern with them how the gifts of the consultation can be shared among the monthly meetings of SAYMA.
- The Friends we asked to serve in this capacity are Hannah MacDermott and Perry Treadwell.

Friends Accepted the Report

36-35 Faith and Practice Revisions Committee

Seven sections will be presented next year, including: Integrity, Earthcare, the Preparative Meeting to Monthly Meeting section, and the Revision to the Marriage Certificate to become consistent with the Marriage section.

References are to the proposals in Appendix C.

Page 5 of 8: "Peace" Section, #7 was approved with changes in sentences 2 & 3: "Friends' lives, ground in simplicity, equality, integrity, justice, and harmony, contribute to a healed world. Friends as individuals and as a Society continue to struggle toward this goal." **Friends Approved.**

36-36 Wider Quaker Organizations

- **Quaker House, Fayetteville, North Carolina Chuck Fager**

Quaker House works on three different areas 1) Counseling of GI's and their families, and those who are considering joining the military, 2) Coordinating peace rallies in Fayetteville, 3) Serving as a resource on peace issues, particularly to Friends and to others as way opens. Chuck spoke of the expansion of the work of Quaker House and their rising budget. He also spoke of his relationship to Tom Fox, Christian Peacemaker Team hostage in Iraq, and the loss of Tom's life. Chuck will soon be publishing a pamphlet of Tom's writing. He read a section of Tom's writing from his weblog from a refugee camp.

- **Friends General Conference, Deborah Fisch**

Deborah spoke of the current work of FGC, a service organization that SAYMA is affiliated with. FGC's work and services are open to any yearly meeting or monthly meeting that wishes to take advantage of them – regardless of affiliation. She noted the work of SAYMA individuals in serving in many key FGC positions and thanked SAYMA for appointing representatives to committees that are mindful of the tasks to be performed. She highlighted the work of the Religious Education Committee. The Advancement and Outreach Committee is expanding their website services on Quakerfinder.org. They hope to include different countries, several branches of Quakerism, and listings of individual isolated Friends who wish to start worship groups.

She spoke of the work of the Traveling Ministries Program and of the benefits of having a Traveling Friend in ministry and how visiting Friends may not carry answers but help create space so that answers can come forth out of the meeting. Traveling Friends may be requested that have experience in specific areas as Meetings have needs. She encouraged Meetings to inform Traveling Ministries of emerging gifts and ministers in their Meetings so that they could be supported in nurturing these individuals.

She also spoke of the work of the Ministry & Nurture and Youth Ministries Program Committees. The Youth Ministries Program Committee is intergenerational and is doing work discerning how young adult friends can be connected to each other. She asked SAYMA to consider hosting young adult friends who have emerging gifts of ministry.

She also reminded us that any book you want can be bought at QuakerBooks of FGC.

- **Friends World Committee on Consulation Report- Rachel Weir**

Rachel went with a traveling minute to the Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas branch of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, in Guatemala, to serve as an interpreter. She gave thanks to the Yearly Meeting for their support and sponsorship. Hosted by Ambassador Friends Meeting in Guatemala (affiliated with FWCC), she spoke of the generosity of their hospitality. She spoke of the different branches of Friends in Guatemala, including a visit to a Holiness Friends church.

Friends accepted these reports.

June 11, 2006 – First Day, Sunday

36-37 Opening Reading

“I recall a family weekend, when the children, about twenty-four of them, aged three and upwards, had their own sessions in parallel to the adults. On the first evening, after the getting-to-know-you games, we sat down on the carpet to worship. We lit some candles on the hearth, turned off the lights, asked two children to be elders, and were still. The meeting went on for over a quarter of an hour, and was deep. Then the two elders shook hands, but the silence continued. After another five minutes, I started a conversation, but no one responded to be cheerful comments. I was the one who had lost touch. When the children did speak, it was slowly, thoughtfully, with long spaces between. This was when I realized that children do minister... That meeting lasted until someone entered the room and interrupted us – about forty minutes.”

Anne Hosking, quoted in *Quaker Faith and Practice: the book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, 1994, #2.76*

36-38 Epistle of Southern Appalachian Young Friends

The SAYF epistle, in dramatic form, was acted out in front of the Yearly Meeting. The script is attached as Appendix E.

36-39 Epistle of Young Adult Friends

The YAF epistle, also in dramatic form, was acted out in front of the Yearly Meeting. The script is attached as Appendix E.

36-40 Introductions

Elaine Ruscetta, Atlanta Friends Meeting, Representative to the World Gathering of Young Friends in England in 2005, assisted the clerk's table.

36-41 Announcements

- The Administrative Assistant position is open. Please talk to Sally Prugh or email her as soon as possible. Email her at sallieprugh@yahoo.com. SAYMA will be receiving resumes for that position until the middle of July.
- Laura Norlin will be serving at FGC Gathering as a young friend's counselor.
- SAYMA is still looking for an assistant Treasurer for 2006 to become a fulltime Treasurer in 2007.

36-42 World Gathering Report

Galen Labotka and Elaine Ruschetta were SAYMA Young Adult Friend's representatives at the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends. Their report is attached as Appendix D.

36-43 Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting

Stephen and Heidemarie Huber-Feely, JYM Coordinators, spoke of how this has been a wonderful weekend in community building and how they were here to share the community we created this weekend with everyone here. They said that they tried to create a program that balanced structure and education with free play that would take into account everyone's differences. They spoke of the challenge it was to come in with an agenda and a program and then adapt to time structures and children's very individual preferences while bringing everyone together in community.

The JYM brought in a handmade loom from forest branches, string, and brush. The coordinators spoke of how this symbolized the weaving together of the community through the weekend. They also spoke of how much they learned and how much they were able to see of nature and of God through the eyes of children – of being able to wake up and see through the children, the joy of being alive on this planet.

The children each spoke from their experience of the weekend:

"I liked playing the intergenerational games, kick the can, and learning how to play ping-pong."

"I liked playing ping-pong, too because I was the best in JYM."

"The loom is made out of wood and string."

"My name is Nicholas, and I liked playing kick the can and pool, but I wasn't very good at pool, and I loved swimming."

"I'm Taylor and I'm Angelina, and we liked making fairy houses outside. We took sticks and leaves and made ink from squished mulberries and wrote on leaves and sticks and things and took acorn caps and made little seats out of them."

"My name is Sam."

"My name is Amber."

"Mine is Alice. Last night we were really bored and we went under a tree with permanent marker and wrote on sticks. We're giving them away as pet sticks."

"I liked ping-pong even though I got beat in every game except one, and I liked swimming and playing intergenerational games."

"I liked Kick the Can."

36-44 Agenda review

Proposals for the Faith and Practice revisions for Equality and Simplicity will stand as is and be revisited in the 2007 Yearly Meeting. New sections will be sent out in the fall for monthly meeting's consideration.

36-45 Thank you to Mary Calhoun

The minute from yesterday was approved.

36-46 Nominating Committee

The clerk of Nominating spoke of the level of discernment happening in Yearly Meeting regarding gifts and roles this year. Two positions that are still opened are those of Assistant Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Assistant Clerk, Sally Prugh (Columbia), extended to '08

Co-clerk of ECN, Margaret Hawn (Huntsville), 06-08

Clerk of Personnel, Sally Prugh (Columbia), extended to 08

Co-clerk SAYF Steering Committee, Mark Wutka (Atlanta) to 08

Web Managers Support Committee, Jim McKeever (Nashville) 06-08

Co-registrars Pam Beziat (Nashville) and Sharon Phelps (W. Knoxville) 06-08

YAF representative to YMPC, Nicole Renny (Atlanta)
AFSC Harry Rogers (Columbia) 06-08,
AFSC-Sero, Gita McGahey (Celo) 06-07;
FCNL Bettina Wolf (Swannanoa Valley) 06-08..
Friends Peace Team, Sharon Phelps (W. Knoxville) 06-08,
Quaker Earthcare Witness, David Ciscel (Memphis) 06-08;
Handbook AdHoc committee clerk, Sharon Annis (W. Knoxville)

Friends Approved these Nominations

36-47 Naming Committee

Lee Ann Swarm, of the Naming Committee, recommended the following names for the Nominating Committee:
Errol Hess (South Carolina), clerk of the Nominating Committee
Sarah Rose (Royal Worship Group), Annie Black (Cookeville PM), Dennis Greg
(Crossville MM), and Barbara Esther (Asheville MM)

Friends approved these nominations.

[Clerk's note: The name of Judy Guerry (Huntsville Area MM) was inadvertently omitted from the nominations report. She will serve on the committee in the interim and her name will be brought before Representative Meeting in September]

36-48 Registrar's report

Ceal Wutka spoke of the assistance Mark Wutka gave in preparing and implementing this weekend. There were a total of 258 people in attendance: 185 Adults (16 of which were YAF), 27 children, and 46 in SAYF.

The clerk noted the thanks of the Meeting for the work of the registrar in holding everything together.

36-49 Site Selection

No one is currently serving on the Site Selection Committee. Berea College has opened up to Conferences; however, they do not book more than a year ahead of time. **Friends approved returning to Warren Wilson College for Yearly Meeting sessions June 11-15, 2008.**

Ceal Wutka, Errol Hess, and a member of Berea Monthly Meeting will meet with Berea College and report their findings to fall Representative Meeting in 2006, and this issue will be considered.

36-50 Yearly Meeting Epistle

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Epistle for the Thirty Sixth Annual Sessions
Eleventh Day, Sixth Month, 2006

Dear Friends Across the World,

We greet you in that which is eternal and send this epistle to tell you of how the Spirit fared with us during our annual sessions held at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina.

Two hundred and fifty eight Friends of all ages gathered together to create a community exploring our theme; *Testimonies from Creation: Savoring the S.P.I.C.E. in all life*. Among our numbers were sixteen Young Adult Friends, forty-five teens (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) and twenty-seven participants in Junior Yearly Meeting.

We were blessed with cool sunny days and a refreshing breeze which called us to be out in God's world in a variety [of] activities. Heidimarie and Stephen Huber-Feely, our Junior Yearly Meeting coordinators invited all of us to savor creation on a nature walk. The children spent much of their time outside as they explored the connection between creation and Spirit. An intergenerational games workshop gave Friends of all ages an opportunity to delight in each other. In keeping with our testimony of equality it was loudly trumpeted that children of a wide age range excelled at kick-the-can.

SAYFers returned to a dorm closer to the heart of SAYMA's activities and were happily seen consistently throughout our gathering. Their presence was appreciated at worship sharing and in workshops.

They made up half of those of those present at the Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concern's worship.

In turning to the conduct of our business we noted the resignation of our Administrative Assistant of the past seven years. Mary Calhoun's patience, institutional memory and integrity in fulfilling that office brought forth our heartfelt and minuted appreciation. During our meetings for worship with attention to business we continued in our theme as we approved more revisions to *Our Guide to Our Faith and Practice* that addressed the testimonies of simplicity, peace and equality. We also considered the best use of electronic communication, through email, web sites and list serves. We find that we still labor to remain in a worshipful center during our business sessions.

Our workshops, evening panel and keynote address reminded us of our testimonies as we heard each of our SAYMA Friends relate their stories; showing us lives that testified to the Truth they found in the testimonies. These stories also told of the importance of truth, reconciliation and forgiveness in times of injustice or violence. As Anne Welsh spoke of seeking to be faithful to the part of her that God had touched, we were struck by the truth of the testimony of integrity. Continuing revelation of justice and equality was brought to life by David Ciscel's story of his passage through civil rights sit-ins and women's liberation confrontations, only to find that there was yet another group in need of justice. Through affirmation of and support of his gifts by his community, Daryl Bergquist was able to take risks in the wider world. Heidimarie Huber-Feeley surprised us with her understanding that simplicity is not deprivation, rather it is richness found in creation. We were blessed by his ministry as Hector Black told of his experience with peace in four aspects of his life. Peace became possible for him and his family through Love and seeing that of God in another's eyes.

As we labored through our agenda, we found that hurts between Friends, between meetings or in our larger community of Friends also need this same healing ministry, so that we can act from a place of Love and trust. We were reminded of the full nature of eldering that calls forth and nurtures gifts of Friends. We witnessed the Spirit flow through our clerk as with skill and tenderness she led us through a lengthy agenda. At the same time she named for us some longer term work that we will need to address regarding the care of and communication with each other across great distances. She lifted up for us an image that challenged each of us to relinquish our "own boats" so that we can go deeper into the Living Waters.

At the end of each business session we heard from our featured wider Quaker organizations. We were called out of our introspective work to attend to Quaker work in the wider world. Representatives from Friends Peace Teams, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC), Quaker House, Friends General Conference (FGC) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) ministered to us as they spoke from the heart about the work to which they have been called. Anna Sandidge inspired us with her experience with Africa Great Lakes Initiative's reconciliation program for the Hutu and Tutsi survivors in Burundi. Tim Barner and Kathy Guthrie shared with us impending legislative actions with which FCNL has been working. They invited us to consider lobbying training which FCNL can provide upon request. SAYMA Friend, Gary Briggs shared his delight that FLGBTQC's Mid-Winter Gathering in 2007 is to be held in North Carolina and their hope to include Friends from all Quaker branches. Chuck Fager chose to briefly speak of the work of Quaker House so that he could share with us a portion of Christian Peace Team Worker and Quaker Tom Fox's blog entry written just prior to his kidnapping. Hearing of Tom's quiet and faithful witness to the peace testimony touched us deeply. Despite his quiet mien, through his tragic death, Tom's voice resounds in the world. Deborah Fisch shared with us the exciting news of the new program committee at FGC for youth ministries. We remember that three of our younger Friends were part of the discernment around establishing this committee. With joy we heard our Friend Rachel Weir tell of her experiences serving FWCC as a bi-lingual interpreter during the recent Section of the Americas meeting in Guatemala.

We were given an additional blessing by the presence of David Bucura of Rwanda. He currently serves as the National Coordinator of an Alternatives to Violence Project with genocide survivors and has served as General Secretary of Rwanda Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Remembering the truth Anna Sandidge found in her encounter with a war survivor, we affirm that the most fundamental gift we can give each other is to listen with tender hearts and to be present for one another; through this Love comes healing and unity.

God willing, we will come together again in worship and community in Sixth Month, 2007 at this place for our thirty seventh annual session.

Friends Approved this Epistle

36-51 Electronic Communication Committee Announcement

ECC will bring the Website Policies Proposal to the Fall Representative Meeting at Berea. Since the proposal was handed out in business Thursday, we have made a couple of minor tweaks and added the following sentence under the “contents” list:

“Groups within SAYMA that want to have a link or a presence on the website are encouraged to contact the web manager.”

Everyone will have the opportunity to see the full proposal posted on our listserv and on our website soon. Anyone who wants to give input are encouraged to contact the ECC Clerk or one of the members, or to speak with your Representative BEFORE the Fall the Rep. Meeting.

36-52 Thank You

Warren Wilson College: Friends spoke of how this campus is starting to feel like a home one weekend a year. They gave thanks for all of their provisions and service. A friend said, “This time I really appreciated the sense of communion and immersion in the life of nature which is filled with Spirit.” The healthy, diverse, and locally grown food offerings were appreciated. A friend spoke of Warren Wilson’s hospitality as being a spiritual hospitality marked with exquisite care and responsiveness to needs that arise. A friend from Columbia spoke of the peace that is here, and gave a hope that as people come to this environment, the community will continue to grow.

Other thanks: Friends gave thanks for the safe and wonderful place for our children, for allowing a young adult friend to serve at the Clerk’s table, for the well-being and a continuation in the Beloved Community of those Friends who have completed terms of service, for the opportunity to reconnect and worship with Friends as a whole while connecting into deeper friendships and a greater love with the members of one’s own Meeting. A Friend also spoke saying that she gave thanks for the contributions of each person here in developing the spiritual community she joyfully takes part in.

The Yearly Meeting Closed in worship

Appendices Attached

- A: Attenders List (not available electronically)
- B: Financial Reports
- C: Committee and Officer Reports
- D: Representative Reports
- E: Epistles
- F: State of the Meeting Reports
- G: Position of Responsibilities Roster

Kristi Estes, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Christina VanRegenmorter, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Appendix B: Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report, Budget and Accounts Balance Reports Finance Committee 2007 Proposed Budget

Treasurer's 2006 Yearly Meeting Report

Prepared Monday, June 05, 2006

Our 2006 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. Issues to report include:

1. The fiscal 2006 budget is in good shape. Quarterly payments by most Monthly Meetings and significant special contributions by individual SAYMA Quakers have improved the financial picture from last year. At the time of YM, we have received \$55,423.64 in contributions and our expenditures have been \$46,045.88 – a surplus of \$9,377.76
2. The FY 2006 budget expenditures are reviewed below:
 - a. Office expenditures under control even though SAYMA purchased a new computer system for the Administrative Assistant's office (see Misc. Office).
 - b. This budget report does not include all of the revenues or charges for Yearly Meeting. YM is expected to cost about \$26,000.
 - c. SAYMA is spending less this year for delegates to WQOs (\$2,852.65).
 - d. SAYMA has paid all of its yearly contributions to WQO (\$3,450.00).
 - e. SAYMA contributions to SAYF for the fiscal year are currently \$2,250.00 from our fiscal year budget of \$3,000.00
3. Personnel expenses are within budget under the current budget. We have two part-time employees in SAYMA. The administrative assistant position is a 1/3 time position; the SAYF Coordinator is ¼ time position. Raises (COLAs of 4.1%) will be provided to both employees at the beginning of FY 2007. Our employees receive a monthly payment in lieu of a benefit package.
4. SAYMA has a property/liability insurance policy through GuideOne Insurance. It covers property and general liability. It does not cover many issues fraud and criminal activity.
5. Assessments for FY 2006 are \$60.00 per member and attender.
6. Notes from the Account Balances sheet. SAYMA has set aside funds of \$11,790.00. SAYMA has \$20,786 in two savings accounts to cover these claims. We have increased our savings by \$6,000 this fiscal year. Currently, we have net financial assets of \$23,721, including cash in checking. There has been one claim against the Funds in fiscal 2006.
7. SAYMA is currently able to meet its budget obligations. SAYMA has increased its financial surplus for difficult times. It is not yet clear whether or not SAYMA will experience a financial surplus this fiscal year. Much of our financial health can be attributed to special contributions to SAYMA by individuals and meetings.
8. SAYF finances appear to be in good shape at the end of the first half of the fiscal year. SAYF had total expenditures of \$4,709.70 (the bulk of the expenditures supported five retreats in the Fall and Winter months of early FY 2006). SAYF had \$5,042.50 in revenue (the bulk from fees associated with the retreats). On March 31, 2006, SAYF had a checking account balance of \$562.38 and a Scholarship balance of \$215.80. The SAYF Coordinator provides the SAYMA Treasurer with regular and accurate financial reports.

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

SAYMA Fiscal Year 2006 -- Reviewed and Approved at Representative Meeting September 2005
Fiscal Year: October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 -- Compiled for Yearly Meeting on June 5, 2005

	Budget FY 2005	Actual FY2005	Budget FY 2006	Actual FY2006
Income				
Assessments*	\$44,200	\$39,182.50	\$40,000	\$27,444.00
Bank Interest	\$50	\$185.79	\$100	\$159.09
Contributions	\$300	\$833.00	\$500	\$11,121.00
F&P Sales	\$250	\$91.10	\$250	\$46.55
Newsletter				
SAYF Receipts	\$500		\$0	
YM Total Receipts	\$25,000	\$29,304.63	\$29,000	\$16,653
YM Receipts	\$25,000	\$26,116.50	\$26,000	\$16,653.00
YM Scholarship Donations		\$968.00	\$1,000	
YM Book Sales		\$2,220.13	\$2,000	
Total Income	\$70,300	\$69,597.02	\$69,850	\$55,423.64
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
Yearly Meeting	\$25,000	\$28,165.30	\$26,900	\$15,496.24
Yrly Meeting - Facilities		\$20,727.00	\$20,000	\$12,000.00
Prntg/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc		\$2,321.60	\$900	\$696.24
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM		\$2,842.87	\$3,000	\$2,800.00
Coordinator		\$1,800.00	\$1,800	\$1,800.00
Ass't Coordinator		\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
Supplies/Sitters/Misc		\$42.87	\$200	
Scholarship WQO Reps		\$212.50	\$1,000	
YM Bookstore		\$2,061.33	\$2,000	
SAYF Operation & Admin Transfers	\$3,000	\$2,800.00	\$3,000	\$2,250.00
SAYF Retreats				
Delegate Expenses	\$6,800	\$5,151.12	\$6,900	\$2,852.65
Rep Mtgs	\$300	\$60.00	\$300	
Del to WQOs	\$6,500	\$5,091.12	\$6,600	\$2,852.65
Committees	\$1,200	\$799.84	\$1,300	\$72.00
Ministry and Nurture	\$700	\$328.00	\$700	\$12.00
Ecological Concerns	\$300	\$148.00	\$300	\$60.00
Faith and Practice	\$200	\$265.60	\$200	
Nominating		\$58.24	\$100	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$500	\$615.00	\$800	\$621.00
SAYMA Personnel	\$18,400	\$18,821.53	\$19,500	\$14,464.24
SAYMA Staff Training	\$0	\$300.00	\$0	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,000	\$4,311.22	\$3,500	\$3,369.92
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$1,305.48		\$499.95
Postage		\$1,056.43		\$290.03
Duplication		\$1,611.21		\$924.00
Misc. Office		\$338.10		\$1,655.94
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,300	\$1,152.28	\$1,300	\$857.42
SAYMA Directory	\$600		\$600	
SAYMA Treasurer	\$300	\$484.91	\$200	\$223.98
SAYMA F&P	\$500	\$172.80	\$100	\$88.43
SAYMA IRS Penalties, Interest		\$190.31	\$0	
Total Operational Disbursements	\$60,600	\$62,964.31	\$64,100	\$40,295.88
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS				
Transfers To Funds	\$3,300	\$3,300.00	\$2,300	\$2,300.00
Spiritual Development Fund	\$500	\$500.00	\$500	\$500.00
Released Friend Fund	\$400	\$400.00	\$100	\$100.00
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	\$650	\$650.00	\$650	\$650.00
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$700	\$700.00
YouthQuake	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$500	\$500.00	\$100	\$100.00
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$6,400	\$6,400.00	\$3,450	\$3,450.00
AFSC	\$800	\$800.00	\$400	\$400.00
FCNL	\$800	\$800.00	\$400	\$400.00
FGC	\$800	\$800.00	\$400	\$400.00
FWCC	\$800	\$800.00	\$400	\$400.00
Right Sharing of World Res	\$800	\$800.00	\$400	\$400.00
Quaker House	\$800	\$800.00	\$400	\$400.00
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$200	\$200.00	\$100	\$100.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$400	\$400.00	\$400	\$400.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$300	\$300.00	\$150	\$150.00
Wm Penn House	\$200	\$200.00	\$100	\$100.00
Quaker Eco-Witness NL	\$400	\$400.00		
Guilford College Archiving	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	\$100.00
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$0		\$200	\$200.00
Other				
Total Projects	\$9,700	\$9,700.00	\$5,750	\$5,750.00
Total Disbursements	\$70,300	\$72,664.31	\$69,850	\$46,045.88
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	(\$3,067.29)	\$0	\$9,377.76

* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender

SAYMA Account Balances Report -- Fiscal 2006
Monday, June 05, 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	6/30/2002	6/7/2003	6/30/2004	9/30/2005	6/5/2006
ASSETS					
Bank Accounts					
Checking (Bank of America)	\$5,399	\$5,529	\$18,694	\$9,167	\$14,726
Money Market (Self Help)	\$10,960	\$5,900	\$14,229	\$9,514	\$15,786
Savings (Self Help CD)*	\$7,934	\$8,244	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
SAYF Checking (off books in 2004)	\$1,413	\$784			
Total Available Funds	\$25,706	\$20,457	\$32,923	\$23,681	\$35,512
Set Aside Budgeted Funds					
FWCC Third World Delegate	\$1,300	\$0	\$650	\$1,300	\$1,950
FWCC Triennial Delegates	\$1,905	\$2,115	\$667	\$1,667	\$2,367
Released Friend	\$1,850	\$2,250	\$2,650	\$3,050	\$3,150
Spiritual Development	\$1,282	\$1,782	\$2,082	\$582	\$982
Youth Quake	\$1,095	\$1,345	\$1,595	\$1,645	\$1,895
Young Adult Friends Scholarship				\$500	\$600
Accumulated Funds					
YM Scholarship	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$596	\$596
SAYF Scholarship Fund		\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Claims against Available Funds	\$7,934	\$8,244	\$8,396	\$9,590	\$11,790
Net Assets	\$17,773	\$12,213	\$24,527	\$14,091	\$23,721
Fund Expenses in Fiscal Year					
FWCC Triennial Delegate			(\$2,447)		
Spiritual Development Fund			(\$200)		
Net 2005 YM Scholarship Fund				\$94.00	
Spiritual Development Fund -- 2 Delegates to World Gathering of Quaker Youth				(\$2,000.00)	
Spritual Development Fund -- FWCC El Salvador 5/9/2006					(\$100)
Total			(\$2,647)	(\$1,906)	(\$100)
*FY 2006 Interest (\$159.09) reported on budget page.					

Finance Committee 2007 Proposed Budget

**SAYMA Fiscal Year 2007 -- Approved with
changes and corrections at Yearly Meeting
June 2006
October 1, 2006 through September 30,
2007**

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	FY 2006	FY2006	FY 2007	FY 2007
Income				
Assessments*	\$40,000		\$40,000	
Bank Interest	\$100		\$100	
Contributions	\$500		\$3,300	
F&P Sales	\$250		\$250	
Newsletter				
SAYF Receipts	\$0			
YM Total Receipts	\$29,000		\$29,000	\$0.00
YM Receipts	\$26,000		\$26,000	
YM Scholarship Donations	\$1,000		\$1,000	
YM Book Sales	\$2,000		\$2,000	
Total Income	\$69,850	\$0.00	\$72,650	\$0.00
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
Yearly Meeting	\$26,900	\$0.00	\$26,900	\$0.00
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$20,000		\$20,000	
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$900		\$900	
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000	\$0.00
<i>Coordinator</i>	\$1,800		\$1,800	
<i>Ass't Coordinator</i>	\$1,000		\$1,000	
<i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>	\$200		\$200	
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$1,000		\$1,000	
YM Bookstore	\$2,000		\$2,000	
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Delegate Expenses	\$6,900	\$0.00	\$6,900	\$0.00
Rep Mtgs	\$300		\$300	
Del to WQOs	\$6,600		\$6,600	
Committees	\$1,300	\$0.00	\$1,500	\$0.00
Ministry and Nurture	\$700		\$700	
Ecological Concerns	\$300		\$300	
Faith and Practice	\$200		\$400	
Nominating	\$100		\$100	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$800		\$700	

SAYMA Personnel	\$19,500		\$20,300	
SAYMA Staff Training	\$0		\$100	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,500	\$0.00	\$3,500	\$0.00
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses				
Postage				
Duplication				
Misc. Office				
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,300		\$1,300	
SAYMA Directory	\$600		\$600	
SAYMA Treasurer	\$200		\$250	
SAYMA F&P	\$100		\$100	
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$0		\$0	
Total Operational Disbursements	\$64,100	\$0	\$65,150	\$0
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS				
Transfers To Funds	\$2,300	\$0.00	\$2,400	\$0.00
Spiritual Development Fund	\$500		\$500	
Released Friend Fund	\$100		\$200	
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	\$650		\$650	
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$700		\$700	
YouthQuake	\$250		\$250	
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$100		\$100	
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$3,450	\$0.00	\$5,100	\$0.00
<i>AFSC</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>FCNL</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>FGC</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>FWCC</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>Right Sharing of World Res</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>Quaker House</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>Friends for LGBTQ Concerns</i>	\$100		\$200	
<i>Quaker Earthcare Witness</i>	\$400		\$600	
<i>Friends Peace Teams</i>	\$150		\$200	
<i>Wm Penn House</i>	\$100		\$200	
<i>Guilford College Archiving</i>	\$100		\$100	
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$200		\$200	
Other				
Total Projects	\$5,750	\$0.00	\$7,500	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	\$69,850	\$0.00	\$72,650	\$0.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00

* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender

Appendix C: Committee and Officer Reports

Advancement Ad Hoc Committee
Ecological Concerns Network
Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee
Faith and Practice Revision Committee
Junior Yearly Meeting Program Committee
Logo Ad Hoc Committee
Ministry and Nurture Committee
Nominating Committee (in text of minutes)
Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Personnel Committee
SAYF Steering Committee
Web Manager

Advancement Ad Hoc Committee 2006 Report

This committee is currently inactive. The first part of our charge has been sent to the Faith and Practice Committee and will be part of this year's presentation.

The second part of our charge "consider the boundaries of SAYMA and its size" is not currently being addressed.

Sharon Annis
Clerk of Committee

Ecological Concerns Network

MISSION STATEMENT: SAYMA Ecological Concerns Network will provide assistance including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in Yearly Meeting who are following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. It will also work to raise the level of awareness of ecological concerns among SAYMA Friends.

Our year started with last year's Yearly Meeting that resulted in adopting the Minute endorsing the Earth Charter. That minute also charged ECN with the task of creating greater awareness of the principles of that document. We continue to struggle just how to fulfill this obligation. Susan Carlyle continues to be our champion in keeping this present within our organization and in getting the message out to the wider SAYMA community. We continue to work on how this can be integrated into the work of each of the Monthly Meetings.

Roy Taylor was accepted as the new co- chair of this Committee and also SAYMA's representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

This March we held our first retreat weekend at the home of members Daryl Berquist and Sara Rose. The goal of this retreat was that of Visioning. What is the Vision that we hold of the future? How does holding a vision affect our ability to reach the goals that we seek? What ECN could be doing to meet its Mission?

Much thoughtful discussion was had about how each of us as individuals had gotten us to where we are now as environmental activists and what we need to be doing as the next step.

The result is this list of Goals/Activities:

- Take a Principle of the Month from the Earth Charter and highlighting it in the Newsletter and in small poster format that can be displayed.
- Printing out hard copies of the newsletter for our display table at SAYMA
- SAYF Retreat at Common Ground
- Recruit a person within every Meeting and Worship Group to be our ECN contact
- Support QEW in its efforts to publish a Green Business Directory
- Have an ECN link or page on the SAYMA website

Further tasks that have presented themselves:

- Posters with important reminders about water issues, western resource use, mountaintop removal.
- What can we do in our own communities to help with these issues?
- Get young friends involved in this. Take the kids on the same campus tour that we did, only a little more from a kid perspective.
- Create a small poster on good recycled paper of good graphics what ECN is about to send to each monthly meeting, with a reminder to get involved, and support ECN, and of course QEW.

During various committee meetings and proceedings it was revealed that we need to be doing a better job at communicating within SAYMA the functions of QEW, ECN, and the relevance of earth care work that is being accomplished by these committees, our individual monthly meetings and worship groups and the individual members and attendees of these meetings.

- Action Item: We need to find a contact representative from every MM.

Ecological Concerns Network (ECN) committee continues to publish a (nearly) monthly electronic newsletter. The editor responsibilities continue with Roy Taylor.

We wish to acknowledge the work and energy of Carol Gray as she cycles off as co-clerk of ECN. Her time and energy have helped further the ongoing work of ECN. We owe so much gratitude to Kim and Susan Carlyle, Kathy Johnson, and Carol Gray, for first class leadership to get us where we are today.

Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee

- PROPOSED GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN YEARLY MEETING AND ASSOCIATION (SAYMA) – Sixth month, 2006
[this proposal, as approved, is in the text of the Minutes #36-33a]

• SAYMA WEBSITE PROPOSED POLICIES

Purpose

The purposes of the SAYMA Web Site (<http://www.sayma.org/>) are:

- To share information among SAYMA monthly meetings, worship groups and attendees about organizational matters;
- To reach out to potential attendees by providing information about how to contact SAYMA Friends and locate SAYMA meetings;
- To inform the world at large about SAYMA activities.

Content

The SAYMA Web Site will publish items of general interest to SAYMA Friends submitted by monthly meetings, worship groups, yearly meeting committees, or people in positions of responsibility for the Yearly Meeting.

Specific content will include:

- An annual calendar of Yearly Meeting events;
- An archive of minutes of Representative Meeting and Yearly Meeting business sessions (not including the attendee lists) and other documents in the official record of the Yearly Meeting;
- A list of people in positions of responsibilities, including contact information;
- Information and registration materials (possibly including on-line registration pages) for Representative Meetings and Yearly Meeting gatherings;
- Guide to Our Faith and Practice working documents and drafts;
- Announcements of workshops, retreats, etc., sponsored by member groups and open to all;
- Information about SAYF and SAYF retreats;
- Issues of Southern Appalachian Friend newsletter and subscription information;
- The Yearly Meeting Handbook (when available);
- Information about other Yearly Meeting programs;
- Links to other Quaker organizations, including FGC, FCNL, FWCC, and AFSC.

To facilitate Yearly Meeting committee work, the web manager may provide private, password-protected web space for committees to keep working documents.

Monthly Meeting/Worship Group Pages

The web site will have a page for each monthly meeting and worship group officially affiliated with SAYMA.

These pages will contain:

- The name and status (i.e. Monthly Meeting, Preparative Meeting, Worship Group) of the meeting;
- The place and times of meeting;
- Directions to the meeting or a link to a map;
- A link to the meeting's own web site (if any);
- Contact information provided by the meeting;
- An email link of the form <meeting name>@sayma.org.

Email sent to the above email address will be forwarded automatically to the email contact person designated by the meeting. If the meeting does not designate an email contact person, such messages will go to the web manager.

It will be the responsibility of the individual meetings to keep their information up to date by notifying the SAYMA web manager of changes.

Guidelines for Documents

Documents for publication on the SAYMA Web Site must be submitted in digital form and ready for publication.

Acceptable formats are:

- Microsoft Word, Excel, or Publisher;
- Corel WordPerfect or Quattro Pro;
- Adobe Acrobat PDF;
- Rich Text Format (RTF);
- HTML

The web manager may correct spelling, grammatical or obvious factual errors, but should not be expected to do major editing of submitted documents.

Documents will be posted in one or more of these formats (at the discretion of the web manager):

- PDF;
- RTF;
- HTML

The web manager will make a reasonable effort to insure that the on-line document is as much like the original as possible, but sometimes changes in format are necessary.

For best results, documents to be posted on the web should have a simple layout with at least 1 inch margins and at most two font families. Common font families, such as Times New Roman and Arial, work best.

Privacy and Security

Personal information such as names, postal addresses and email addresses will not be published on the SAYMA web site without the person's knowledge and consent.

The web manager will choose technologies that reduce the likelihood that individuals will be subjected to spam, crank phone calls, or other unwanted communication as a result of web site content.

● A PROPOSAL TO CREATE THREE SEPARATE LISTSERV'S

Date: 6-6-06

1. SAYMA DISCUSSION LISTSERV

GUIDELINES FOR CONTENT:

This list is for the SAYMA community to discuss general issues of concern to Quakers. (For further information about Friends' concerns see Quaker.org). This list is especially for those who like electronic back and forth discussion about views, opinions, etc. Please compose your postings to this list to reflect the fundamental Quaker value that 'there is that of God in Everyone'. When responding to another post, respond to that of God in the author or subject of that post. This means express your perspective sincerely without

passing judgment on the other's motives, character, intelligence or integrity. Sometimes it is good to allow time to pass for seasoning your thoughts before posting a response.

ELDERING GUIDELINES:

Form a group of four or five "elders" from those who read the list regularly and appear to have skills in discernment. Ask them to "step in" if a/some subscriber(s) post inappropriate material or excessive numbers of posts.

When someone posted something with inappropriate content or tone, elder(s) are advised to email directly to the person who sent the message and suggest in their future postings they use more tender language. Elders may, from time to time, feel a sense that a reminder for what and how we speak on this listserv needs to be sent to the whole listserv, either near the time when an offense has occurred or later. Elders are advised to be mindful that some issues will be resolved without their intervention. This is a good thing. If listserv participants make a mistake occasionally, it does not necessarily have to be pointed out to them. If an individual repeatedly violates the listserv guidelines despite repeated elderring, the listserv elders should consult with each other and reach unity before asking the listserv administrator to remove him/her from the list.

"ONE LINER" TO APPEAR AT THE BOTTOM OF EVERY POST TO THIS LIST:

"This list is for the SAYMA community to discuss issues of concern to Quakers. (For further information about Friends' concerns see Quaker.org)"

WELCOME NOTICE TO EVERYONE WHEN THEY JOIN THIS LIST:

This list is especially for those who like electronic back and forth discussion about views, opinions, etc. Please compose your postings to this list to reflect the fundamental Quaker value that "there is that of God in Everyone." When responding to another post, respond to that of God in the author or subject of that post. This means express your perspective sincerely without passing judgement on the other's motives, character, intelligence or integrity. Sometimes it is good to allow time to pass for seasoning your thoughts before posting a response.

2. SAYMA IMP^O^ Bulletin Service:

This listserv is to continue the current IMP^O^ Bulletin Service exactly as currently operated by the SAYMA Administrative Assistant without any non-SAYMA announcements or any discussion. (The latter two functions to be covered by the other two listservs.)

3. GENERAL INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUIDELINES FOR CONTENT OF GENERAL INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENTS LIST:

This list is for posting announcements about events, information, opinion and information about action opportunities related to Friends' concerns. (For further information about Friends' concerns see Quaker.org). To include such things as: (a) events happening around SAYMA region or nationally. (b) articles, publications, and websites of interest - For example: "FCNL has posted an analysis of the Iraq war budget....." (c) action opportunities such as writing congress, peace demonstrations, (d) SAYMA Monthly Meetings' and Worship Groups' newsletters, minutes, etc.. Appropriate responses to announcements on this listserv are to be questions of clarification about details, additional planning information, e.g, time, place, topic and contact information, etc. Any responses other than these particular types of responses are to be posted on the SAYMA DISCUSSION LISTSERV.

GUIDELINES FOR "MONITORING" OF GENERAL INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENTS LIST:

Form a group of four or five "elders" from those who read the list regularly and appear to have skills in discernment. Ask them to "step in" if a/some subscriber(s) post inappropriate material or excessive numbers of posts. One example of what to say: "If those who have been following this conversation would like to continue, it seems more appropriate to move it to the Discussion listserv."

If a subscriber persists in deliberately posting inappropriate material or posting excessive numbers of posts

after being appropriately eldred they are subject to removal from the list.

WELCOME NOTICE TO EVERYONE WHEN THEY JOIN THIS LIST:

This list is for posting announcements about events, information, opinion and information about action opportunities related to Friends' concerns. (For further information about Friends' concerns see Quaker.org). Appropriate responses to announcements on this listserv are to be questions of clarification about details, additional planning info: time, place, topic and contact information. Any responses other than these particular types of responses are to be posted on the SAYMA DISCUSSION LISTSERV.

Faith and Practice Revision Committee

The next 8 pages are the proposed revisions to "A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice" presented at Yearly Meeting. [*For the electronic version of these revisions, please refer to www.SAYMA.org online documents.*]

Junior Yearly Meeting Program Committee

The committee is supporting the coordinators during this year's program and will submit a report at the Fall Representative Meeting.

Sharon Annis, Co-Clerk for the committee

Logo Ad Hoc Committee

Carol Lamm, convener



The ad hoc logo committee has been working in fits and starts since representative meeting in December 2001. At that time, Clerk Sharon Annis, who needed letterhead for clerk's correspondence, presented samples of various images and stationery that SAYMA had used over the years. After consideration of the situation, Friends agreed to the appointment of an ad hoc committee to develop a SAYMA logo.

Over the course of subsequent rep meetings and yearly meetings, several dozen Friends participated in person and by e-mail in considering the uses and audiences for a logo. The committee reported at several rep meetings. We were fortunate in finding a graphic artist, Jennifer Snow Wolff, who understood Quakers and SAYMA and helped us understand what to expect from a logo design process. Jennifer patiently, creatively and expertly produced multiple designs and variations for our consideration. Friends provided thoughtful feedback and suggestions through several stages. At December 2003 rep meeting, the committee reached agreement on the basic design. We decided, contrary to our initial direction, that a color version would be welcome, though we still needed an image that would work in black and white, too. Jennifer moved to the final design stage of making small changes.

In the spring of 2004, Jennifer suffered a serious stroke. When it became clear that she would be unable to complete the job, her partner was able to identify all the computer files related to the job and send them to us. A graphic designer in Berea, Sara Thilman of Flying High Design, agreed to take Jennifer's files and complete the task as simply as possible. Sara was very appreciative of Jennifer's approach, in particular a document Jennifer had written for the committee at the beginning of the process about how a group could work productively with a graphic artist to design a logo. We realized as we made the transfer to Sara that we would not get the complete package that Jennifer had had in mind, but that we would still have an attractive and usable logo based on Jennifer's work.

Sara and her associate have provided us with computer files for two versions of letterhead and four versions each of color and black and white logos. The various versions are suitable for a web page, printing on home computers, printing by professional printers and using on large signs. As convener, I have written out simple instructions about the various versions and how to use them. I will be glad to e-mail files for the letterhead and logo to Friends in SAYMA positions of responsibility who have a use for them. I am also glad to print letterhead as needed.

I believe the ad hoc logo committee's task has been accomplished, and I ask that Friends lay the committee down.

Ministry and Nurture Committee Report for 2006

It is our practice to identify ourselves with blue name badges (blue dots or a blue field). Please do not hesitate to share concerns or joys about the life of the spirit in SAYMA with us. We will be holding the clerks' table in the Light during meetings for worship for conducting the business of Yearly Meeting, a labor in which our Friends Deborah Fisch and Liz Oppenheimer from FGC Traveling Ministries are gratefully joining us. We will also provide greeters outside the doors who will remind Friends of the ground of silence whence satisfying worship and good decisions emerge. Since our numbers remain small, we will be asking seasoned Friends to join us in protecting the threshold to this space during our time together this weekend.

SAYMA's Committee on Ministry and Nurture has reviewed and affirmed our recent approach of meeting separately from Representative Meeting. Our initial focus on meeting with the smaller, newer, and outlying meetings of SAYMA has been fruitful, though not without challenges. It is our desire through intervisitation to get to know all of our meetings, and to share their experiences, gifts, and spiritual lives. We have learned that it is important to be clear that we are invited to meetings out of sense of unity of spirit and clarity of purpose. We therefore encourage invitations rising out of a clearness process by any meeting within SAYMA.

As we grow into our new vision of ordering our committee's work, we ask that you sincerely seek whether you are called to join us in this exciting new venture of the Spirit. We will be meeting as a committee to welcome such seekers at 11 am tomorrow morning. Check the program for place. We will encourage Friends to season leadings to join us in our work through their monthly meetings, and to go through a clearness process with them in making that decision. Our work together is a joyful gift, but not one we encourage to be passed from one Friend to another without this process of discernment (as in, "Who wants to go to M and N this quarter?").

Let us welcome all the myriad opportunities for meetings of the Spirit as we are woven into the tapestry of Yearly Meeting over the next few days. Blessings.

Bob McGahey, Clerk
SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Summer 2006 Yearly Meeting

The SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee held its first meeting in the winter of 2006, to discern our work based on the charge given to the committee by the 2004 Yearly Meeting. At the Spring 2006 Representative Meeting, we reported our discernment regarding the purpose of a minute of the Yearly Meeting that speaks to matters of peace or social concerns. We offered a set of queries we had devised to guide us in the seasoning process of a proposed minute.

Taking into account the advice given to us by the Representative Meeting, we met again at the Summer 2006 Yearly Meeting to revise our guidelines. We are prepared to offer for the Yearly Meeting's consideration the following definition of the purpose of a minute:

A minute of the Yearly Meeting is our testimony to the world of a new understanding of truth that has been discovered through the process of Quaker discernment.

To season a proposed minute to be brought to the Yearly Meeting, we offer the following queries:

1. What Quaker testimony or testimonies does the proposed minute stand upon?
2. Does the minute address political or social concern? How are they balanced with the spiritual aspects of the minute?
3. What does the minute offer that is hopeful or affirming?

We intend to offer this definition and these queries to the Fall Representative Meeting (2006) for approval, so that we may clearly see how we may proceed with our work. If we learn in the next few weeks that many SAYMA meetings are moved to bring a minute concerning torture to the 2007 Yearly Meeting, we intend to convene our committee prior to the Fall 2006 Representative Meeting so that we may begin our work sooner.

Respectfully submitted by SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Dennis Gregg, Deanna Nipp, Jere Licciardello, Kay Smith, Steve Livingston (clerk)

Personnel Committee 2006 Report

The Personnel Committee met at each of the Representative Meetings. We discussed concerns regarding personnel. We revised the description of the Personnel Committee for the Handbook. We recommended that a cost of living raise be given to our employees in accordance with the amount indicated by Social Security (4.1%).

Two weeks before Yearly Meeting, the administrative assistant informed the Clerk of her intention to resign her position as of the end of June 2006. We have accepted her resignation with thanks for the work she has done and wish her well in future endeavors. The Personnel Committee has appointed a search committee to identify possible replacements, to accept applications and to interview applicants.

SAYF Steering Committee – June, 2006

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) has another successful year. We hosted 7 retreats during the past year. Six have been completed and the 7th is occurring this weekend here at our SAYMA gathering. For the 6 completed retreats, we have averaged 35 SAYFers per retreat with 67 teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. This is an increase from last year. Some SAYFers attended all 6 retreats and others attended one. Details of each retreat are described below. All retreats this year were held at Meetinghouses.

In addition to our retreats we hosted two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats and those too are outlined below.

SAYF Retreats:

1. Chapel Hill, NC Retreat September 23-25, 2005

Theme: Community Building

of SAYFers 27

of FAPs 6

Activities included: a drumming workshop and a trip to a drumming place: a 'music emporium'.

2. W Knoxville, TN Retreat October 21-23, 2005

Theme: Heroes and Role Models

of SAYFers 34

of FAPs 10

Activities included: Susan Carlyle's presentation on the Earth Charter and environmental heroes.

3. Asheville, NC Retreat November 11-13, 2005

Theme: Health: the physical and Spiritual Kind

of SAYFers 38

of FAPs 14

Activities included a chi gong workshop, a massage workshop and a contra dance.

4. Atlanta, GA Retreat January 13-15, 2006

Theme: Social and Economic Class

of SAYFers 40

of FAPs 13

Activities included: presentation and discussion with a guest speaker and a movie with a follow up discussion.

5. Berea, KY Retreat March 10-12, 2006

Theme: Spirituality

of SAYFers 42

of FAPs 11

Activities included an extended Worship Sharing time, a service project and musical plays centered around the George Fox song.

6. Nashville, TN Retreat

April 21-23, 2006

Theme: Silence

of SAYFers 30

of FAPs 11

Activities included a community art project and a trip to Centennial Park for earth Day celebrations

Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees Retreats

1. Black Mountain, NC Hendrickson Home August 26-28, 2005

of Nurturing Committee Members 14

of Steering Committee Members 7

We reviewed our SAYF presence at the June yearly gathering, where we had a record number of teens participating. Based on this feedback and discernment, we made a list of recommendations for next years Gathering. We also developed a way to keep better records of the joint Steering and Nurturing Committee, devised a plan to revise SAYF guidelines and expectations. Finally the Nurturing Committee developed a process for clerk discernment each year. This has been a stumbling block in past years and the new process more closely resembles traditional Quaker process.

2. Watkinsville, GA Fisher-Watkins Home February 24-26, 2006

of Nurturing Committee Members 15

of Steering Committee Members 8 (and new Atlanta YF leader)

We planned for SAYF at Yearly Meeting and developed our calendar of retreats for 2006-2007 year. We developed a plan to review the handbook that Kathleen has been working on and turned our attention to completing the retreat manual for use by Meetings hosting SAYF retreats. We expressed thanks to Kathleen Mavournin for her 6 years of service to SAYF and looked at ways for others to assume some of the duties that she completed (i.e. web page). Ceal agreed to add pictures to our web page as well. This was the first retreat were we changed from 'worship journal' to 'epistle' in an effort to deepen the spiritual aspects of this activity.

Graduates:

From Atlanta I know Matthias Carentier and Daniel Gatch.

Athens is Will Fisher and Sam Preston.

Web Manager Report

From Web Manager

The SAYMA web site www.sayma.org is first of all a medium for increasing communication among the individuals, committees, and Meetings within SAYMA. The this end, my primary activity over the past year has been to keep information up-to-date: the Yearly Meeting calendar, registration for Representative Meetings and Yearly Meeting, minutes of these meetings, issues of *Southern Appalachian Friend*, the latest changes to the *Guide to Our Faith and Practice*, monthly meeting times and locations, and so on. This type of work takes a couple of hours per month. Thanks to the help of the Administrative Assistant, the SAF editors, and the Registrar in preparing documents, the time for me to post minutes and registration information for meetings has decreased significantly.

To a lesser extent, the web site serves as a source of information about Quakers and SAYMA for the wider world. Over the past year, I have received several letters addressed to WebMaster@sayma.org or to one of the monthly meetings, asking for help contacting Friends or for information about Quaker practices. I keep a list of people to receive mail addressed to <MonthlyMeetingName>@sayma.org, but there are holes; when there is no designated person, the mail comes to me. I will have a copy of this list of e-mail contacts at Yearly Meeting for Friends to update.

I have made no major changes to the layout of the web site since I became web manager, but I believe an overhaul is in order! The art work could be given a more contemporary look, and the organization could be improved to make finding information easier. This could be an interesting project for a student of graphic design or for a Friend with computer graphic skills who would like to make a contribution in kind to the Yearly Meeting. I recommend that Yearly Meeting accept applications for volunteers to do this work and let me or the e-Communications Committee choose the designer and supervise the project.

Thanks to the Friends who have notified me of changes in their monthly meeting's time or location. Remember that you can email people in positions of responsibility for SAYMA or on committees by using generic addresses such as Clerk@sayma.org. (See the *Southern Appalachian Friend* for a list.)

Appendix D: Representative Reports

American Friends Service Committee Corporation
American Friends Service Committee – Southeast Regional Office, Executive Committee
Friends General Conference Report
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns Report
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Friends Committee on Outworld Relations
Right Sharing of World Resources
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Quaker House Fayetteville Report
William Penn House
World Gathering of Young Friends

AFSC Corporation

The American Friends Service Committee's annual corporation meeting is a mixture of information, inspiration and input. Staff and board leaders report to the group and corporation members share their perspectives. SAYMA's representatives to the AFSC Corporation meeting in November 2005 were Sallie Prugh of Columbia Monthly Meeting and Carol Lamm of Berea Monthly Meeting. A number of other SAYMA Friends were present as board members or representing programs of AFSC-SERO (South East Region Office)

We learned that AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit continued to move hearts for another year as it traveled across the country. The exhibit reminds viewers of the true costs of war through informational exhibits, shoes representing Iraqi civilian casualties and pairs of boots representing every U.S. soldier killed in the current Iraq war. Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq and who emerged as a compelling voice for peace when she went to Crawford, Texas to confront President Bush about the war, made her first public speech at the Eyes Wide Open exhibit when it was in Los Angeles. As a mature peace and justice organization, AFSC has played a key role in coalitions opposing the war. Besides having a solid organizational base from which to help with coordination, AFSC has brought the wisdom of experience in framing messages, commitment to nonviolence, network-building and consensus decision-making.

With the theme "No Human Being Is Illegal," AFSC continues to work at the local and national level in the U.S. on the issue of immigration. This is another area in which AFSC's experience, expertise and work over decades is a gift to coalitions.

One area of service that has changed over the decades is AFSC's response to disasters. AFSC is famous for its relief work after World War II. Many Friends may not realize that this work was funded primarily by the U.S. government. By the 1960s the government had begun attaching so many strings, in particular the requirement of loyalty oaths, that the AFSC board decided not to accept government funds any more. This decision changed AFSC's role in direct disaster relief. Since then, AFSC has worked through local partner organizations, often focusing its disaster response on longer-term rebuilding efforts. In the case of the December 2004 tsunami, AFSC had relationships in Indonesia's Aceh province from 35 years of peace-building efforts. AFSC was able to funnel assistance quickly and efficiently through local organizations. This assistance continues today in the rebuilding work. AFSC has been able to respond similarly effectively after the recent earthquake. In contrast, after a devastating earthquake in Pakistan, AFSC was unable to respond because it had no local partnerships on which to build.

In the case of Hurricane Katrina, AFSC had strong relationships in the Houston area and was able to move quickly to support Interfaith Ministries for Houston's Operation Compassion. Before it was clear that government funding would cover costs of emergency food in Houston, AFSC's board had committed over \$1,350,000. Of this total, \$100,000 was for the Quaker to Quaker Project, which provided grants to Friends meetings, yearly meetings and Quaker college groups for service projects. Subsequently SERO filed a six-member assessment team which visited the area and found itself giving voice to communities that were being systematically excluded from relief programs. The assessment team made recommendations for medium-term and long-term follow-up to respond further to the divisions and oppression laid bare by the natural disaster and response.

AFSC-SERO

Report to SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2006, from the SAYMA representative to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Southeastern Regional Office (SERO) Executive Committee.

AFSC Southeast Region continues to work for peace, migrant rights, social and economic justice, and emergency assistance, based in 9 states: Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Response to Hurricane Katrina:

SERO was swept into the response to Hurricane Katrina, rapidly sending an 8-person needs assessment team into the area. Members of the team set out to do fact-finding but immediately found themselves advocating for neglected and desperate families, such as emergency shelter residents who looked Hispanic and were therefore threatened by police with eviction and deportation. As well as these emergency responses, SERO is starting longer-term action including community organizing focused on economic and racial justice in rebuilding of the coastal area; as well as a project for Friends and other volunteers to assist local residents in repairing their communities. The program will involve 5 new community organizers/social advocates, based in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Peacebuilding programs:

Africa Peace Education Program

APEP reaches out to grassroots organizations, student organizations, schools, and faith-based organizations to help people learn about and take action on crucial issues facing Africa: issues such as international debt, the arms trade, HIV/AIDS, and environmental depletion. The program has been especially successful in developing youth leadership, ready to sustain lively connections with communities in Africa. College students and returning exchange participants organize local activities in support of peacebuilding and justice for Africa. Tejan Muata is Program Director for APEP, based in Atlanta.

Middle East Peace Education Program

MEPEP promotes involvement of individuals and communities in peace building and humanitarian response to conflict in the Middle East, with a particular focus on Israel and Palestine, as well as the invasion/occupation of Iraq. MEPEP has been arranging local "Visiting the Olives" meetings where groups learn about Palestinian Olive Oil as way to understand the struggle for survival of Palestinian communities and the search for peace. The program sells the oil as well as other fair trade goods from the region. MEPEP organized a number of tours by speakers with direct experience of promoting peace and justice in the region, as well as promoting the Atlanta-Ramallah Sister City Project. MEPEP continues to work with a range of organizations on strategies to promote U.S. constructive military withdrawal from Iraq. Samir Moukaddam is Program Director of MEPEP, based in Atlanta.

Emergency and Material Assistance Program

EMAP organizes large numbers of volunteers to provide humanitarian aid in response to natural disasters and urgent needs. This year, EMAP had a crucial role in providing hygiene kits in the Gulf Coast area, as well as continuing to collect health and school supplies for international use and use within the region, and distribution of clothing and blankets to a range of anti-poverty programs in the South East. A new initiative this year has been to link EMAP with migrant farm workers. Provision of expanded hygiene kits (including such items as work gloves) is a form of solidarity with these marginalized groups. Peggie Baxter is Program Director of EMAP, based in High Point, North Carolina.

Programs for Migrant Rights and Economic Justice:

American Friends Immigrant Services

AFIS protects the human rights of migrants both through legal representation and by supporting immigrants, especially Haitians and Hispanics, who want to organize around policies directly affecting them. The community social advocacy work includes training sessions for migrant workers about their rights, participation in radio broadcasts, and meetings with workers as they wait to be hired for day jobs. AFIS works closely with immigrant rights coalitions in Florida and has been advocating around education and health insurance for immigrant children, transportation safety and prevention of worker abuses. Angie Kemp is the staff attorney at AFIS, based in Miami.

Project Voice

In North Carolina, Project Voice is strengthening the organizations and networks of recent migrant communities, as well as reaching out to non-migrants to create better understanding and joint action for human rights. Project Voice has been organizing resistance to anti-immigrant proposals at community and state levels, as well as holding peace vigils and rallies to respond to the fear and divisiveness being created by anti-immigrant groups. Antonio Vasquez is the Program Director for Project Voice, based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

ORITA Peace and Justice Program

ORITA brings together a number of activities in North Carolina that build the skills of emerging community leaders, youth activists and grassroots community groups, especially focusing on sustainable livelihoods and on policies for equitable economic development. ORITA has been working with Highpoint University to develop curricula as well as running training programs and round table discussions on issues such as world poverty, management of non-profits, advocacy for change, and grant writing. A new development this year was preparation, alongside Chapel Hill Friends, of the *"What's Next Guide"* to enable young people to consider a wide range of realistic work opportunities, with the goal of meeting young people's aspirations to widen their experiences. This Guide will be circulated in other regions as part of AFSC's youth and militarism activities (downloadable: www.afsc.org/southeast/documents/choices.pdf). ORITA continues to promote use of the *Eyes Wide Open* exhibit and is enabling returned Africa exchange students to raise awareness in their communities. Ann Lennon is Program Director of ORITA, based in High Point, North Carolina.

Looking ahead, AFSC SERO will be enhancing its role in peace building, through recruiting a Peace Education Coordinator. SERO is also placing even greater emphasis on volunteers implementing its work, through all the programs in the region.

AFSC SERO wants to deepen its connections with our Meetings, and is requesting that each Meeting and Worship Group in SAYMA appoints a contact person for AFSC regional office. This person would receive the newsletter and would mention AFSC's activities to Friends. If there are AFSC events or speakers being planned in your area, the person would be the initial contact point for AFSC to consult and pass information. If your Meeting is able to appoint someone as the contact person, please pass their name and details to AFSC South East Regional Office:

Contact details:

Betti Knott, Regional Director
92 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Email: BKnott@afsc.org
Phone: 404-586-0460 x 12
SAYMA Rep: Ginny Baumann

Friends Committee on National Legislation

I was privileged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on November 11-13, 2005, in Washington, D.C., as a representative from SAYMA. FCNL educates and lobbies on national issues on behalf of SAYMA and our monthly meetings. The theme for annual meeting this year was Proclaiming Our Prophetic Witness.

FCNL's Annual Meeting generated a tremendous amount of energy and hope about the possibility for putting Quaker faith into action. About 250 Friends from more than 25 states came together for three days of worship, conversation, listening, and focus on what the FCNL community has accomplished in the last year and what our hopes are for 2006.

Our Thursday evening presenter, Rep. Lynn Woolsey (CA), stated "It's all about the grassroots" and inspired us to take action locally to influence our congressional representatives. She congratulated FCNL as being one of the most influential and principled advocates in the peace community. Each day that Congress is in session, Rep. Woolsey presents a resolution for peace and against war.

This has been a year of field activity for FCNL with an emphasis on involving more Friends on the local level in the work of FCNL. Friends from different geographic areas of the country met together to discuss plans to strengthen the network of FCNL contact in meetings, churches, retirement communities, colleges, and among young adults. Thirty-six young adults attended annual meeting this year, the largest group ever. At least one young adult from SAYMA attended. Several young adults have joined standing committees and are helping FCNL consider further ways to strengthen involvement of young adults in FCNL.

We heard first hand reports from Iraq Senior Fellow Mary Trotochaud and former staff member Sarah Warren about FCNL's Iraq Peace Campaign. Following that report, Iraq Program Director Robin Aura Kanageis led a discussion about how Friends might work to encourage meetings and churches to support the Iraq STEP proposal emphasizing troop withdrawal and the importance of reaching out to other faith communities.

Friends toured the newly renovated, green FCNL building on Capitol Hill. It is a model of environmentally friendly architecture that puts into practice the importance of energy conservation and reduction of oil dependence. FCNL is now a visible witness to Congress of ecological soundness and innovation, located across the street from the Senate Hart Building. If you have an opportunity, come visit FCNL in the newly renovated building.

I have attended FCNL annual meetings for over 10 years, and every year is inspirational. However, this year the worship level was especially deep. After Joe Volk's reflections on Saturday night concerning FCNL's work and the challenges ahead, the large assembly of Friends entered into spontaneous silent worship out of which came spirit-led messages. The program throughout the annual meeting was all excellent, but this experience Saturday night was the highlight.

Thank you for allowing me to represent SAYMA at FCNL.

Peace, carol nickle

FCOR - Friends Committee on Outworld Relations Annual Report to SAYMA

Since June 2005, FCOR has been inactive. This is regarded as a phase that, hopefully, will give way to resumed activity in the coming year. The FCOR Annual Report to SAYMA of June 2005 put forth a call to Friends to heed the emergence of two events: 1) the increasingly recognized presence of extraterrestrial (ET) visitors, and 2) the emergence of Zero Point Energy, discovered and proclaimed by Nicola Tesla over a century ago, also used by the ET visitors to power their craft. FCOR acknowledged that the visitation phenomenon, while declared as having great importance, had not raised great interest and activity among Friends. The phenomenon of Zero Point Energy (ZPE) became a part of FCOR's area of interest because the technology was being clandestinely developed and concealed from the public for military applications, rather than offered as a badly-needed energy alternative. To FCOR, ZPE stood out as a much higher priority, and still does. It was also

seen as something that, once brought into the open, would cause Friends to pay attention, not only to ZPE, but also to the reality of being visited by civilization(s) from elsewhere.

FCOR remains steadfast in proclaiming the truth of both ET visitation, and also the validity of ZPE and its potential to solve our energy crisis with neither energy waste nor pollution, creating electricity from an infinite source.

Beginning in the spring of 2005, a group of three Friends sought to build a small “motionless electromagnetic generator” (MEG) to access and convert to electricity the ZPE that exists in the space all around us. A model of a small working laboratory-size unit, intended for demonstration, was portrayed on the Web, along with performance data and circuit diagrams, and the trio sought to duplicate this. A first prototype was completed in the fall of 2005, but did not perform as expected: some small details apparently remained to be included. At this writing, a second effort is well under way. The outcome is sought of seeing the MEG put out a multiple of the electric current fed into it: a performance figure of 5X has been reported by other builders. With success, a MEG could emerge that can be demonstrated by FCOR among various Friends groups to make them aware of the possibilities of ZPE, and the shortsightedness of cleaving to fossil and nuclear fuels.

It is the ongoing hope of FCOR that success in building a working MEG will awaken Friends to the technological and spiritual significance of obtaining and using ZPE, and also of forming a relationship with the visitors who have actually been visiting us for centuries.

In the Light,
J. Philip Neal
Coordinator, FCOR
227 Edgewood Rd, Asheville, NC 28804

Telephone 828-664-0550
email: fcor@main.nc.us

Friends General Conference (FGC)

FGC provides resources and opportunities that educate and invite members and attenders to experience, individually and corporately, God's living presence, and to discern and follow God's leadings. FGC reaches out to seekers and to other religious bodies inside and outside the wider Religious Society of Friends.

Exciting new developments at FGC:

1. 2006 Gathering

Few Friends have escaped the news that this first ever western Gathering has proven more popular than we had ever dreamed. We are excited by the ways we have found to expand the size of this Gathering. Although we initially anticipated a maximum registration of 1200, we knew we needed alternate plans when we received two-thirds of the registrations within five days! (Usually the half way mark is in mid-April.) We are sorry that many Friends will not be able to share this experience, but are so grateful for the enthusiastic response. We encourage SAYMA Friends who will be attending the Gathering to be especially patient and tender with the very large number of first timers and the unusually tight accommodations and facilities. Let's remember to hold each other in the Light and seek that of God in all we encounter.

2. QuakerFinder

Thousands of seekers and Friends are regularly using FGC's QuakerFinder website to find nearby Quaker meetings. Now those who are many miles from the nearest meeting may use the site to find similarly isolated neighbors for worship. The new secure registration option for isolated Friends was added to QuakerFinder in January 2006 and already more than 200 Friends have registered to find others. To learn more about this exciting new service, go to <http://www.quakerfinder.org/isolated/>

3. Youth Ministries

Spirit is alive and moving in a powerful and dynamic way through our High School and young adult Friends! FGC, through its new Youth Ministry Committee, wants to spread the good news that by building a true intergenerational community we feel the Religious Society of Friends will be nourished and invigorated in a way that could be breathtaking. Faithfully building authentic and deep intergenerational ties may require nothing short of a cultural shift in the Religious Society of Friends--the rewards could be tremendous. We are delighted to have Emily Stewart serving as our staff person for Youth Ministries, and the committee is beginning to put this powerful calling into concrete program recommendations to be considered by FGC. Stay tuned!

4. Advancement and Outreach Materials

Check out the website for Tools for Local Meeting Outreach, Pamphlets for Newcomers, Meetinghouse signs and many other resources.

5. Quaker Books

Don't forget about the FGC bookstore. Quakerbooks of FGC carries hundreds of titles of interest to Friends and fellow seekers. You can browse these titles and place your order using a state of the art shopping cart system and secure ordering from the bookstore's website at Quakerbooks.Org. Not only are all your favorite (and soon to be favorite) Quaker selections available here; you can also order *any* book from Quakerbooks of FGC.

6. New Conference Coordinator

We are very pleased to introduce Traci Hjelt Sullivan as FGC's new Conference Coordinator. This FGC position holds the major responsibility for the FGC Annual Gathering and other small conferences. Traci is a member of Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting (where she served as clerk) and comes to FGC after thirteen years as Co-Director of the Ben Lomond Quaker Center in California. We are thrilled that she is able to overlap with Liz Perch, the outgoing Conference Coordinator, who has served FGC wonderfully for the past ten years. Liz is moving to Georgia with her family after the 2006 Gathering.

7. New job openings

Do you yearn to work for and with Friends? FGC's service to meetings and Friends is growing and we expect to hire for three full-time positions in the next several months, in addition to offering a one-year publications internship. The new openings are for a Youth Ministries Coordinator, a Major Gifts/Planned Giving Manager, and a Conference Associate, as well as the Publications Intern. You can learn about all these positions, and even download the job descriptions, at the FGC website. Please pass this along to others who may be interested.

We are delighted to have two special FGC guests with us this year. Deborah Fisch, Traveling Ministries Program Coordinator, is leading a workshop. Liz Oppenheimer is serving as FGC's Yearly Meeting Visitor to SAYMA this year. Please welcome them both and ask them about their experiences with FGC.

These are just the highlights of the dynamic work and vision of FGC. It is a both a pleasure and an honor to serve as your representatives to this organization, and we welcome your questions, comments and suggestions for ways FGC can nurture SAYMA Friends. While we serve as appointed representatives to FGC, there are other SAYMA Friends who have been called by FGC to serve in valued capacities. They include John Geary, Tom Kenworthy, Christina Vanregenmorter, and Robin Wells. Apologies if we have missed someone!

Elaine Ruscetta, Julia Sibley-Jones, Penelope Wright

FLGBTQC

Report to SAYMA, June 2006

There has been much regional activity on the part of members of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns this year. One event has already taken place. Annie Black and Cookeville Friends arranged a presentation of Peterson Toscano doing his one-man performance, "Doin' Time at the Homonomo Halfway House" in late April. This is a hilarious and sometimes poignant piece based on Peterson's experiences trying to get "straightened out" in such a facility located in Memphis.

We are most excited about the event being planned for next February 16-19, the first-ever FLGBTQC Midwinter Gathering to be held in North Carolina (or anywhere in the Southeast between northern Virginia and Florida). Presently four of us SAYMA people, all from Asheville MM, are on the planning committee- Katherine Kowal, Jim Cavener, Alan Robinson, and Gary Briggs. Others are from Greensboro, High Point and Chapel Hill. Last fall we faced our first challenge, securing a conference site. We were quickly denied use of the Quaker Lake facility southeast of Greensboro, which is owned by NCYM-FUM. This prompted some anger within Piedmont Friends Fellowship, which has been using this site for retreats for many years. Protest letters were sent by Charlotte MM and Chapel Hill Young Friends, and the PFF representative body responded by inviting ALL Friends to their spring retreat, choosing the theme "Facing Discrimination: Living Our Lives with Integrity". Cheryl Bridges, who is on our committee and has been recorded as a minister by New Garden Friends, was invited to give a keynote presentation, which emphasized the great variety of ways people might be "different" from the crowd and subsequently experience marginalization and discrimination; she led the group in gathering examples of how people's lives can be damaged by such discrimination. Several of us were invited to serve in a follow-up panel discussion.

We found and secured an excellent site for our gathering conveniently located about 25 minutes from the Piedmont Triad airport. The Summit is on several hundred acres with a lake and a river; until recently it was owned by the Episcopal Diocese, which hosted several LGBT events there before. We found many excellent Friends willing to serve as speakers or panelists. We presently plan a plenary session led by Max Carter, director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College, a panel of speakers from each yearly meeting in this region, one worship in the manner of semi-programmed Friends a la New Garden, and breakout sessions around topics such as the paths individuals have taken to arrive at their own Quaker practice. Fireside chats, folk dancing, and field trips to local Friends historical sites are also in the works. The theme, "Many Voices, One Spirit" is intended to celebrate the diversity of Quakers in North Carolina and also their long history of courageous work toward equal and just treatment of all people.

FWCC Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas **3rd Month, 2006 CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA**

Tim Lamm and Sallie Prugh attended the Annual Meeting as representatives from SAYMA. Carol Lamm attended as an observer. Rachel Weir was one of the bilingual interpreters.

We arrived in Rio Hondo, a small town about 1 hour north of Chiquimula, which had a hotel large enough to accommodate 200 Quakers, on Thursday, March 16. There was an orientation for new representatives, and in the evening we were bused to Chiquimula for dinner and worship at the *Embajadores* Friends Church. The courtyard of the church was festively decorated, and we were welcomed by local Friends and live music to a buffet dinner featuring *tamalitos* made by the women of the church. The worship service included many hymns to familiar gospel music and ended with a fun activity based on "Simon says."

Business meeting was held each morning from 8:00 – 11:00 AM, after delicious breakfast served by the pool. The proceedings were conducted in both Spanish and English. Rachel Weir served as an interpreter with skill and grace. Items of particular interest were the discussion of the financial crisis of the organization and the campaign to raise money for an endowment. This campaign is going very well, and they hope to have sufficient pledges and gifts to reach their goal of \$2.5 million in the next year. To inspire the gathered Quakers, one of the members of the *Embajadores* Church talked about how they had raised money to build their new church with the help of every member of their monthly meeting, whether the gifts were large or small. Every Saturday

morning the women would meet in the courtyard in front of the construction and make tortillas to sell to the townspeople. They built the church one tortilla at a time.

There is Peace Issues Working Group, which was instructed at the last Annual Meeting to write a minute on torture to bring to this gathering. The following minute was approved:

In 1976, FWCC in a minute of concern addressed the grave anxiety created by the increase in the use of torture and imprisonment by government and anti-government groups around the world. Today, FWCC Section of the Americas feels led to minute our deepest concern at the continued inhumane treatment of prisoners. Increasingly, we are seeing a legitimacy attached to the use of injustice and brutality that is reflected in an escalation in the use of torture in our prisons, the holding of prisoners without access to courts for as many as three years, the establishment of secret prisons, and the institutionalized training in techniques of torture in places such as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas). The Geneva Convention, which once seemed to have attained the status of settled law worldwide, is being violated, and the perpetrators of inhumane treatment are not being held accountable.

As Friends, we believe in the sacredness of each person. It is the belief in a divinely mandated call to honor the inherent worth of each individual that has allowed Friends to persevere in lengthy struggles against the great evils of the past and present—slavery, religious persecution and oppression of those at the margins of society. At great cost, Friends have witnessed prophetically against injustice for more than 350 years. We now call on Friends everywhere to raise our voices once again against a malevolent darkness that is spreading throughout our world – to join together with all people of faith and conscience in calling on our governments to banish forever the use of torture in any form.

The committee also passed along a letter from Debra Fisch, Clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, requesting that the Section of the Americas “hold a consultation of Friends to consider how Friends might work with other peace churches to provide alternative service in the event of a military draft.” Some Friends felt that it was not appropriate issue for this Section to address, since it dealt with only one country in the Section. However, a representative from Boliva told of the requirement in his country of military service before young people can be admitted to the university or get many types of jobs. Many Bolivian Quaker youth are rejecting their parents’ stand on the peace testimony, because that is the only way they can “get ahead”.

Each meeting for business began with worship. One day there was singing and a sermon about spiritual gifts from the representative from Jamaica who is a pastor. The next day was silent worship, but with the only messages being passages from the Bible. The last meeting for worship was silent worship, but with 200 people including pastors, and because it was our last time together in that place, there were many messages.

Each day there was a period of worship-sharing around the theme of spiritual gifts. These groups were bilingual, and there was an interpreter in each group. Not everyone was acquainted with worship-sharing, but everyone participated and got a great deal from it.

Regional groups got together to plan regional gatherings. The Southeast Region will be meeting September 22-24 in the Greensboro, North Carolina area. Tim Lamm is helping plan this meeting. The theme will likely be maintaining the Peace Testimony in view of the Iraq war and possible draft.

Each evening we rode buses into Chiquimula. One night we heard Duduzile Mtshazo, Clerk of the FWCC, who is from South Africa, talk about her life and how she came to be a Quaker, and how it has supported her through times of trial.

Another evening we scattered to one of 8 Quaker churches in and around Chiquimula. This was a remarkable experience. These were small churches, most with evangelical fervor and amazing, gracious warmth. In some churches the men sat on one side and the women on the other. The music was vibrant. A favorite memory for Sallie is sitting on the curb after the service was over, talking to a group of children about the different ways we worship. They were very interested. They also talked about school and sports. For Tim is was lining up with the visitors in front of the pulpit and getting a hug from every member of the congregation.

The Quakers in Chiquimula took beautiful care of us. The arrangements were wonderful; they were warm and friendly. They were as happy to see a group of Quakers from other countries as we were to see them. The only thing that was less than perfect were the black bean sandwiches in our boxed suppers. Before the conference, Tim and Carol Lamm spent three days in Antigua sightseeing and learning about the Guatemala Scholarship/Loan Program. After the meeting, Sallie Prugh took a study tour led by the Scholarship/Loan Program and traveled through Guatemala for eight days. On the tour were 21 other people who had been at the annual meeting, which gave Sallie additional time to learn more about the organization and about the varieties of Quaker experience. Rachel Weir traveled to El Salvador and has written a report about her experiences.

For more information about the Guatemala conference and FWCC, see the display at this Yearly Meeting and the web site, www.fwccamericas.org. The next FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting will be in Providence, Rhode Island, March 15–18, 2007. The FWCC Triennial gathering of Friends from all over the world will be held August 10–19, 2007 in Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

Submitted by Sallie Prugh and Tim Lamm

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Annual Report to SAYMA 2006

Quaker Earthcare Witness Vision & Witness statement

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.

WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity.

WE PROMOTE these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the Earth.

QEW meets twice a year in the Fall and in the Spring. Within its structure are both standing Committees including Outreach & Publications and Interest Groups including QNL (QEW for National Legislation); Sustainability, Faith & Action; and Ann Kriebel / San Luis. Publications produces the bi-monthly Befriending Creation and Quaker Ecological Bulletin as well as multiple books and pamphlets on an about Earthcare. Outreach works toward getting the Earthcare message out in a variety of manners. Visitation and outreach to yearly meetings is one of its tasks. QNL represents QEW at FCNL in promoting and encouraging Earthcare as worthy of lobbying at the national legislative level. Sustainability: Faith & Action has several projects that it is currently working on. Men 4 Men is an outreach campaign to help men take control of their reproductive responsibility. Over population is of great concern for the stain it puts on all of the earth's systems. This program will provide supplemental funding for men getting vasectomies, a procedure that is less invasive than tubal ligation. Another project is focused on reducing the ecological footprint of QEW as an example to other organizations. One of the ways it accomplishes this is the greening of its meetings, by donating compact fluorescent light bulbs to the meeting facility where we meet and promoting the planting of trees to offset the carbon costs of transportation to the meeting.

Other items being worked on:

- Working with other organizations encouraging all religious publications to be printed on recycled paper.
- Long standing efforts of organize for UN NGO status to be able to participate more fully within the international sustainability community.
- National efforts at encouraging economic policies to reflect actual cost to the earth.

Perhaps the most profound change that has occurred this year is the total redesign of the QEW website. This is an ongoing project and the new site will be added to over the next year by many exciting features. Come visit us at www.quakerearthcare.org.

A current goal is to find greater channels of communication throughout the larger Quaker community, between individual meetings and the central QEW organization. Surveys are being conducted to collect this information.

- Action Item: We need to find a contact representative from every MM.

Quaker House – Fayetteville

Quaker House, based in Fayetteville, NC, provides aid for military personnel, counseling, and informs military members of their rights. Quaker House helps

military members with discharge, those who are AWOL or UA, and those who have become conscientious objectors. Quaker House is affiliated with the GI Rights network, which provides information to servicemembers about military discharges, grievance and complaint procedures, and other civil rights.

Unfortunately, as SAYMA Rep, I have not been able to attend very many of the Quaker House board meetings this year, but I present this report based on some of the board meeting minutes.

GI Rights Hotline Counseling, from various board meeting minutes:

March 2006 was the most active month ever, with over 270 calls to the GI Rights hotline, a 18% increase relative to the previous most active month. The greatest proportion of calls concerned AWOL cases. In addition, each month this year has seen the highest number of calls for that month.

The GI Rights hotline has experienced a steady, almost linear growth in calls since its inception in 1994. Factors that appear to contribute to the increased traffic include the availability and increased use of the website, word of mouth referrals, and the level of dissatisfaction among military personnel.

The volume of calls during 2005 was about 20% higher than the previous year. The current volume is about 2.5 times as high as it was four years ago. Six of the months in (2005) set records for numbers of calls. Quaker House presently answers about 20% of the calls in the system. We also answer calls six days a week, which is more than any other group or individual serving the hotline.

Based on the evidence of hotline calls (from January 2006), the military, especially the Army, appears to be attempting to do too much with too few (in the opinion of the Quaker House Counselors) . . . Although the military has the option of discharging a soldier due to “failure to adapt” (as decided by the military), such designations are being made at a higher level of rank than before, **and thus are more difficult to obtain**. This change may explain a higher frequency of cases in which military personnel have instead decided to go AWOL.

March Peace Rally In Fayetteville, NC

Quaker House has, since 2004, hosted a peace rally on the anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. This past year, the rally was hosted on March 18. Expenses this year, for the March 18, 2006 rally, came to about \$6000 for portapotties, fees, *etc.* Designated donations to Quaker House, in support of the rally came to about \$11,000. The exact amount left over, considering everything, was \$2804.33. Rowan Park already has been reserved for March 17, 2007. Quaker House will serve as the official umbrella of future annual peace rallies at Rowan Park (in Fayetteville)

Financials

The board (in May) reviewed the proposed budget for 2005-2006, which planned for a total operating amount of \$104,779, and expected income of \$108,959. In light of the steady increase of Hotline call traffic, and the strain this load is putting on our present GI counselors, the board APPROVED increasing the operating expense amount by \$12,000 to \$116,779, in order to prepare for the training and hiring of a new GI Hotline counselor, most likely on a part-time basis in the beginning.

In addition, Quaker House is mounting a capital campaign for the Fayetteville property, which runs to the end of the fiscal year. The goal for the campaign will be in the range \$50,000 to \$75,000. A major item will be the rewiring of the house, which will require replastering and repainting of the interior. The walls are of plaster and lathe construction. Chcuk Fager notes that contributions to Quaker House this fiscal year as of April 1 (ending June 30, 2006) already have met \$96.8% of the budget as of yesterday. The fact that we have met our budget means that the special appeal will not be competing with our operations budget.

Right Sharing of World Resources

Report to SAYMA 2006

Right Sharing of World Resources, the Quaker organization devoted to “supporting grassroots projects for economic development and offering educational materials for the study of the lives of the poor, the lives of the rich, and the spiritual meaning of both” entered its thirty-ninth year, and its seventh year as an independent Quaker organization.

The economic development work continues to grow, through the continued support of microenterprise development and network building with local groups and field staff in both India and Africa.

At our Spring 2006 Board Meeting, we were blessed to receive a visit from John Muhanji from Kenya Yearly Meeting. John is affiliated with Aquavis (Africa Quaker Vision), a non-profit development and community organization that serves as field staff for Right Sharing of World Resources in Africa, making site visits and spreading the word about Right Sharing in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. John Muhanji was able to provide the board with first hand accounts of how the work we do builds true economic and social strength within the communities where funds are granted.

As Right Sharing of World Resources continues to grow and evolve, we remain committed to both parts of our mission – to support microenterprise development and to offer North American Friends materials and opportunities to examine the meaning of simplicity in our lives and our use of God’s resources. It is this educational part of our mission that we strive to continue building in the coming year through partnerships with other Quaker organizations, encouraging involvement of Friends at the Yearly and Monthly Meeting level, and the continued building of our curriculum for Monthly Meetings and individual study. Along these lines, we have welcomed a new field representative – Jackie Speicher. Jackie is a wonderful facilitator, and is available as a resource for Meetings and other Quaker gatherings.

Right Sharing of World Resources appreciates the support of SAYMA, monthly meetings, and individual Friends, and welcomes everyone to share in the joy of our work and spiritual discernment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Walker, Asheville Friends Meeting, Board Member, Right Sharing of World Resources

William Penn House

Three major initiatives were begun or increased in FY 2005-06:

1. The former Washington Quaker Workcamps was incorporated into the house's programs, providing workcamp opportunities to youth from around the nation.
2. Teachers of Peace seminars were and continue to be offered to teachers across the country.
3. William Penn House's Quaker Youth Seminars have been expanded to develop Quaker leadership among our youth.

William Penn House continues to work for change. It hosts training for the Emerson Congressional Hunger Fellows. It develops individualized seminars for college, adult and youth groups, utilizing a network of capitol hill staff and Non Governmental Organization experts. It provides service work programs for Friends schools and others. It hosts groups lobbying on important issues. William Penn House works with Friends Committee on

National Legislation to present an annual young adult lobbying weekend, and hosts FCNL committees throughout the year.

In October (13-16), 2006, young Friends are invited to a seminar on equality and racism co-sponsored by the AFSC Help Increase the Peace Program: the "I Have a Dream... Youth Seminar."

November 2-5, 2006, WPH will offer: Teachers of Peace: Educating for Peace and Social Change, a seminar for those who teach middle junior and senior high school-aged students.

William Penn House offers sleeping accommodations and daily breakfast for individuals and groups of up to 30 people. Friends from SAYMA are encouraged to bring groups of young Friends, individual Friends, and families to the house for any purpose, whether educational, recreational or social change. Optional Quaker worship begins every day at WPH, followed by breakfast. With adequate notice, staff can develop a curriculum for youth study or training. Staff are always available to answer questions on any subject. Go to www.WmPennHouse.org for more information.

Submitted by Errol Hess
WPH Representative

World Gathering of Young Friends

Dear Friends:

Thank you for sending us to the World Gathering of Young Friends last August. As you probably could have guessed, it was a very eye-opening experience. There were people there from every walk of life and from all of the many diverse experiences of Quakerism (some of which hadn't even occurred to us). We found connections and understanding both in our commonalities and in our differences.

We both came to the Gathering with our fairly liberal, unprogrammed background, having no understanding of other forms of Quaker worship and spirituality, but searching to understand them. As the week progressed, we learned that understanding them was not the key, but rather uniting with our desire to connect with one another. By sharing in such diverse methods of worship, we saw the power of others experiencing God in new ways. We found community not in our underlying similarities but in our freshly affirmed respect for each other's journeys.

Although it has been almost a year since the gathering, we still feel profoundly connected to the community that we found there, and will be for years to come. We feel supported in our personal journeys and excited about the prospects inspired by our experiences there. In this connection, we wish to worship with our Quaker neighbors and expand our community of Friends.

Thank you again for granting us this incredible opportunity. Let us now continue to see what love can do.

Peace,
Elaine Ruscetta
Galen Labotka

Appendix E: Epistles

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle (in text of minutes)
SAYMA Yearly Meeting Epistle (in text of minutes)
SAYF – Southern Appalachian Young Friends’ Epistle
YAF – Young Adult Friends’ Epistle

SAYF Epistle

SAYF Recollection

SAYF: Raise the anchors, pack ye belongings, we’re setting sail for quaka’ land! Oh the stories. Hark! I’ve forgotten. Jack Sparrow, quick!

Sparrow: Yes captain?

SAYMA: Oh, Sparrow! My mind has walked the plan. Drop your booty and tell me about the past year.

Sparrow: Well, in September us Quaka’s went to Chapel Hill to raise money for our pirate friends with a community building themed retreat. In October, pirate Friends invaded West Knoxville with talk of heroes and role models. It was there we learned to chart the earth from the Earth Charter.

SAYF: Arrrrr... ye truth teller. Captain Hook!

Hook: Yes, friend. In November we encountered sea sickness and retreated to Ashville for a refreshing Health (mental and physical) break where we learned chi exercises and danced the night away. It wasn’t until January that we harbored again, this time in Atlanta, to explore social and economic class themes. We found the buried treasure in our deep thoughts and discussions of Napoleon Dynamite.

SAYF: Arrr... Napolean. Captain Fish, tell me about your booty!

Fish: Well, in March we set sail to uncharted land. We claimed it as Berea in the theme of spirituality. We had to fix it up with a service project, but we entertained ourselves with plays, musicals, and fabulous costumes! In April, we rested our voices in Nashville, where silence was the key component of our adventure. The weekend led us to Centennial Park where we celebrated Earth day with a great bit jug of water!

SAYF: Arrrr.... We can’t forget the Nurturing committee meetings in February and August where our code of honor, and pirate friends’ guidelines, were revised. Now we can tell SAYMA of our marvelous adventures!

All: Yar!

YAF Epistle

South Appalachian Young Adult Friends
2005-2006 Epistle for YAF Happenings

Fall Retreat:

Nicole: Hey, Molly, what’d you think of the Fall retreat?

Molly: Huh? What Fall retreat?

Nicole: You know, the one that didn’t happen.

Galen: Wait! No, no, no it was in England.

Elaine: Yeah, the whole world was there. Too bad only the two of us could go.

January Retreat:

Galen: So we got the Meeting House, right?

Elaine: Yeah, no problem, except we don’t. (Calls Daddio). There was a miscommunication, the Meeting House was double booked, everyone’s on their way, we got no place to stay, can they come to our house?

Daddio: (Answers phone). Um yeah, you can all come here.

Next.

(Everyone is stumbling, pretending to ice skate, falling down)

Chad: Boy, ice skating sure is fun!!! WEEEE!

Next

(Nicole is cooking YAF dinner for her birthday, everyone sings “Happy Birthday.”)

Next

(Cole pretends to be a bonfire)

Chad: Boy, this bonfire sure is great!

Kori: Roasted Marshmallows are my favorite.

Galen: I prefer roasted Sour Patch kids.

Next

(at YAF Meeting for Business)

Galen: Spring Retreat? (All: approved!) Health form? (Approved!) Use of Treasury (Approved!) Scholarships for those who need it? (Approved!)

Chad: Wait! As the Treasurer, I should probably let you know, we don't have any money... (All: wah, wah wah...)

March Retreat:

Molly and Nicole: Hey Galen, do you have any hair clippers?

Galen: Umm...will this beard trimmer work?

Molly and Nicole: Sort of... (hours of shaving Nicole, Molly, and Cole's heads)

Next:

Sandy: Hey, let's go putt-putt!

All: Yay! Bring cameras! (techno beat and putt-putt posing)

Next:

Sig: Hi, I'm here for the pot-luck!

All: Yay West Knoxville Friends!

Molly (to Audience): We really enjoyed eating and conversing with the West Knoxville Friends who joined us for the potluck. Thank you for the great turnout and amazing food.

SAYMA 2006

Nicole (to audience): This year at SAYMA, some YAF's participated in the wider community. We FAPed in SAYF, we were in O.A.F., we were in YAF. We surrounded the clerk and dashed about in Meeting for business. We commandeered SAYF's, microwave and frozen burritos abounded. We roped in the SAYF graduates with our extra super top-secret X-TREME induction ceremony stuff.

Molly: We Young Adult Friends experience spirituality through our unconditional love. Many of us come to retreats scattered and leave with a strong sense of inner peace.

(all exit, crawling on the ground)

Appendix F: State of the Meeting Reports

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Berea Friends Meeting
Birmingham Friends Meeting
Celo Friends Meeting
Charleston (WV) Friends Meeting
Chattanooga Friends Meeting
Columbia Friends Meeting
Cookeville Preparative Meeting

Crossville Friends Meeting
Gwinnett Preparative Meeting
Memphis Friends Meeting
Nashville Friends Meeting
New Moon Worship Group
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
West Knoxville Friends Meeting

Spiritual State of the Meeting 2005

Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome?
From Quaker Faith and Practice, of Britain Yearly Meeting.

We see the meeting as a growing, diverse and constantly changing community where every First Day we welcome new people. A growing number of seekers find meaningful worship here and are drawn into this community. An Adult Religious Education Class, a Spiritual Nurture Group and a weekly Bible Study offer opportunities for small groups to support and deepen spiritual journeys.... [Yet,] we often find it hard to know how to be welcoming, accepting and nurturing as our numbers grow and it becomes harder to know all who worship here. When we consider what the meeting needs now and the spiritual gifts that we would like to offer we name: compassion for each other, wisdom, love for the Spirit, finding ways of embracing each other, finding something of value in the "rain that must fall" in each life, recognizing what good things we already have, loving people in spite of—even for—their limitations, openness to what community members say to us, courage to speak to people when we feel strongly about their ministry, and that each member be able to find that of God in everyone.

From Ministry and Worship 2005 State of the Meeting Report, Atlanta Monthly Meeting

Spiritual Health and Growth of the Meeting

Atlanta Friends wrestled with the spiritual health of the Meeting during 2005. Creating an awareness of the process of Quaker worship amidst dissonant messages was and continues to be our challenge. As we reflect upon our year, we reaffirm that the Spirit may lead us in non-traditional ways. During the year, our experience of worship collectively and individually varied, from finding the corporate worship on First Days rich and nurturing with the gift of vocal ministry through Spirit-led messages, to Meetings full of popcorn, political or accusatory messages that left worshippers angry, tense or unsettled. Ministry and Worship committee sponsored two forums to help us consider how to deepen our worship and vocal ministry. One focused on the article, "The Divine Source of Vocal Ministry," by Benjamin Lloyd, *Friends Journal*, and the second focused on "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship," by William Taber. Both were well attended and provided a space for very personal worship sharing. In the words of Ministry and Worship, "We share a commitment to a gathered Meeting for worship where a palpable sense of the presence of God brings us together."

The religious education program is a growing community with a healthy number of families that sustains 5 classes, averaging a total of 25 children each week. Many of the same teaching volunteers recommit year after year. The committee continues to search for new volunteers so that the spiritual health of the children can be nourished not only by parents teaching their own children but also by the larger community.

The Nominating committee also searched for new volunteers as 27 positions of responsibility, more than usual, became vacant during the year. Yet, many stepped forward by the end of the year, leading the committee to conclude, "We are struck by the vitality of this Meeting, the willingness of newcomers and lifelong Quakers to find ways to serve the community."

The annual Gathered Meeting Retreat in March focused on spiritual growth of the meeting through its topic, "Quaker Spirituality: Seeking the Personal Image of the Divine." Wade Wright from the Millville Monthly Meeting and his traveling companion John Brady of Abington Meeting, both of Pennsylvania, led the retreat. Participants, a cross section of "seasoned" Friends and newcomers, commented that they were able to find ways to interpret their own image of the divine and find ways of listening from one to the other about personal spirituality.

In our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, we spent a third of the year considering revisions to our Faith and Practice, proposed by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). Although lengthy, these sessions helped F(f)riends discern and meld individually and corporately held beliefs.

With great joy we approved in Fourth month the request of Gwinnett Worship Group to become a preparative meeting under our care, and in Tenth month we took under our care Anneewakee Creek Worship Group (ACWG) that meets in Douglasville, west of Atlanta. ACWG had formerly been under the care of SAYMA. In Atlanta, the numbers on any given First day are about 110 to 120. We welcomed into membership 6 persons: Sara Butler, Ceal and Mark Wutka, Derek Coulson, Megan Dowdy, and Lissa Place. We accepted Marguerite Rece's transfer of membership from Augusta (GA) Monthly Meeting and Jonah McDonald's from Memphis (TN). We also marked the death of Mary Elizabeth Jackson Zimmerman in First month. We held memorial services for Spencer Oedel, 19 years, and Neva Hamilton Fisk, a member until 2000, when she and husband George transferred to Newtown Square MM. Neva was remembered for her work with *Friendly Woman* and with the founding of Friends School of Atlanta. Our membership is now 145, 17 of whom reside out of the area.

Welcoming and Inclusiveness

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting provides a "Listening Ear" two First Days per month for anyone with a concern about racism. It also keeps a box in which confidential concerns can be left in writing. The committee arranged for Bert Skellie to offer a one-day workshop, modeled after a one-week workshop at Friends General Conference (FGC), "Practicing Ending Racism Among Friends," to help individuals learn how to hold themselves accountable for racist actions or failure to act when witnessing racism, and to role play different responses to situations involving racism.

The Care and Counsel committee prepared welcome packets for newcomers. At the rise of Meeting the person who closes meeting welcomes visitors, who stand and introduce themselves. Visitors may speak to members of Care and Counsel with questions about Quakerism and our Meeting. An announcement sheet is available for all about events in the life of the Meeting.

A group of parents, Religious Education teachers, and those interested in the Meeting's youth programs continued to meet monthly (Sept – May) to discuss ways in which to raise non-racist children in our Meeting. Another small group of individuals, "ORAIARH," or "Our Role As Individuals In America's Racial History," meets weekly to hold themselves accountable and support each other in working against racism in their lives. Participants in these groups make sure our library and First Day School have books relating to these topics and have made a bibliography of our holdings on these subjects. One individual wrote up a list of suggestions for talking to kids about race and class in relation to Hurricane Katrina.

The Finance committee launched a Raise the Roof campaign to replace the roof and insulation and change the heating/cooling units. These items will also help the Meeting use energy more efficiently. In addition the campaign will fund a new hearing assistance system that will contribute to the Meeting's efforts to be inclusive by making Meeting for Worship more accessible to those with hearing difficulties.

Discussion began about our email discussion service and we formed an ad hoc committee to set up some rules for use of the discussion list and to create a separate announcement list for those who only wanted limited announcements pertaining to the life of the Meeting. The committee developed queries designed to encourage those on the discussion list to consider more carefully the perspectives of others and also their own responses to those with differing opinions and perspectives. The early results are that those using the discussion list appear to be more sensitive to other's viewpoints and are responding with respect.

Outward Direction and Social Justice

Atlanta Friends are active in many concerns. Peace and anti-war efforts, a women's shelter, prison concerns, assistance to individuals who work in public schools, legislative issues and Green Friends are some of the causes Friends support. In the spring we minuted our support for Joe Parko's witness of peace in the Middle East on a trip to Palestine and Israel with the delegation "Every Church a Peace Church." We continued to fund scholarships for university students in our sister community, El Sitio, El Salvador. We helped fund rebuilding in the Gulf Coast region in the wake of devastation by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with donations to AFSC and grassroots organizations such as Common Ground. Two of our members undertook a long bike trip on the Natchez Trace to raise money for hurricane relief. ORAIARH members finished a brochure highlighting neighborhood safety and racial stereotyping and distributed it to households in neighborhoods near the Meeting and where members lived. They also sent it to churches, schools, city government organizations and neighborhood groups in Decatur.

We ask the Spirit to guide us in continuing to be welcoming and affirming of each other and the diversity of experience each of us brings to the meeting community so that we may "walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone."

Respectfully submitted,
Karen terHorst Morris
Clerk, 2005

Berea Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report – May 2006

Berea Friends have been busy this past year adjusting to all the activities involved in owning a meeting house, and exploring different ways we can make this new building purchase of spiritual value to both ourselves and the community at large. We feel very positive about the multi-year process we underwent in reaching clarity on the purchase of a meetinghouse. That careful discernment has led to a meeting of Friends eager to explore the new opportunities afforded by the purchase of a place of worship.

With the purchase of the meetinghouse individual Friends have discovered new ways to serve the meeting. Three new positions were created –Beauty and Order Coordinator, Rentals Coordinator, and Building Maintenance Coordinator. Friends serving in these positions have shown a great deal of skill and dedication. An energetic and talented Landscaping Committee has also been formed, and their work has given our meeting the opportunity to explore testimonies of earthcare and right use of the land. It has been a joy to see all these individuals using their talents and gifts in the service of our meeting.

Berea Friends held an open house on October 23, and invited the wider community. We titled it a Remembrance and Recognition occasion, to celebrate our purchase of the meetinghouse and to remember Friends who have passed on. The open house was lovely, with bulb plantings, tours of the space, and a meeting for worship. We were grateful to the Friends who attended from other SAYMA monthly meetings.

Since the purchase, Berea Friends have been sharing their space with a long-term renter, the Learning Co-Op. The Learning Co-Op is a family learning cooperative that provides meeting space and resources for all ages. It has been a learning experience to share our space and resources with another group, and a pleasure seeing the meetinghouse utilized during the week by a lively and energetic group of parents and children. Renting our space to different groups has made us think through issues of liability, communication and responsibility that continue to challenge us as we work to discern them in the proper spirit.

We have utilized our building for Quakers and the community by hosting different events. We hosted the SAYFers in March, and it was great fun to have the teenagers staying with us. We also sponsored a two-day Nonviolent Communication workshop for the community, hosted the All-KY gathering (an annual gathering of Kentucky monthly meetings), and opened up our space for a Quaker Jam. Geeta McGahey visited us in March as a representative from Right Sharing of World Resources, and we enjoyed her presentation.

Friends continue to struggle with our children's program, as the children have been resistant to cooperating with teachers. It has been difficult to fill the position of children's program coordinator, due to the difficulty of that position, and parents are currently in discussion on how best to serve our children and the meeting. Highlights of the children's program include trick-or-treating for UNICEF, taking Valentines to the nursing home, working with adults to prepare cookies and Christmas cards for people in our local jail, making a Valentines dinner for parents, and having a movie night.

Our start time for meeting has required a great deal of discussion this past year. We are now meeting at 10 a.m. instead of 9 a.m., and this has affected different members/attenders' schedules in positive and negative ways. We continue to thresh that issue, and revisit it every couple of months. It has highlighted the lifestyle differences in our members/attenders, as it deals with issues of scheduling, young families and older Friends, and preferences of when people worship.

Brian Boggs and Pat Acevedo, both of whom were active members of our Meeting, divorced this past year. Pat is still a regular attender, but Brian is not currently attending. Friends continue to stay in contact with both of them, and work to handle the situation with grace and love as we face the hurts and wounds that result from the break-up of a family.

Our meeting has also embraced a care-taking role regarding Nancy Lee-Riffe who has struggled with poor health this past year. Our women's group, who meets twice a month, and others have helped her discern her needs and how to face new limitations in her life. They have taken on supportive tasks such as calling, visiting, and transportation.

Currently we have 56 members, and our average attendance is around 20 – 25. We have seen an increase in college students attending. The ten children attending range from 3 months to 12 years, and we have two teens who are active in the SAYF program. One of them, Raffi Kennedy, will be a co-clerk for the teen program at the FGC gathering.

Beth Myers, Clerk

Birmingham Friends Meeting

State of the Meeting Report: May 2005 - April 2006

Our meeting rejoiced in the December birth of Aubrey Turner, son of longtime member Connie Hill and Doug Turner and little brother to Emma. We now have three birthright Friends! We welcomed two new families with children and have divided our First Day School into two age groups. There is a planned program for the older children, and play or art activities for the younger ones. The children helped prepare colorful sacks full of personal care products for Katrina survivors. All of the children come into meeting for worship for the last fifteen minutes. We are energized by their participation and interest. In months where there is a fifth Sunday, we have an intergenerational activity which is enjoyed by the whole meeting.

The adults completed a careful study of Rex Ambler's book on the writings of George Fox called Truth of the Heart. We read the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, Holding One Another in the Light, reviewed sections of SAYMA's Faith and Practice, wrote letters of concern about the devastation in Darfur and also to a soldier who went AWOL and is now in prison. Our meeting contacts for FCNL and FWCC keep us informed of the work of these organizations. We are completing two minutes, one against the use of torture and another calling for immediately withdrawal of our troops in Iraq. A representative from Alabama Arise, an organization focusing on economic justice, presented an excellent program on the current Alabama budget and its severe funding inadequacies. Our simple supper rotates to different homes once a month; the host prepares soup, someone else brings bread, and others come to relax and enjoy the fellowship. Our women's group is more ecumenical than Quaker and gathers on second Sunday evenings of each month.

Our meetinghouse continues to be a place of much activity. In the fall, we hosted a neighborhood picnic and added to this group students from the World of Opportunity program where one of our attenders is a tutor. Some Scattergood Friends School students and teachers stayed in the meetinghouse during their spring trip to visit Civil Rights sites and to participate in a rebuilding project along the coast. In February, we took a hard look at our own racist attitudes and behaviors with Bert Skellie from the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The SAYMA representative meeting was held in Birmingham in April; we were thrilled to welcome so many Friends to Birmingham. The Alabama Coalition for Peace and Justice and the National Organization for Women hold regular meetings in our building. Our meeting photographers provide us with loads of pictures which we have placed on a display wall, much to the delight of the children as well as the adults.

Owning a meetinghouse continues to present fiscal and upkeep challenges. We had major and expensive plumbing repairs last summer that required digging up part of the backyard and replacing pipes that had been there for decades. Regular workdays are sufficient for periodic cleaning and have provided some enjoyable times for our community. We are very fortunate to have had two renters for most of the year; we enjoy visiting with them, they occasionally join us for meeting for worship, and we are grateful for the consistent income. After two robberies, we now have a security system that is being funded mostly by our tenants; we appreciate that generous gift.

We also support our neighborhood school by donating what we would pay in real estate taxes; our meeting is a Partner in Education for Birmingham City Schools.. This year, the contribution went toward a new playground. One of our members, who is in a wheelchair, actively participated during the playground construction day.

Birmingham Friends are active in interfaith, peace and social concerns. Children and adults joined a throng of people on the "Walk as One" sponsored by NCCJ. We had a display table at a large peace rally in October and gave away lots of "War is not the Answer" bumper stickers. Next year, we will order more. Unfortunately, there are too many occasions when we display our banner against the death penalty which we hang when there is an execution in the US. Two members participate in the Alabama Faith Council, we are sponsors of Alabama Arise, and one member is involved with the Alabama Public Transportation Initiative. We have responded to invitations from several churches by presenting information on and facilitating discussions about Quakers. Our meeting joined with Greater Birmingham Ministries and other agencies to establish a chapter of the Gulf Coast Listening Project, a program of the Rural Southern Voice for Peace. We have been interviewing Katrina survivors living in this area and will review their stories for trends and quotes which call attention to the ongoing needs of the evacuees. We are now active in several SAYMA committees: Ministry and Nurture, Peace and Social Concerns, and Personnel.

As we look to the next year, we are aware of our growing edges. Our meeting remains small; we have a core of regular attenders, some sporadic attenders, and a larger group of people who have shown some interest but who do not return. We would like to attract more newcomers as well as be more intentional about providing materials and opportunities for discussion for newer attenders. We will begin using queries more frequently. Our First Day School program needs a core group of committed teachers and a curriculum so that our children have more experience with Quaker history and values. Our Social Concerns committee has been inactive; we hope to revitalize this and become more involved in social justice work, locally and beyond. We continue to be especially concerned for those with chronic or recurrent illnesses as well as others with the responsibilities of aging parents.

When we reviewed the past year, we talked about what we cherished about our meeting. We agreed that it is a place where differences of beliefs and political orientations can be expressed while love and acceptance are maintained among us.

Connie LaMonte, Clerk

State of Celo Meeting

May 2006

As we discussed the state of our meeting at Ministry and Care this week, we realized once again that the heart of Celo Meetings, and always has been, Meeting for Worship. We may falter in our witness to the world, we may frequently halt in the process of building a new meetinghouse, we may not be able to fill our roster of jobs, and we certainly won't get any prizes for attendance at Meeting for Business. But we have worship that is full of expectancy, tolerance, and sometimes, awe. To quote our minute, *The sense of being gathered as a worshipping community is with us from time to time - nourishing, connecting and deepening us individually and collectively. The balance of worship-filled sharing, silent as well as vocal, reflected the range of natural human concern, feeling, thinking, respectful listening and spiritual sensibility. We feel blessed in our Meetings for Worship.*

It has been a challenging year in Celo. In the fall, we held a special called Meeting for Community in response to a number of widely-felt concerns. Peace and Social Concerns had been laid down, we had no recording clerk, and the sparkplug of our building committee, financial bulwark and key person in the communications glue of our meeting community had moved away, with nobody stepping up to take on any of the functions we had habitually accepted from her. At the called meeting, which was well-attended, a cry also went up for more attention to the children, and to supporting their parents, who were carrying the First Day School load virtually alone. As the minutes record, the clerk *asked us to be open to what the Spirit asks of us and to give consideration to what we want from our Meeting and whether we can find unity between those things.* At the end, the other clerk said, "We have just witnessed a Quaker version of a Church Revival," and we sang in lusty assent.

The Spirit responded by continuing to welcome us into gathered meetings. We embraced the Strawberry Creek process of discernment for nominating with great success. And we raised enough money in our sixth annual appeal to fund the next, likely the penultimate, phase in construction on the new Meetinghouse. This spring we had a solid workday setting the foundation for the next phase of work. We await that next phase, but it is still not clear who will step into the shoes of the Friend who relished the job of driving the project forward with every atom of her being. Instead, we have contracting by committee. We have struggled to reconstitute Peace and Social Concerns, but there is yet no clear direction nor weight of attendance established.

We lost an old-time, well-seasoned civil rights activist after a long illness and had a beautiful memorial service led by her adopted children and grandchildren. One of us has battled cancer, and we have held two laying-on-hands Meetings for Healing to support her. In the fall we hosted a couples' retreat facilitated by experienced Friends from the Triangle (NC). The group continued to meet on its own for several months after the retreat, especially to hold up one couple who realized through the enrichment process that they had some difficult work to do.

Celo continues to have many children in attendance, with 12-15 each First Day. The younger children (4-7) have been studying the "Virtues Project," choosing a particular virtue each week as a tool for transformation. *Children and their parents no longer need to use blanket statements like "I'm having a bad day."*

*Instead, "I'm having a hard time practicing detachment.." Children eight and up have studied Queries for Quaker Children, studying the structure of the Meeting, and conducting Children's Meeting. This group has hosted "community spotlight," where the children invite in an adult to learn of their work and struggles to make the world a better place. (The first person they invited is not an attender of the Meeting. We hope he comes back!) This group has also been active in fund-raising for charities, which they learn about from adults in the Meeting. *We have made a "soul-shall" calendar that includes events both fun and meaningful. As one future event, we would like to connect with wider young Friends in WNC.**

Adult education has been revitalized this year, with frequent opportunities for worship sharing growing out of textual study and queries. This included a deeply meaningful four-week study of the Gospel of Thomas this spring.

At the request of a Friend who contributes regularly to vocal ministry, Ministry and Care appointed an elder, causing us to wrestle with broader questions surrounding the process of eldering, both in that committee and in Meeting for Business. The key question articulated in this process is this: *Is there a structure or spirit within which the process of eldering could be experienced as cooperative discernment rather than critical oversight?* We hope to have more to report in this vital area in next year's letter.

Respectfully submitted for Celo Meeting,
Bob McGahey, Co-Clerk
(approved May 21, 2006)

State of the Meeting 2006 Charleston, WV

This year Charleston Friends Meeting was blessed with new Friends arriving and old Friends returning. Because our group is small, we rejoice whenever someone new joins our fellowship, and we are sad whenever anyone leaves. We have had Friendly visitation with another nearby meeting and a growing worship group. We have also had visitors who felt uncomfortable with unprogrammed worship who have subsequently sought a faith community which was more structured or Bible-centered.

Most First Days we hold Meeting for Worship in space rented from a community development organization, which helps provide affordable housing to inner city residents and promote neighborhood revitalization. We hope our small contribution to the organization helps further its valuable mission.

Perhaps as a consequence of the inclusion of a set-aside time at the end of meeting for worship for sharing joys and concerns, or possibly because of our occasional worship sharing sessions, vocal ministry has increased both in the number of messages and the diversity of sources. The Spirit moves both in our silent worship and through the gift of ministry, and we are grateful.

Meeting continues to support the American Friends Service Committee-sponsored West Virginia Economic Justice Project and NEW Plus Project through its Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We were fortunate to be able to visit with the new AFSC regional director who visited Charleston shortly after his appointment. We are encouraged by his commitment to social justice and better management of the organization.

As in years past, we served a holiday breakfast for mothers and children in a local women's shelter and prepared dinner for men's shelter residents on Super Bowl Sunday. On Martin Luther King Day several Friends visited the West Virginia Legislature asking for an increase in the state minimum wage. We also remain active with local peace and interfaith organizations, lobbying and monitoring state and national legislation.

Adult discussions have focused on two areas: the occasional referral for discussion from SAYMA, and the study guide *Bringing Religious Education Home*. Because of our distance from the yearly meeting, opportunities to reflect on concerns and issues sent from the larger body provide an important way of staying in touch, which we appreciate. By considering SAYMA's *Faith and Practice* as well as historical Quaker writings included in our study guide, we are deepening our understanding of Quaker religious thought and practice.

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

Charleston Friends are planning the 2006 West Virginia Fall Gathering of Friends. In previous years, this has been held at camps at some distance from our homes. This year, we are planning the event in or near Charleston, most likely the weekend of September 16. Of course, SAYMA Friends are invited.

As we write this letter, we are saddened by news from Iraq of the death of Christian Peacemaker and Friend Tom Fox. We recognize that Tom's fate is no different from that of the hundreds of Iraqis who have died as a result of violence. We pray for a return of U.S. troops home and an end to sectarian strife in Iraq.

Chattanooga Friends Meeting

Our weekly meetings for worship continue to be a source of spiritual nourishment for Chattanooga Friends. The meeting still contributes to the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a local network of churches that helps homeless families. The children in our First Day School have produced and performed a puppet show called "Big Mouth Quakers." A women's quarterly potluck has been formed which has answered a need of the women. Members of the meeting have been busy in their own lives with all the activities that are important to making life happen. The meeting itself has been relatively quiet, but we have grown inwardly as we have been given the opportunity.

For several months, we dealt with resident issues. After 3 or 4 burglaries, the resident moved out and we installed a burglar alarm. Then a new resident moved into the house. For the next several months, we dealt with late or no rent and broken resident rules until we had to ask him to leave. These events, including whether to get the burglar alarm, required us to determine how to deal with what was going on and to do it in a Friendly way. These issues dealt with our testimony of integrity and community.

We have also created a website, <http://www.chattanoogafriends.org>, on which we have some pictures of the meeting house, directions to the house, a brief history of Chattanooga Friends, and the newsletter. Because our newsletter deals with our financial information and some personal information, we wondered whether we should make it password protected. After a month or two of having it protected by password, we united in not using one. Again this issue allowed us to consider our testimonies of integrity as well as simplicity.

Like many around the country, we have been uncertain as to what to do about our country's involvement in others' affairs, namely the war in Iraq. Some of us participated in the August peace march at the Oak Ridge nuclear bomb plant and some marched in March for peace and against our involvement in Iraq. Letters have been written individually. As one might imagine, we are still upset yet uncertain about what to do. We have created a Peace Committee in part as a response.

Each month we have a Bible study. We have been reading the book of Luke for over a year now. For those who participate, it has been an important and valuable discussion. We try to focus on what the Bible has to say to us as Quakers. It has proven to be a rewarding experience.

There is still much for us to do,
Yours in Peace,
Chattanooga Friends Meeting

Approved 6th Month, 2006

Columbia Friends Meeting State of the Meeting

Participation of young Friends has been central to the state of the meeting. A graduating high school senior has played a key role in our Ministry and Nurture Committee. Young Friends have led weighty discussions on spiritual issues each month as a program in our second hour of worship. They played a key role in the planning and programming at the Palmetto Friend's Gathering. They have also involved themselves in relating to our larger community through helping in community gardening, collecting aid as a part of the souper bowl, and helping a local nonprofit prepare books for libraries in Central America. Columbia Friends are indeed blessed by our Young Friends.

The other significant event of the past year has been the meeting receiving a grant from the American Friends Service Committee to work with Rural Southern Voice for Peace on the Gulf Coast Listening Project. The listening project is truly a Quakerly response to difficulties created by Hurricane Katrina. Many in the meeting are actively involved in the project.

We continue to provide nurturance for ailing parents and one devoted Friend continues to work with her son injured in a bicycle accident in Texas.

Although we transferred memberships of two former Clerks the meeting has gained a number of new attenders including a group of foreign national students from Colombia . Attendance each First Day continues to be around thirty.

State of the Meeting Report **Cookeville Preparative Meeting** June 2006

Spirit is alive and well in Cookeville Preparative Meeting. In reflecting on our past year together we have affirmed our trust and support of each other and of the Spirit. We realize that our hour of worship increases in possibility as we prepare ourselves during the week, and, if we are not always ready and open to the Light, we at least deepen our connection to each other in sharing the silence each First day.

We grew in trust as we held our first of many nominating committee meetings as a whole, following the Strawberry Creek Meeting process, and feel that we made some real progress in affirming and utilizing our individual and corporate gifts.

We took a large risk and leap of faith in hosting Peterson Toscano, a gay Quaker performance activist to come here to our conservative little town and perform his "Doing Time in the Ho Mo No Mo Halfway House". We were blessed with an incredible experience of "way opening". We received many messages of support, and financial assistance, which helped to make the event possible. The performance was amazing and the full venue hosted a diverse crowd. It was a great beginning for what we hope will be a continued interfaith dialog on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans- Gender, and Queer issues.

Our witness in the local high school against military recruitment continues and is being supported by many others. Some of this same type of work in other area schools is already happening, and more is being planned for the future. A discussion group after school hours was formed with some of the teens who wanted more time to discuss issues important to them. It began with a local man telling about his recent experiences in Iraq, and has continued with discussions about civil disobedience, the difference between killing and murder, and two veterans telling about their different perspectives on war. The group has now become mostly adults, but is still going strong.

Our website is proving to be a good outreach tool, and has brought us a few visitors. Second hour discussions are still an important part of our Meeting , and we look forward to more of our life in the Spirit together in the coming year.

Crossville Monthly Meeting

184 Hood Dr.
Crossville, TN 38555

State of the Meeting Report

Things have been pretty slow and steady for the Meeting during the past year. As the majority of our members are in their 80's, the activity level has declined. We have been meeting at our Clerk Gladys Draudt's home in Pleasant Hill, since many can no longer drive to the Meetinghouse. We welcomed one new member, Jerri Bentley last summer, our first new member in many years. Margaret Haun also was a regular attender for a while before joining Birmingham Monthly Meeting. Dennis Gregg, who was the Principal of Obed Headwaters School, laid down the School in December of 2005, so the Meetinghouse is less used than before. A UCC church continues to use it on Sunday afternoons. Dennis is planning to offer a mid-week Meeting at the Meetinghouse as a way to accommodate new interest and some folks who wish to explore Quakerism further.

We have continued the practice of using Friends Journal for discussion one First Day a month, and have also been working our way through Quakerism 101 one Sunday a month as well. Despite our age and experience with Quakerism, it is remarkable how each time we do Quakerism 101, we discover something new.

Gwinnett Friends Preparative Meeting

of the
Religious Society of Friends

State of the Meeting, Spring 2006

1st Sixth Month, 2006

Gwinnett Friends Preparative Meeting has asked itself "How does the Spirit of the Lord prosper among us?" We have seen growth in this our first year as a Preparative Meeting. The sudden and rapid growth seems to have given way to a more steady maintenance of numbers regularly attending meeting for worship. We are not sure how to interpret this present "plateau" of attenders, given the natural flowing in and out of seekers and the regular attendance of seasoned Friends here. Perhaps we are not to interpret this as a discouragement but rather a more natural phenomenon.

It is our sense that meetings for worship are gathered in the Spirit and that a common bond of unity is developing among us, as we witness the power of God to unite many of varying interpretations and stages of faith among us. As a new Meeting, we seek better ways to express our unique functioning as Christians in our world, seeking to be doers of the Word and not only hearers of the Word. Our meetings for business, though lengthy, have led to unity and purpose on various issues that we have faced, including the establishment of funds, the expenditure of such funds for facilities, and the appointments of Clerk, Recording Clerk, and a Care and Council Committee.

We have welcomed traveling ministers from Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative whose unique and meaningful witness of Quakerism was evident among us, and we were especially pleased to have the SAYMA Ministry and Worship Committee here in Fifth Month of 2006 to share with our Meeting.

Submitted by
Scott King, Clerk
Gwinnett Preparative Meeting
5855 Jimmy Carter Blvd.
Norcross GA 30071
(770) 315-9478
www.gwinnettfriends.org

Memphis Friends Meeting State of the Meeting 2006

Memphis Friends Meeting was delighted this past spring when our clerk, Robert Pugh, discovered minutes from a much earlier meeting in Memphis hidden away in the archives at Swarthmore College. We had heard rumors about a meeting here in the 50s, but this was our first positive confirmation. That first meeting affiliated with Friends World Committee in 1956, since Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association had not yet been founded, and continued until 1967, when it was laid down. However, just a few years later, another worship group formed with some of the same participants, until it too was laid down in 1982. Then in 1985 our current meeting was established as a worship group under the care of Nashville Friends and affiliated with SAYMA in 1988. An unexpected history of over 50 years is a wonderful thing to discover!

Interestingly, the earliest meeting struggled with some of the same challenges that still engage us. Here is a glimpse of what their recording clerk, Paul Coppock, had to say:

“Passing months brought subtractions and additions... If diversity was strength then the Memphis Meeting would be unusually strong. We have a few representatives of families with many generations of Quakers and several convinced Friends... Some have lived in the South many years and others are newly arrived from other climates... Sometimes the differences seem too much for such a small vessel to contain... the Memphis Meeting is especially influenced by incoming and outgoing college and university teachers. The even tenure of farm families in rural meetings... is unknown to this group.

When we look back at our own meeting, we find that over 100 people have arrived and left again since 1985. If only all of those people were still with us! But they are not and the number of names on our mailing list as well as the numbers of worshipers on First Day morning actually stays about the same although names and faces change: at any one time we can count roughly 45 names and anywhere from a dozen to 35 worshipers. We are going through an active period for visitors, probably because of the continuing occupation of Iraq, but at the same time the number of people available to carry on the work of the meeting seems to be shrinking. Part of that is for a very good reason: many of our stalwarts have become very active in SAYMA.

Nevertheless we feel well established here in Memphis. We have been in our current meeting house since 1995. We are renters, but we have a good location in a restaurant district in Midtown with another inclusive peace church just down the street: First Congregational. Every day passersby see our sign announcing Quaker Worship and a sign in the window keeps them up to date on the cost of the war in Iraq. We have a new website at www.MemphisFriends.org and publish our newsletter without fail every month. It is through these two efforts that many members and attenders are introduced to the wider Quaker world beyond Memphis.

Sometimes the wider Quaker world comes to us. Jim and Ginger Kinney, the Midwest Regional Directors for FCNL, visited with us in April. We helped out when AFSC's Eyes Wide Open Exhibit came to Memphis again in March at the invitation of the Memphis Peace & Justice Center. And last January we hosted FGC Traveling Ministries. They helped us think about being more welcoming to visitors. We've begun to brew coffee to share after meeting. That and the cookies keeps people here long enough to chat a bit.

We've tried a few other innovations this year too. After a very peaceful Christmas Eve worship, we decided to hold a candlelight worship service the second Wednesday each month. These proved so pleasant to the small handful of participants, that they have been continued indefinitely. A small study group on prayer has met on Sunday evenings for several weeks this past spring. And at the encouragement of our young friends we collected material and made a Memphis Friends quilt to wrap around our new young friends as a welcome to the Meeting.

Last fall our peace fund got quite a work out. We had established it some years ago as a way to raise money above and beyond our budget to help out with current needs. We sent money both to AFSC and to the Oxford (Mississippi) Interfaith Compassion Ministries for hurricane relief for the Gulf Coast and to Mercy Corps for earthquake relief in the Kashmir. We have exercised our legs and lungs for peace as well as our pocketbooks: a sizeable contingent of Friends participated in a peace march sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center on March 19 and one of our members has joined a weekly peace vigil each Wednesday morning.

This past year we developed and seasoned two important minutes which we have been sharing with the world: one decrying American use of torture in the war on terror and another on how our equality testimony speaks to current discrimination against gays and lesbians. We have found that the process of thinking clearly which minutes necessitate helps us see our way forward on issues like these. While we have been focusing on our relationship with the wider world – how to tap into resources beyond our own meeting and how to witness for peace and social concerns in a way that gets attention – this very outward focus, paradoxically, is deepening our sense of community within the meeting. Memphis Meeting is faring well.

Nashville Monthly Meeting

State of the Meeting Report

After almost three years in our “new” meetinghouse the sense of the Spirit is as strong as when we first saw it. Not only is it still present, but it deepens as increasing numbers of visitors stay to become attenders and members. In an effort to be more open about our ways, Ministry and Counsel developed a brochure that answers common questions about participation in worship and the life of the meeting. Committee life of the meeting is ever enriched by the gifts and service of these new attenders and members. Our monthly pot luck meals offer a wide array of delicious foods despite our not yet having a fully operational kitchen. Dishwashing in the huge blue bins has become a rich intergenerational event punctuated by song and laughter.

We have had a greater than usual call upon our pastoral care resources with several clearness committees for life situations; ongoing support committees for various concerns such as spiritual leadings and ill health. We have found that the continuing care committees often serve as a spiritual nurture group for the whole committee, broadening their activities to include shared meals and study, all the while providing the loving care for each other that our meeting does so well. We have already realized several fruits of our two year journey with Penelope Wright as she participated in the School of the Spirit for Spiritual Nurturers program. Her Care and Accountability Committee shared with us the minute of completion she received at the last session in May. They report that all on the committee and Penelope have benefited from the shared experience in personal and spiritual ways. Her committee looks forward to assisting her in sharing her papers and poetry with more of the meeting.

We were honored to be able to host our first marriage in October. Although it was not under our care, rather St. Louis monthly meeting, we worked jointly with the couple to meet their plans for the ceremony and served light refreshments during the certificate signing. On May 28th we celebrated the marriage of members Donald (Turtle) Kientz and Deanna Nipp. under the care of our meeting. The wedding was held during regularly scheduled meeting for worship and was followed by a simple celebration in the meeting house.

For the fifth year, Nashville hosted a Regional Gathering of Friends, inviting all Friends from the western area of our yearly meeting. Young Friends (teens and young adults) were specifically invited this year, and we all felt the power of their presence as we addressed our theme: *Realizing a Quaker Testimony on Age: How Friends can name gifts, empower prophetic voice and nurture vital intergenerational relationships*. Zachary Moon and his spiritual companion Sid Kitchens faithfully led us in this intergenerational theme as we engaged in role playing Old Testament stories pertinent to the theme. Later we gathered in worship sharing around nurturing and naming gifts of Friends of ALL ages. We give thanks to the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference for helping us discern who might lead our gathering; for providing financial support and holding us all in prayer.

Shortly after the kidnapping of the Christian Peace Team workers in Iraq we held an interfaith vigil attended by fellow peace travelers. Denominations melted as we held those faithful peace ministers in prayer and prayed for peace in Iraq. Four months later we gathered again to worship in memory of Tom. We were blessed by words from several, including one of the Muslim imams and found ourselves once again in unity around our desire for peace in that part of the world.

Later that same week we held another meeting for memorial. Although there had been a memorial meeting in Pennsylvania for our beloved founding member, Nelson Fuson, our meeting, the Fuson family and the Fisk University community felt there needed to be another one in Nashville. Held on the Fisk campus, the worship was attended by many who spoke of the variety of ways their lives had been touched by both Nelson and Marian during their long and faithful life in the Spirit here in Nashville.

With great joy we have noticed the large increase of young Friends of all ages. New babies join the toddlers in preschool class. A core of upper elementary students has been learning about Bible stories and Quaker practice. The biggest increase has been in our teen class. Most of them participate as regularly as possible in First Day school. A highlight of this participation for the rest of us was a second hour performance of a self-directed play about the trial of William Penn and William Mead. Their community is not restricted to First Day School, as they extended hospitality to a visiting group of students from Scattergood School and the Arthur Morgan School. Many of our teens have become part of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) community, along with a strong and committed group of adults who serve as Friendly Drivers and Friendly Adult Presences. The teens who attended the Regional Gathering expressed how powerfully the SAYF experience has augmented their understanding of Quakerism and Quaker practice. To our great delight and due to strong

labor on the part of some of our carpentry-skilled members, the downstairs toilets and showers were ready for us when we hosted the first ever SAYF retreat in Nashville this April. During one of the teen First Day classes (and later at Meeting second hour) a representative of Tennessee Committee to Abolish State Killing (TCASK) spoke to us about that organization's work, which we support as a member body. The teens also noted that this was a key experience for them this year.

Several of our adult members have provided a most amazing quality of religious education based on Quaker fundamentals and faith and practice drawn from across the spectrum of Friends. We supported a rising clerk of the meeting in attending a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill and several Friends have been sponsored to other Friendly workshops. Already we have received benefits and blessings from that support.

Continuing the previous year's work with the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) we have completed two training groups and are now sponsoring training for trainers. We anticipate that our participation in this program and training will be of service locally and regionally.

The meeting's outreach activities have been focused in the immediate neighborhood of the meetinghouse. We joined an interfaith group in a neighborhood cleanup resulted in the collection of hundreds of old tires and tons of trash. A community gardening project is supported by the meeting (among others), and 50 tomato buckets were assembled and delivered to various neighbors for free as an inducement to attend a monthly neighborhood meeting. We have also participated in a neighborhood group that has purchased six vacant lots through Metro Nashville housing grant money.

That unspeakable topic for Friends, money and finances, has come out from under the rug as we continue to plan for meeting our debts incurred with the purchase and renovations of the meetinghouse and our fiscal needs for our increasing programs. Our Finance Committee led us through careful discernment around our budget for 2006. After two months consideration we approved a budget approximately 10% larger ever before. Included in this increase was a deeply discerned decision to set a description of an "active" member so that we could fully meet our yearly meeting assessment.

Approved at a called meeting, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 2006

New Moon Worship Group **State of the Meeting**

We have five faithful and regular attenders who also happen to be recorded members of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting and Celo Friends Meeting.

We are visited by others from Celo and Asheville Friends Meetings and by people from Barnardsville and the nearby communities of Mars Hill and Weaverville. We often have seven to ten worshippers at our meetings.

This year, we established a caring relationship with Celo Meeting after inviting both Swannanoa Valley and Celo Friends Meetings to explore this opportunity themselves.

Celo meeting has made the commitment to send visitors at least quarterly. Their support and presence has blessed our worship.

As a group, we have labored over the Faith and Practice revisions and have responded to Friends Committee on National Legislation's request for setting priorities.

We now have established the first First Day of each month as our meeting time. We meet on other First Days as we can. We meet at 5:15 pm at the Barnardsville United Methodist Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Carlyle
May 2006

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting 2006

The spiritual and financial health of our Meeting is good. We are active and growing, having an average weekly attendance of 32-35 persons, including a welcome influx of Warren Wilson College students. We have accepted two new members and two transfers into our Meeting, and other applications for membership are in process. Our First Day School serves 2-5 children on a regular basis, with one regular teacher and several volunteers.

Our Spiritual Life Committee has redefined our committee structure, has continued to sponsor Care Circles, and has written new guidelines for membership. We have attempted to be more attentive to a growing number of visitors. We have been busy helping to move two of our members from independent living at Highland Farms into assisted living, and have also given support to another elderly Friend in her decision to go to Foulkeways at Gwynned in Pennsylvania, although we greatly miss her presence with us.

In the area of Peace and Social Concerns we help with the clothing needs of young men at the local Youth Development and Detention Center as well as supporting the work of the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, which helps with basic needs of people in our valley. We continue to support the personal ministry of individual members and attenders, whether it be the building of schools in rural Guatemala, peacemaking in Palestine, tutoring projects, or supporting the programs offered by our members Beth and Mel Keiser in areas of peacemaking, spiritual growth and racial justice at Common Light Meetingplace.

With respect to our facilities, our year has been divided into two parts. During the first half of the year we managed the sale of the property we owned on Old Highway 70 in Swannanoa. During the second half of the year we have begun in a deliberate manner to develop proposals of how that Meeting can continue its tenure at Common Light Meetingplace, exploring both rental and purchase options with its owners Beth and Mel Keiser. During the coming months the major issue facing our Meeting will be whether we will continue to rent Common Light or raise the funds to purchase it. We are looking for guidance as we undertake this deliberation and ask for the prayers of SAYMA Friends.

Tony Bing, Clerk

West Knoxville Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report – 2006

Our spiritual journey this year has been one marked by celebration and a powerful sense of community. We have celebrated together the birth of a beautiful child into our meeting community, and we have celebrated together the life of one of our most beloved members who died on May 20 after three years of courageous living with breast cancer. Our spiritual community has been strengthened by our sharing of the joys and wonderment of birth and developing life and by our communal involvement in the joys and struggles of the passing of life and the transitions we make as a spiritual community. We have joined together in Spirit for a memorial service of remembrance and celebration, and we have joined together to celebrate the graduations of a number of our Young Friends from high school and college. Joining together in these transitions and celebrations 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 or emotional struggles. A number of Friends have been participating in physical and spiritual healing sessions with members of our Meeting who have been undergoing personal struggles. 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 one for our Meeting in terms of exploring our spiritual beliefs and seeking to know through the Spirit more about Quaker faith and practices. Through the work of the Religious Education Committee and the Ministry and Nurture Committee we have been experimenting with changes in our approach to Meeting for Worship. These changes attempt to involve adult and young Friends more fully in our worship community and to allow all of us to become more centered as we worship together. We have continued to participate in sessions and discussions seeking to explore our spiritual journeys and beliefs together. In addition, we have been planning a retreat weekend for our Meeting 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. We have supported efforts to establish a Peace Center at our Meeting and are excited about learning more from San Francisco Friends about their Peace Center from a member of our Meeting who is traveling to San Francisco this summer and who will be helping us as we seek to develop a Peace Center at West Knoxville. We 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. 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 Meeting for Healing. We have opened the Meeting House to various traveling groups and local organizations and activists and have enjoyed 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 our faith and practices. We also have entered into a deeper consideration of 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 G: Positions of Responsibility

Committee	Position	Term Length	From-To	Name	Meeting
Clerk's Advisory	Clerk	2	Jun-04-Jun-07	Kristi Estes	Memphis
	Asst. Clerk	2	Jun-05-Jun-08	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
	Rec. Clerk	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Christina Van Regenmorter	Nashville
	Treasurer	2+2	Jun-03-Jun-07	David Ciscel	Memphis
**	Asst Trea.				
	Archivist/His		Jun-04	Bettina Wolff	Swannanoa
ECN	Co-Clerk	2	06-08	Margaret Hawn	Huntsville
	Co-Clerk	2	Jun05-Jun-07	Roy Taylor	Atlanta
Finance Committee	Clerk	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Dennis Gregg	Crossville
	Treasurer	2+2	Jun-03-Jun-07	David Ciscel	Memphis
	Member-corr	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Susan Cozzens	Atlanta
	Member				
	Member	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Susan Phelan	Huntsville
Ministry & Nurture	Clerk	2	Dec-04-Jun-07	Bob McGahey	Celo
	Member				
	Member				
	Member				
Nominating	Clerk	2	Jun-04-Jun-08	Errol Hess	Foxfire
	Member	2	Jun-06-Jun-08	Sara Rose	Royal WG
	Member	2	Jun-06-Jun-08	Annie Black	Cookeville
	Member	2	Jun-06-Jun-08	Barbara Esther	Asheville
	Member	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Nicole Rennie	Atlanta
	Member	2	Jun -6 – Jun 08	Dennis Gregg	Crossville
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	Clerk	2	Jun-05-Jun07	Steve Livingston	Asheville
	Member	2	Jun-05-Jun07	Deanna Nipp	Cookeville
	Member		Dec-05-Jun07	Kay Smith	Birmingham
	Member		Dec-05-June07	Jerry Litrovella	Chattanooga
	Member				
	Member				
Personnel Committee	Clerk	2	Jun-05-Jun-08	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
	Member	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Connie LaMonte	Birmingham
	Member	2+2	Jun-03-Jun-07	Judy Prince	Birmingham
	Member				
	Supvr of AA	2	Jun-04-Jun-07	Kristi Estes	Memphis
	Supvr. SayfAA				

SAF Newsletter	Editors				
SAYF Oversight	(on hold)				
SAYF Steering Committee	Co-Clerk		Jun-04-Jun-07	Adrienne Labotka	W. Knox
	Co-Clerk		Jun-05-Jun-08	Mark Wutka	Atlanta
	Member		Jun-06-Jun-08	Laura Norlin	Atlanta
			Jun-06-Jun-08	Mark Lamay	W. Knox
	Member	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Ceal Wutka	Atlanta
	Member				
Site Selection Committee					
Web Manager	Volunteer			Tim Lamm	Berea
Web Manager			06-08	Jim McKeever	Nashville
Support Committee					

YM Planning Committee	Clerk	1	June-06-Jun-07	Carol Ciscel	Memphis
	Adult Progr Coord	2	Jun-05-Jun-07	Carol Nickle	W. Knox
	Workshop	2	Jun-06 –June 08	Ceal Wutka	Atlanta
	Worship Liason From M&W				
	Co-Registrar		06-08	Pam Beziat	Nashville
	C0-Registrar		06-08	Sharon Phelps	W. Knox
	Bookstore		06-08	Kay Smith	Birmingham
	Asst. Book.		06-08	Missy Ivey	W. Knox.
	Local Arrange		Apr-05-Jun-07	Steve Livingston	Asheville
	Local Arrange				
	Worship Coordinator				
	JYM Coord	2	Jun-05 Jun-07	Huber-Feely, H & S	Chattanooga
	YAF Rep			Nicole Renny	Atlanta
SAYMA Reps	AFSC Corp		06-08	Harry Rogers	Columbia
WQO's	AFSC Corp	2+2	Jun-03 Jun-07	Carol Lamm	Berea
	AFSC Corp Alt				
	AFSC Corp Alt				
	AFSC/SERO		06-07	Gita McGahey	Celo
	AFSC/SERO				
	FCNL	3			
	FCNL	3+3	Jun-01-Jun-08	Carol Nickle	W. Knox
	FCNL	3	06-08	Bettina Wolfe	Asheville
	FGC	3	Jun-04-Jun-07	Penelope Wright	Nashville
	FGC	3+3	Jun-01 Jun-08	Julia Sibley-Jones	Columbia
	FGC	3	Jun-05 Jun-08	Elaine Ruscetta	Atlanta
	FLGBTQC			Gary Briggs	Asheville

	FLGBTQC				
	FWCC	3	Jun-05 Jun-08	Tim Lamm	Berea
	FWCC	3	Dec-05 Jun-08	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
	FWCC	3			
	Fr Peace Team		06-08	Sharon Phelps	W. Knox
	Q Earthcare		06-08	David Ciscel	Memphis
	Q Earthcare	2	Jun-05 Jun-07	Roy Taylor	Atlanta
	Quaker House	3+3	Jun-02 Jun-08	Geoffrey Pratt	Nashville
	RSWR				
	Wm Penn House		Sept – 04	Errol Hess	Foxfire
Advancement	Clerk		Jun-04	Sharon Annis	W. Knox
Committee	Member		Jun-03	Penelope Wright	Nashville
Ad Hoc	Member		Jun-04	Hazel Hall	Cookeville
	Member		Jun-04	Free Polazzo	Anneewakee
	Member		Jun-04	Turtle MacDermott	W. Knox
Faith & Practice	Clerk		Jun-04	Free Polazzo	Anneewakee
Revision	Member		Jun-01	Geeta McGahey	Celo
Committee	Member		Jun-01	Missy Ivie	W. Knox
	Member		Jun-04	Melissa Meyer	Boone
	Member		Jun-04	Barbara Esther	Asheville
	Member				
	Member				
	Member				
	Member				
Handbook Ad Hoc	Clerk		Jun-06	Sharon Annis	W. Knox
	Member		Jun-02	Jim Hamill	W. Knox
	Member		Jun-02	Missy Ivie	W. Knox
	Member		Jun-02	Mary Calhoun	Foxfire
	Member ex-Off		June-05	Kristi Estes	Memphis
Junior YM	Convener		Jun-03	Sharon Annis	W. Knox
Program	Convener		Jun-02	Ron McDonald	Memphis
Committee	Member		Feb-05	Robin Wells	Asheville
	Member		Jun-04	Jane Goldthwait	Celo
	Member		Jun-05	Bill O-Connell	Birmingham
	Member		Jun-04	Beth Myers	Berea
Electronic	Clerk		Jun-03	Bill Reynolds	Chattanooga
Communication	Member		Jun-04	Charlie Schade	Charleston
Ad Hoc	Member		Jun-04	Mark Wutka	Atlanta
	Member		Jun-04	Ceal Wutka	Atlanta
	Member		Jun-04	Jim McKeever	Nashville
	Member		Jun-04	Missy Ivie	W. Knox
	Member		Jun-04	Ron Nuse	Atlanta

	Member		Sept-04	Sharon Annis	W. Knox
	Member		Jun-04	Susan Phelan	Huntsville
	Member		Jun-04	Sharon Phelps	W. Knox
	Member		Sept-04	Steve Livingston	Asheville
	Consultant			Tim Lamm	Berea
	Consultant			Mary Calhoun	Foxfire
Logo Ad Hoc	Clerk		Jun-02	Carol Lamm	Berea
Committee	Member		Dec-03	Susan Phelan	Huntsville
	Member		Dec-03	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
	Member		Jun-02	Mary Calhoun	Foxfire

Ministry and Nurture appointments to the Traveling Ministries Conference:
Perry Treadwell
Hannah MacDermott
(minute 36-34)