

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association  
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina  
42nd Annual Meeting, June 7-10, 2012  
Thursday, June 7, 2012, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

42-01: Opening Worship.

We gathered for the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual gathering of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association with an extended period of waiting worship. In the sunlit but overly-well air conditioned rehearsal hall, we received vocal ministry reflecting upon the converging of all of our diverse lights here at yearly meeting to form a beacon.

42-02: Welcome and Reading.

Tim Lamm, Clerk of SAYMA, welcomed Friends to our sessions. He read from the Epistle from the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya. The Clerk invited us to greet one another and to move into our worshipful attention for business. A section of the meeting room has been set aside for members of Ministry and Nurture Committee and other Friends who are called to a special ministry of holding our sessions in prayer.

42-03: Introductions / Roll Call.

We recognized and welcomed visitors, who included Lena Garrettson of Friends Committee on National Legislation; Margaret Lechner (Purchase Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting), representing Friends Peace Teams; Deborah Fisch (Paulina Monthly Meeting, Iowa Conservative Yearly Meeting), representing Friends General Conference; John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting), bringing an interest in the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund; and Heather Cook (Chatham Summit Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting), Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting. Then the roll was called. Friends were asked to indicate their presence when their meeting or worship group was named. A full list of those attending the Yearly Meeting is appended as Attachment A.

The Clerk reviewed the procedures for Meeting for Business: Friends wishing to have announcements shared with the body would please submit them in writing to the Clerk's table, and those wishing to speak would please wait until recognized by the Clerk.

42-04: Agenda Review.

The Clerk called Friends' attention to the proposed agenda for our business sessions printed in the yearly meeting materials. He highlighted several changes.

42-04-01: On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approve the proposed agenda as revised.

42-05: Epistle Committee.

The Clerk called for Friends to serve on the 2012 Epistle Committee. The purpose of the epistle is to summarize the spirit and essence of our gathering. The epistle is shared widely among Friends to communicate the spirit of our gathering for Truth's sake. Barbara Esther (Asheville), Edie Patrick (Asheville), and Patrick Mackin (Birmingham) volunteered for this committee.

42-06: Appointment of the Naming Committee.

The Naming Committee only functions during annual meeting session. It will report back to meeting on Sunday to name their appointees to Nominating Committee. Currently three new members are needed for Nominating, one of them to serve as Clerk. SAYMA Clerk has asked Barbara Esther (Asheville) and Bill Holland (Atlanta) to serve, and they have agreed. Suggestions were solicited from the floor for up to three other members to serve on the Naming Committee. Linda Trask (Nashville) and Sig Christensen (West Knoxville) both offered. The Clerk may ask one other Friend that he has in mind.

42-07: Representative Meeting Calendar.

The Clerk announced that the next Representative Meeting will be held September 8, 2012 and hosted by Chattanooga Monthly Meeting. The Clerk proposed that the spring representative meeting be held March 9, 2013 at Columbia, South Carolina, at their invitation. This will enable participants to see and appreciate Columbia Meeting's new meetinghouse, the first Quaker meetinghouse in South Carolina in one hundred fifty years.

42-07-01: On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approve the date and location for spring 2013 representative meeting.

Nashville and Huntsville have both expressed interest in hosting representative meetings. We do not need to decide on fall 2013 representative meeting locations until the fall 2012 representative meeting.

42-08: Faith & Practice Revision Committee Report. {Attachment F– Committee Reports – Faith and Practice Revision Committee}

Free Polazzo provided the report for the Revision Committee for Faith and Practice. The committee was comprised of Alan Robinson (Asheville), Missy Ivie (W. Knoxville), Edie Patrick (Asheville), Barbara Esther (Asheville) and Free Polazzo (Atlanta) with Tim Lamm's (Berea) involvement as well. Editing included creation of a glossary, utilizing glossaries from three yearly meetings, to help friends remember and understand Quaker terminology. In the fall, a publishing committee was established: Hank Fay (Berea) was added as the web-manager, Alan Robinson (Asheville) as finance, and Liz Perch (SAYMA Administrative Assistant) to do the heavy lifting. Tim Lamm participated on that committee as well. (Free advised ad hoc committees to include the yearly meeting Clerk in emails in order to benefit from the input of someone "who knows what's going on.") The original revision work was not completed soon enough for representative meeting but has been completed since then, with the resulting *Guide to Our Faith & Practice* published and ready to distribute at this time. Free described the Faith & Practice Revision Committee more as a community than simply a committee.

The committee decided to use Lulu.com for on-demand printing. This will allow the next committee to have a much easier time publishing. The purchase price of the book is \$7. There have been orders from close to 23 meetings and a number of worship groups. SAYMA has grossed a profit with these sales, but it is uncertain if SAYMA has a net profit, since the committee costs over the last 11 years have not been calculated. SAYMA makes 70 cents on each copy. Free thanked all monthly meetings, preparative meetings, worship groups and others who contributed to the revisions through discussion and threshing.

The new task at hand, for which help will be needed, is to revise the queries. Three members have remained on the committee; two more people will be needed to make five. The committee meets twice a year and there are only six pages to revise. One committee member indicated that the committee is hoping to meet in Knoxville. The names of volunteers from the floor were given to the Nominating Committee.

One Friend wanted clarification of the updating process. Alan Robinson explained that “Faith & Practice” is maintained by us as an electronic Microsoft Word document, so that when revisions or updates are made, pagination and the index are automatically adjusted along with an annotation that indicates which revision it is. There are three ways “Faith & Practice” can be published: 1) hard copy, printed on demand, 2) as a pdf on the SAYMA website, and 3) as an e-book (in the near future). The cover of the printed document will reflect which YM year the version is.

Concern was expressed in regards to potential confusion when different Friends might be referring to different revisions with different pagination. We were reminded that changes don’t happen that frequently or quickly, so that sort of confusion should be rare.

Some of the profit from the sale of these books has been and will be used to upgrade our technological capacity, such as upgrading the administrative assistant’s version of Word and obtaining the particular software the web manager needs to create the e-book. These technological improvements will make it possible to decrease the time we spend revising in the future. Further discussion regarding technology chosen and coordination of that technology can be taken up outside of business meeting.

Thanks were given to members of the committee for all of the hard work and thoughtfulness that they have put in to this process.

#### 42-09: Wider Quaker Organizations: Friends General Conference {Attachment G—WQO Reports—Friends General Conference}

Kristi Estes (Oxford) introduced Deborah Fisch (Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative). Deborah presented regarding the work and services of Friends General Conference. She expressed her appreciation for the support and ministry, both financial and through the work of volunteers, of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association. She referred us to the FGC Report prepared by SAYMA representatives and shared about a new project focusing on new worship groups and meetings.

A Friend pointed out that many SAYMA Friends are involved with FGC work. Another Friend added that, for those interested in becoming more involved with FGC, a lot of the work is done by phone so travel is not a barrier.

#### 42-10: Wider Quaker Organizations: Friends Peace Teams.

Margaret Lechner (Purchase Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting) described how she became involved with Friends Peace Teams, drawing on her work with the Alternatives to Violence Program in New York prisons and joining Friends Peace Teams for work in El Salvador. She stated that the Friends Peace Teams are spirit-led, the members of which often

become part of the communities in which they work. Margaret described Friends Peace Teams as the trunk of a tree grounded in Quaker tradition, the branches of which include the African Great Lakes Initiative, Peacemaking in Las Americas, and FPT in Asia West Pacific. Friends Peace Team programs use AVP as the curriculum to address a variety of issues, meeting the need of each community served in a number of high conflict areas. Friends Peace teams are creating the opportunity for exchange and interchange, and today we see the wisdom of African, Asian and Latin American facilitators inform the Alternatives to Violence Program in the U.S. Margaret encouraged us to provide a representative to Friends Peace Teams.

42-11: Administrative Assistant's Report. {Attachment B – Census}, {Attachment I - Administrative Assistant Report}

Liz Perch reported. 1) The census is complete with the exception of two monthly meetings. 2) Yearly Meeting reported membership has grown by about 10% since this time last year. This year's totals reported to SAYMA (1266) and to FWCC (1215– used to determine how many representatives SAYMA can send to FWCC) show an increase over last year's SAYMA total (1052) and that of FWCC. This data includes regular attendees. 3) In about two weeks the yearly meeting directory will go to monthly meeting clerks for corrections. The final draft will be available on request as an electronic file, CD or print version by mid-July.

42-12: Web Manager.

Hank Fay reported that our original plan to move the website to a Google application was confounded because we're not incorporated. "Faith & Practice" is available on the website to order or as a pdf. An e-book will soon follow.

42-13: Committee Reports: Personnel. {Attachment F – Committee Reports - Personnel Committee Report}

Carol Nickle reported regarding the new SAYF Administrative Assistant.

The clerk at this time, finding that we were ahead of schedule, requested any reports that could be presented today from tomorrow's agenda.

42-14: Committee Reports: Ministry and Nurture. {Attachment D – State of the Yearly Meeting Report; Attachment F—Committee Reports—Ministry and Nurture Committee Report}.

Nancy Whitt, Clerk of Ministry and Nurture, is not here this weekend. Ministry & Nurture has received state of the meeting reports from monthly meetings. It gathers these reports in order to formulate an overall sense of the yearly meeting. Kristi Estes read the State of the Yearly Meeting Report.

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Friday, June 8, 2012, 8:00—10:45 AM

42-15: Opening Worship.

The second day of our business meeting was opened with a period of worshipful silence.

42-16: Reading/welcome.

The Clerk read excerpts from an Epistle of Southeastern Yearly Meeting

42-17: Introductions / Roll Call.

We welcomed Shan Cretin and Bonnie Horton, representatives of American Friends Service Committee, Alicia Lucasi of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and Lena Garrettson of Friends Committee on National Legislation as well as first time attenders to yearly meeting. We then ran through the roll call to allow monthly meetings and worship groups a chance to signal their presence at yearly meeting.

42 - 18: Agenda

Clerk Tim Lamm reviewed the agenda for today.

42 – 19: Wider Quaker Presentations: American Friends Service Committee. {Attachment G – WQO Reports--AFSC South Region}, {Attachment G—WQO Reports– AFSC Corporation Meeting Report}, {Attachment H – SAYMA Monthly Meetings Responses to AFSC Queries}

Charles Schade (Charleston) introduced our visitor from American Friends Service Committee, Executive Director Shan Cretin, as being the right person at the right time for the AFSC.

Shan reminded us that AFSC was originally formed to provide an alternative to military service in the context of our country about to go to war. The original young people involved in AFSC in those days realized that to work for peace, we must work for justice, including justice for workers, against racism and in opposition to anti-immigrant laws. Today, with 260 employees world-wide and many volunteers, AFSC's challenge is to keep the spirit of its work consistent with Quaker principles. To that end, the AFSC is using a booklet regarding the Quaker testimonies with all staff. In addition, because the heart of the Society of Friends is really in the monthly meeting, AFSC has a new program to create liaisons between AFSC and monthly meetings and worship groups.

Shan also discussed the work AFSC is doing in Indonesia, a country of diverse linguistic and religious composition. The focus has been with young people, teaching them non-violence and peaceful conflict resolution skills. Youth have created a Peace Torch that has been used in marches and gatherings and passed along from community to community. The torch is scheduled to come to the United States. Shan referred to the book *Why Civil Resistance Works*. This book documents how non-violent resistance has shown greater success in bringing about lasting reform than other means. This success lies not only in the methods but more so in the peace which one carries in one's heart. Shan believes that the task of the AFSC is to give

witness and to demonstrate the power of non-violence. The Indonesians are not ready to send the torch off to the United States yet, but they were interested to hear of the work that AFSC was doing concerning Islamophobia. They plan to pass the torch to us once they have thoroughly established it as of Indonesian origination.

As a Yearly Meeting representative to AFSC, Charles Schade discussed the queries that were sent to yearly meetings by AFSC concerning how AFSC services and resources could be best utilized by Friends. Yearly Meeting sent these on to monthly meetings for consideration, and 6 monthly meetings and a number of worship groups responded. These responses are not intended to be a statistical study, but instead a prayerful consideration on the queries. 1) Most reflected enthusiastic support of many specific AFSC programs. 2) Many wished for more contact with AFSC. This has been answered by the opportunity to have liaisons to monthly meetings. 3) Monthly meetings have expressed most interest in environmental, prison and justice system issues, among others. 4) Friends hunger for increased opportunities to volunteer in service to the AFSC. 5) “How would the service committee recommend that small meetings effect change?” was a query sent back to AFSC and one that holds great potential for exploration within monthly meetings. Charles recommends that the responses to the AFSC queries from monthly meetings who were able to participate or could still participate by the September deadline be forwarded on to the AFSC.

42-19-01: Friends approved that the responses to the AFSC queries be forwarded on to the AFSC Friends Relations Committee. Other monthly meetings who wish to respond may do so by the September deadline.

The question arose concerning how well represented Friends are on the staff of AFSC. Shan responded that there has been a policy in place since 1980 that employee candidates are not asked what their religious affiliation is.

Friends who would like to be a liaison from their monthly meeting to AFSC can refer to the AFSC brochure regarding that program. Also, there is currently an opening for a yearly meeting representative to the AFSC Corporation.

42-20: Nominating Committee: nominations to date. {Attachment K: Nominating Committee Report}

David Ciscel (Memphis) announced that there were no nominations to be made at this time, but the committee does encourage Friends to contact members of the committee with their interest. Specific needs include clerk for Ministry and Nurture and another member of the Personnel Committee. David would like to have people speak to him to clarify the membership and needs of the SAYF Steering Committee and JYM Oversight Committee. Peace and Social Concerns Committee needs members in order to become functional. In addition, there are a number of Yearly Meeting Planning Committee positions that need to be taken on. In regards to wider Quaker organizations, a second liaison to the AFSC Corporation Board is needed, as are a second representative to Friends World Committee on Consultation, a representative from SAYMA to the Friends Peace Teams, and a second representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. Right Sharing of World Resources was noted as having Karen Morris as the current contact person.

42-21: Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee, first reading of budget {Attachment C – Proposed Budget}

The Clerk expressed concern for our treasurer, Deanna Nipp-Kientz, who is unable to attend yearly meeting or to present her treasurer's report because of severe illness.

Related to finances, yearly meeting has a general liability insurance policy. Over the past year, Liz Perch has renegotiated that policy with the insurance providers. The insuring entity recommended that we add to our coverage. The clerk appointed an ad hoc committee to look into that issue.

42-21-01: Friends approved Tim Lamm, Carol Nickle and Dennis Gregg to serve on the ad hoc insurance committee.

The treasurer's report was presented by Alan Robinson, Assistant Treasurer. Records were not available to Alan other than those that were presented at spring representative meeting. Based on those records, our finances look good in regards to our budget. Budgeted income amount for the year is \$39,000; current income is \$24,000 as of that spring report. Last year at the same time, we had only brought in \$20,000, but by the end of the fiscal year we had brought in \$39,600. In other words, we nearly doubled our intake by assessments and contributions in that time period. Deanna is the only one with the actual figures, but according to the Assistant Treasurer, if we follow last year's pattern, we should be just fine. We have to date underspent our expenses. We have plenty of cash in our account so that we would always be able to pay our bills. The Assistant Treasurer does not yet have authorization to write checks, etc. This authorization reassignment will take place as soon as possible. The Finance Committee has checks available for use. Until Alan gets to be a check signer, we will be in a little bit of a bind. Alan urged Friends to hold Deanna in the light.

Linda Trask presented the budget with some clarifications provided by Alan Robinson. Essentially, the 2012 budget has been moved over to 2013 budget with increases where we have spent more than our budgeted line item in the past and where we anticipate higher expenditures. However there are also line items where we have underspent or even have not spent at all.

Something that we may want to consider is that if we end up with excess funds this year, might we increase our contributions to wider Quaker organizations? 50% - 100% of annual budget is recommended to keep on hand for eventualities. A Friend recommended that we continue with a 50% of annual budget policy and consider providing interest free loans with those reserves for Friends Peace Teams or Right Sharing of World Resources or American Friends Service Committee. The assistant treasurer pointed out that half of our annual budget is for the yearly meeting gathering, which pays for itself. Therefore, only half of our budget is discretionary. We will determine what assessments we have at the end of the year to determine how the assessments should be adjusted if at all.

A Friend recalled that we had a draw-down plan when we had a lot of money. However, when the economic downturn occurred we did a lot of budget tightening. This was also the impression of the Assistant Treasurer up until the point that the committee evaluated the finances

recently. They discovered that the contributions to Quaker outreach could be increased back to some former level without scrimping.

Copies of the budget were posted for Friends to examine throughout the day. A Friend suggested that we gather a called committee to meet between now and representative meeting in order to really assess what we can do as a yearly meeting to grow our generosity. More copies of the proposed budget will be available tomorrow, and it will be taken up again then.

#### 42-22: Committee Reports: Outreach. {Attachment F—Committee Reports – Outreach Committee}

Dennis Gregg presented the outreach report. The Outreach Committee is an ad hoc committee created a couple of years ago. Dennis presented a proposal to convert the ad hoc committee to a standing committee. Discussion of the proposal included questions regarding budgetary needs, whether or not the committee would require members from each meeting, involving YAFs with a travel budget, and developing our Internet presence. The committee does not have large budgetary needs at the time of this proposal; however, a budget would need to be sufficient for future eventualities. A Friend suggested that yearly meeting not take on the structuring of the committee too much on the outset, but to take it incrementally.

42-22-01: Friends approved the establishment of a standing Outreach Committee. The committee's purpose would be to help monthly meetings gain new members and effectively share the Quaker message. The three goals of the committee would be 1) to assist monthly meetings and worship groups, 2) to collect and share stories of successes and failures and additional links to resources, and 3) to sponsor workshops at yearly meeting concerning outreach. The committee would consist of 5-9 members, who would be appointed by the Nominating Committee.

#### 42-23: Wider Quaker Presentations: Friends Committee on National Legislation. {Attachment G—WQO Reports – FCNL}

Jane Hiles (Birmingham), representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation, introduced the speakers from that organization, Lena Garrettson and Katherine Phillipson. Lena is working on FCNL's project on the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict, and Katherine focuses on outreach and public policy.

Lena informed us that FCNL was the first full-time national religious lobbying organization, begun in 1943 in Washington, D.C. Now FCNL has the first "green" building on Capitol Hill. (The original building was purchased in the 50s and renovated recently.) FCNL is a grassroots activist network, which means there are members and representation in monthly meetings across the U.S. FCNL is founded in Quaker tradition and works using Quaker process, but also includes outreach to non-Quakers. FCNL is non-partisan; the focus is on policy, and work is done with whoever gets into office. FCNL seeks to promote Quaker values. This year FCNL's annual meeting will be in November.

Katherine is working on building relationships with members of congress, but she says that the most effective way to build these relationships is through direct contact with people. Katherine is working on training people on how to get in touch with their representatives and



congresspersons. She is lobbying to preserve the cuts to the planned pentagon budget already slated to go ahead. She encouraged us to contact Kay Hagen (Democratic Senator for North Carolina), for example, to maintain those cuts in the budget and to attend the Quaker Public Policy Institute, November 15th, which will consist of two days of training to get participants up to speed on policy in order to go out and lobby. She suggested Friends could attend FCNL annual meeting at that time as well.

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42-24: Worshipful silence.

Meeting was opened with a brief period of worshipful silence.

42-25: Reading/Welcome.

The Clerk read excerpts from the Epistle of the 84th Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba.

42-26: Introductions/roll call.

There were no new visitors to introduce themselves. There were a number of first time attenders. The roll was called, and Friends identified themselves by their monthly meeting.

The Clerk reminded Friends to limit comments to ideas that have not yet been voiced and to try to be as succinct and relevant as possible.

The Agenda was reviewed.

42-28: Reports from SAYMA reps to WQOs: Quaker Earthcare Witness. {Attachment G—WQO Reports –Quaker Earthcare Witness}, {Attachment L – Kabarak Call}

Roy Taylor (Canton) presented as one of our representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness. (The other is David Ciscel, Memphis). He described a number of international conferences that have been taking place. Much has been coming out of these larger global conferences. There was a Heads of Meetings Conference held in London, attended by heads of world Quaker organizations. There they met to collaborate regarding environmental and other issues with which Quakers are concerned worldwide. In addition to the U.N. and Rio +20 worldwide resolutions, there is a new resolution on the environment: the Kenya World Gathering of Friends issued a statement entitled the “Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice”.

The Kabarak statement calls not just for peace, social justice and eco-justice but expresses how these are intertwined and interrelated. It was the culmination of two years of consultation that the FWCC had with yearly meetings across the globe. Six queries were sent out for Friends to respond to worldwide, whose prayerful consideration culminated in the creation of this “Call”. It can be found at [www.SaltAndLight2012.org](http://www.SaltAndLight2012.org), but there are currently two versions on the website.

Quaker Earthcare Witness proposes that yearly meeting affirm this Call and then sent it to monthly meetings for each to create a minute of affirmation or endorsement. These minutes would be brought back to representative meeting in September. Our participation in affirming this would provide SAYMA and our monthly meetings a way to join in worldwide. A Friend recommended that we not only respond each as a monthly meeting but also formulate our plans of how we will go about working towards these goals.

Two objections were raised: 1) that we cannot consider uniting with the “Call” without a single, final version; and 2) that we send this back to monthly meetings to discern before we take it on as a yearly meeting. After some discussion, it was proposed that the “Kabarak Call” be made available for Friends to read and reflect upon so that it can be brought up at business meeting tomorrow.

42-27: Wider Quaker Presentation: Quaker House – Chuck Fager, Lynn and Steve Newsom.  
{G—WQO Reports – Quaker House Report}

Chuck asked us to visualize the Society of Friends as a tree with Quaker House as a fruit of that tree. Quaker House is starting its 44th year next month. Chuck pointed out that Quaker projects are not meant to go on indefinitely, but that Quaker House still has plenty of work to do, because the U.S. is still involved in several wars and planning and spending for more. He pointed out that although we (the U.S.) are not acknowledging the existence of wars in which we are currently involved, we are indeed involved, and he listed a number of ways in which we are. The matter of accountability for torture is still an issue that hangs heavily over us, and Chuck encouraged Friends not to forget this as our rulers would have us do. Chuck let us know about opportunities that are coming up for Friends to be activist. He also admitted that although Quaker House does not want to build a better military, we hailed the repeal of “Don’t ask; Don’t tell” as a good development, even though it will make the Army better by allowing many good gay and lesbian soldiers to stay in. We are against oppressing gay and lesbian folks who have chosen to be in the military.

Chuck celebrated the new meetinghouse at Columbia, SC, and the potential its presence holds for growing Quaker witness in that region and the opportunity it provides for Columbia Friends.

Quaker House has had a difficult year financially, perhaps because when talking about wars that no one wants to acknowledge or remember, the money doesn’t come in. He pointed out that military suicides are setting new records—again—up to about one a day at this time.

Chuck will be retiring this November and moving to Durham, NC, and will be focusing on writing books. After a lengthy nationwide search, Steve and Lynn Newsom from Charlotte Meeting have been named to be the new co-directors. Lynn related a little of the history of Chuck’s role at Quaker House, from the time he originally declined to apply for director: the literature that he has created and spokes-icons he has originated; helping keep the GI Hotline going; and working with soldiers and their families and communities to deal with issues of domestic violence and other struggles that military families face.

Chuck told us he believes that the scope of free expression has been greatly constricted since the “War on Terror” and this has produced in much of the citizenry a kind of trauma reaction, a kind of depression. “Apathy” is not the word he would use to describe what has taken hold of us; it’s actually more “tuning it out”. Chuck discussed the relationship that Quaker House has had with Fort Bragg over the years and how that has changed from times of growth to times of downsizing of the military.

Lynne highlighted how Chuck has brought such respectability to Quaker House that Chuck and Quaker House are the first to be consulted when it comes to issues of violence within the community.

42-29: Committee Reports: SAYF Steering. {F—Committee Reports – SAYF}

There were six planned SAYF retreats, and five took place. An Atlanta retreat was canceled due to lack of attendance. 35 Young Friends on average attended the retreats. All retreats, including two for SAYF Ministry and Nurture, were hosted at meetinghouses. SAYF Steering Committee and all of the SAYFers are deeply appreciative for the hospitality of these meetings.

Three special notes: 1) At the January retreat in Atlanta, SAYFers made a video for the “If I had a Trillion Dollars” Youth Film Festival sponsored by AFSC. The video was selected as one of the top 20 entries. Three SAYFers went to DC in relation to this. 2) Two FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences), Mark Wutka and Mary Linda McKinney, who met at SAYF, were united in matrimony this year. 3) Therese Hildebrand, after 11 years of service, has retired from her position as administrative assistant of SAYF. A minute will be presented tomorrow in gratitude to her service. The committee is grateful for her hard work, her warm nature and the love she has given to SAYF. The SAYF Steering Committee now joyfully welcomes Jonah McDonald as the new SAYF Administrative Assistant.

It is extremely valuable for those adults working with the youth to have the experience of teaching our youth our Quaker principles, our Quaker style leadership, and what it is to be a Quaker. As the youth grow and develop, the older SAYFers begin to reflect upon how they can best bring up the younger SAYFers through the program. The resource that the steering committee most needs to keep SAYF going is the adult participation.

42-30: Committee Reports: Junior Yearly Meeting Oversight. {F—Committee Reports – JYM Oversight}

Wendy Satterthwaite from Berea presented the JYM Oversight report. The Young Friends will present their epistle tomorrow. Jonathan Schinhofen and Beth Myers have been doing a fabulous job at running JYM. This is their last year, and Jennifer Dickie and Michael Kramer from Atlanta will be taking over.

42- 31: Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, Alicia Lucasi.

Alicia Lucasi brought greetings from Bolivian Quakers. There are in Bolivia 30,000 Quakers or more, with five yearly meetings. Quakers in Bolivia started in the 20s with missionaries from Oregon. Alicia stated that Quaker education is changing life for Bolivians always and expressed her gratitude to us. The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund started in 2002. It provides scholarships. Where Alicia works is a residence for students from 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The students typically walk 4 - 8 hours to get to where the school is located and stay for the week. Technology and life is very different, so Alicia says that she follows our examples to know things like where to get breakfast and where the water is. She thanked us for the opportunity to speak to us at yearly meeting.

42-32: Nominations continued. {Attachment K: Nominating Committee Report}

David Ciscel presented the report. Committee met yesterday evening and has a number of recommendations and clarifications:

Officers:

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) – Clerk; Tim Lamm (Berea) – Assistant Clerk;  
Alan Robinson (Asheville) – Treasurer (rising from Assistant Treasurer)

### **Standing Committees**

Ministry and Nurture:

Clerk- Errol Hess (Clinton); New Member-Thais Carr (Nashville) from appointee

Finance:

New member - Wood Bouldin (Greenbriar)

Personnel:

Clerk derived as position of Assistant Clerk- Tim Lamm (Berea); New member - Bob McGahey (Celo)

SAYF Steering Committee:

Two new Co-clerks - Mark Wutka (Nashville) and Aaron Ruscetta (Atlanta); New members - Chuck Jones (Chattanooga), Wren Hendrickson (Chapel Hill), Therese Hildebrand (Berea) from staff to member, and Jonathan Schinhofen (Lexington)

JYM Oversight Committee:

Three new members- Jane Goldthwait (Celo), Beth Myers (Berea) and Charlie Wilton (Berea)

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee in progress:

Carol Ciscel (Memphis) – Clerk;  
Hank Fay (Berea) – Adult Program Coordinator;  
Laura Seeger (Chattanooga) – Registrar;  
Chris Berg (Greenville) – Bookstore Manager;  
John Potter (Nashville) – Layout Editor;

Peace and Social Concerns:

Jere Licciardello (Chattanooga) volunteered to be Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns, but it will need more members to be an operating committee. We will take this up again tomorrow for approval.

Web Manager

R.D. Flowers (Chattanooga),

Reappointment:

Missy Ivie (West Knoxville), Archivist

Outreach Committee:

Members - Dennis Gregg (Crossville), Free Polazzo (Atlanta), Hank Fay (Berea), Sandy Tracy (West Knoxville), Roger Wise (Charleston). Hank Fay will approach YAFs to see if a member could be found among them.

**Ad Hoc Committees**

Faith & Practice has now become the queries writing committee. Two new members: Wood Bouldin (Greenbriar, WV), Thais Carr (Nashville). Members staying on from Faith and Practice Revision Committee: Missy Ivie (West Knoxville), Alan Robinson (Asheville), Edie Patrick (Asheville)

Friends recognize the extensive work of the ad hoc Faith and Practice Revision Committee, culminating in a printed version of Faith and Practice for the first time in 14 years. We are grateful to its members, many of whom served lengthy terms, for their considerable effort and thoughtfulness.

42-32-01: All nominations were approved by yearly meeting for business as they were proposed by Nominating.

42-33: Finance Committee: Second reading of budget. {Attachment C: Proposed Budget}

Alan Robinson, Treasurer, provided three reports for Friends to review and consider: 1) Account Balances on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, 2) Assessments Received for each year of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 as of May 13<sup>th</sup> of each of those fiscal years, 3) Budget and Actual Spending for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 along with the proposed 2012- 2013 budget.

The main differences between the 2012 budget and the proposed budget include:

1. Anticipated assessment income is 110% of last year's, based on increased membership.
2. Cost of liability insurance includes a provisional increase, pending the report of the ad hoc committee.
3. The greatest change is due to the cost of living increase for staff.

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association  
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina  
42nd Annual Meeting, June 7-10, 2012  
Sunday, June 10, 2012, 9 am to 11 am

42-34: Worshipful silence.

The sounds of fellowship settled down into silence in Bryson Gym where the sun, air and birdsongs gently entered in to join us in holding the space.

42-35: Welcome

The Clerk welcomed Friends with a reminder that our younger Friends will be joining us around midway of our business meeting.

42-36: Introductions/roll call

No visitors introduced themselves this morning. The roll was called and Friends identified themselves by a show of hands when the name of their meeting or worship group was read.

42-37: The Clerk reviewed the agenda and meeting moved on with some changes.

42-38: The Recording Clerk read the minutes that had not yet been approved from yesterday.

42-39: Nominations continued. {Attachment K: Nominating Committee Report}

Nominating Acting Clerk continued with wider Quaker organization representative nominations as follows:

Lee Ann Swarm (West Knoxville) and Free Polazzo (Atlanta) (2nd Term) as representatives to American Friends Service Committee;

Charlie Wilton (Berea) as third representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation;

Geeta McGahey (Celo) as representative to Friends World Committee on Consultation;  
Adrienne Weir (Asheville) as representative to Friends Peace Teams.

42-39-01: All nominations were approved.

42-40: Naming Committee report.

Sig Christensen (West Knoxville) presented the Naming Committee report.

“The committee consists of Sig, Barbara Esther (Asheville), Linda Trask (Nashville) and Bill Holland (Atlanta). Three of us met at various times during SAYMA to consider people to invite to be on the Nominating Committee. We also reached out to the Young Adult Friends. We invited many older adult Friends, but none felt able to agree. The committee did, however, find two Young Adult Friends who have agreed to collectively fill one position on the Nominating Committee. Judy Scoville (Nashville) will be the primary member, with Bethany Vega (Memphis) serving as a secondary member. We have not identified a person to be clerk of Nominating; our efforts were focused on finding members.”

During meeting for business, one more member Barbara Esther (Asheville) was named, and she and David Ciscel (Memphis) agreed to be Co-Clerks.

#### 42-41: Finance Committee

##### Budget {Attachment C – Proposed Budget}

Tim reviewed some of the changes in the budget from 2012 to 2013 and asked Friends to offer their commentary at this time. A Friend suggested that the budget for Third World Delegates be increased to \$1325 and that we decrease the budget for travel expenses for delegates to Wider Quaker Organizations. This Friend would like to see our commitment to Third World Delegates strengthened, so that we could support a third world delegate to attend the FWCC annual meeting. A Friend expressed a concern that the delegates to Wider Quaker Organizations not see that appointment as one that requires the delegates to donate their own travel expenses. A Friend suggested that the Outreach Committee be provided with a budget line.

Other Friends requested that SAYMA provide support of AGLI and that South African Day Care Center be included. It is recommended that these suggestions be presented to Finance more formally with a specific dollar amount requested.

Tim reminded Friends that the final budget will be approved at Representative Meeting in September, so Friends should communicate their wishes with the committees or be present there at that meeting.

##### Bank Resolution

Liz Perch provided yearly meeting for business with the exact language required by the bank in order to transfer signatory authority over to the new Treasurer.

“Resolved, that Bank of America, N.A. (the "Bank") is hereby designated as a depository of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association and that deposit accounts and/or time deposits (CDs) be opened and maintained in the name of SAYMA with Bank in accordance with the terms of the Bank's Deposit Agreement and Disclosures and the applicable rules and regulations for such accounts; that any one of the following officers or employees of SAYMA: Carol Nickle, Clerk [chair], Alan Scott Robinson, Treasurer, or Elizabeth Perch, Administrative Assistant is hereby authorized, on behalf of SAYMA, and in its name, to execute and to sign checks, drafts, notes, bills of exchange acceptance, time deposits (CDs) or other orders for payment of money and to transact all other business as provided in this resolution.”

42- 41-01: Friends approved the Bank Resolution with the addition of the Assistant Treasurer as a check-signer.

Friends expressed reservations about using Bank of America, and the Finance Committee will explore the possibility of changing to a different alternative. A Friend suggested that SAYMA use a Credit Union since they are immune to buy-outs. A Friend reminded us of the logistical necessity to have a banking institution that is not local in order to bridge the distance



between all the persons involved. Friends are reminded that Bank of America is being used only for immediate operations expense and that reserves are actually kept in a credit union.

#### 42-42: Reading of Epistles: Junior Yearly Meeting

A little more than a dozen Junior Yearly Meeting participants took the stage while Beth Myers described the activities that JYM has undertaken this year and introduced us to JYMers through brief individualized personality descriptions. With nostalgia for the three years that they have co-convened the Junior Yearly Meeting at SAYMA, Jonathan Schinhofen and Beth Myers both said they were looking forward to getting to know adult SAYMA participants better in future yearly meetings. Friends expressed thanks through resounding applause.

#### 42-43: Reading of Epistles: Southern Appalachian Young Friends

This year there were 37 SAYFers at SAYMA. Grace Beavin (Berea), Guthrie Armstrong (Atlanta) and Caty McAfee (Chattanooga) told us of the various retreats that SAYF had this year.

At the January retreat SAYFers took part in an American Friends Service Committee project that answered the speculation of "If I Had a Trillion Dollars." SAYFers created a video that referred to how the trillion dollars spent on the war in Iraq could have been better spent. SAYFers video placed in the top twenty, and several SAYFers were able to travel to Washington, DC to show the video.

Grace expressed her appreciation for SAYF, saying "I want to thank SAYMA for being so supportive of SAYF. Teenagers today live in a world full of violence, hate, confusion, and hormones, and we are so lucky to be able to come to SAYF, which is filled with only unconditional love. I will be forever grateful for my experience here, and I know my friends feel the same way."

#### 42-43-01: Minute for Therese

At rise of this Yearly Meeting, Therese Hildebrand will retire as administrative assistant to the Southern Appalachian Young Friends program. For 11 years she has managed and performed administrative tasks associated with the SAYF program. She has done these tasks efficiently, effectively, and always with good spirit.

Therese provided a safe haven, a harbor from the storms of adolescence. Seeing the teens with her and her with the teens, the love and joy shared by all shone brightly.

The SAYF program, recognized nationally for the effectiveness it has in guiding and nurturing our children through their teens, is the result of work by wonderful volunteers of the SAYF Steering Committee, the assistance of year after year of Nurturing Committee teens and, for the last 10 years, of work by Therese Hildebrand.

SAYMA recognizes the important part she has played in making this resource available to our teens, and in many ways being the resource needed by our teens. We have been very fortunate to have her carrying SAYMA's message to our teens, and we thank her, sharing our love and joy with her, as she has shared hers with the teens.

The minute of thanks for Therese was accompanied with a standing ovation. Therese told the SAYF steering committee that this has been her best job ever. “To parents, thanks for entrusting teens to SAYF, and to SAYFers, thank you for sharing your lives with me. My heart is full.”

42-44: Reading of Epistles: Young Adult Friends {Attachment J—Epistles – YAF Epistle}

More YAFs attend than any year in recent history, altogether 17 YAF or YAF-aged attenders. YAFs welcomed recent SAYF graduates and shared worship with Other Adult Friends as well. Besides growing in numbers, Young Adult Friends have a sense that they have been more conscious of belonging to a community. A YAF magazine, Facebook presence and a website are all in store for keeping YAFs in touch. There is an increase of YAF participation in the wider SAYMA community with the approval of several YAF nominations to Nominating, Outreach and Planning Committees.

The Clerk expressed our hope that the YAFs will keep in touch as they go to their various scattered locations, with yearly meeting and each other.

42-45: Reading of Epistles: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association {Attachment K—Epistles – YM Epistle}

42-45-01 Epistle

The yearly meeting epistle was approved, with appreciation to the Epistle Committee.

42-46: Registrar’s Report:

224 registrations, 5 cancelations, 219 attendees: 13 JYM, 38 SAYF, 15 YAF, 40 First Time Attenders, 153 Older/Other Adult Friends.

42-47: AFSC Relations.

The Clerk, at this point, advised Friends that we had 15 more minutes left for our business meeting, that we would not have time to revisit our discussion of AFSC - SAYMA relations, but that the response from AFSC was to guard the privacy of their employees’ religious affiliations. Potential employees are not asked to disclose their religious affiliation to AFSC as per policy enacted by that corporation in 1980.

42-48: Business carried over: Kabarak Call

During Saturday’s meeting for business, Roy Taylor (Canton), representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, recommended that SAYMA affirm the Kabarak Call that came out of the World Conference. At that time we were unable to find unity concerning that call. Two dissenting themes rose within the discussion. One Friend, referring to the phrase found in the Call of “afflicting the comfortable”, expressed that as Quakers, we do not the right to afflict or urge the affliction of anyone. Another Friend expressed concern for the lack of what we are familiar with as the Quaker process of change or decision-making, referring back to the Immigration Minute of last yearly meeting and how it was passed without arising from monthly meetings.

Geeta McGahey reported back to us that the final version of the Kabarak Call does include the controversial phrase of “afflict the comfortable”. The full sentence is “We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.” The Kabarak Call in its entirety can be found at: <http://saltandlight2012.org/kabarak-call-peace-and-ecojustice>.

A Friend pointed out that the language we use will be important in our actions regarding the Kabarak Call. That “uniting” with the Call would be different than “affirming” the Call. A Friend expressed that the Kabarak Call is spoken in the prophetic voice that we had struggled so to find in our own eco-minute of last year. A Friend pointed out that we, here in the United States, for example, are the actual comfortable for whom the call for afflicting is meant. A Friend suggested that the Call should be accompanied with queries when sent to monthly meetings. Another Friend described what we should do as “hearing” the call or perhaps, “embracing” the call.

A Friend emphasized the importance of inclusion of all to respond with an expression by all of our monthly meetings, not just those present at this yearly meeting. A Friend expressed a concern that we would need to come up with queries before sending the Call off to monthly meetings. Another Friend, concerned with the urgency of timeliness, suggested that we charge monthly meetings with coming up with queries, the responses to which can then be sent to Representative Meeting to be compiled. A Friend pointed out that, now that we have a social concerns committee, its responsibility would be to take minutes to season them and determine how to respond to them. Another Friend was concerned with the concept that yearly meeting “charge” monthly meetings, again expressing the concern that the process does not move in that direction. A Friend pointed out that each of us need to take the Call and embrace it to ourselves to assess how we could each deal with our own discomfort, because this Friend felt that it is high time that their own comfort be afflicted. There was a sense of urgency that we do not put this into committee or on a back burner, but that we address this immediately in our monthly meetings and as individuals.

A Friend who identified herself as new to Quakerism asked us what precisely was our charge to do with this document. The Clerk responded that it certainly is not our charge to edit the Call but to see what we could do as monthly meetings. A Friend noted that the process initiated by the World Conference feels hierarchical, that they have sent us a document being generated from a global organization to our regional organization that is then charging individual meetings to do specific things. The Friend believed that SAYMA, confident that we hear and are challenged by the Call, can trust that our monthly meetings will do similarly. A Friend wanted to be sure that *every* monthly meeting or worship group will receive information about this issue and have a chance to consider it themselves. A Friend reminded us about how insulated we tend to be, so that when a Call like this occurs, it is a very quickening experience. This Friend stated that (paraphrased) as people who reside *in the belly of the beast*, we especially need to realize how the visions and deep hunger for an eco-just world are coming into focus across the planet.

The editor of the *Southern Appalachian Friend* reminded us that she is hoping to get what happened at yearly meeting out and reminded us that the deadline to include articles in *Southern Appalachian Friend* is June 22<sup>nd</sup>. A Friend recommended that SAYMA do a mailing to all MMs and Worship Groups specifically regarding this issue. One Friend mentioned a favorite T-shirt slogan “Don’t do something, sit there, I’m a Quaker.” A Friend pointed out that the document refers to Friends’ participation in the abolition of slavery and that that process took time. This process will also take time, more than that, that it will take repentance. A Friend observed that he has felt a resonance throughout us like that of a singing bowl. This Friend urged us to act as a ringing bell, a Paul Revere to bring the message back to our monthly meetings. The ringing bell is a feeling of the spirit calling us to act differently than what we have been doing. We are being asked to change and ask ourselves to change. A Friend discussed how Roy Taylor (Canton), SAYMA representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, had originally brought the call to us and would be a great resource.<sup>1</sup>

42-48-01: Friends at YM hear and are challenged by the Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco-Justice and affirm its centrality and urgency. We ask our MMs to consider the call also, and how to respond, reporting back to our Peace and Social Concerns Committee their insights and suggestions for action. We ask Peace and Social Concerns to shepherd the process of bringing this call to monthly meetings.

42-49: Site Selection: 2013, 2014

June 12 – 16 are the dates that WWC is available in 2013 (Wednesday – Sunday).

42-49-01: Friends approved the dates of June 12 -16 for the next yearly meeting, assuming that that works out with the college

42-50: Minutes of Gratitude

42-50-01: Minute of thanks to outgoing officers, committee members and representatives who have completed their term of office: Tim Lamm (Clerk); Deanna Nipp-Kientz (Treasurer); Nancy Whitt (Clerk) of Ministry & Nurture; Carol Nickle (Asst. Clerk), Free Polazzo, Susan Gerdes and Wren Hendrickson of Personnel Committee; Wren Hendrickson (Clerk) of SAYF Steering Committee; Elizabeth Hudson and Wendy Satterthwaite (Co-conveners) of JYM Oversight Committee; Beth Myers and Jonathan Schinhofen (JYM Coordinators) of SAYMA Planning Committee; Jim Cavener (Clerk), Dennis Gregg (Acting Clerk) and Beth Ensign of Nominating Committee; Hank Fay as Web Manager; Free Polazzo (Clerk), Barbara Esther, Taimie Olson, Missy Ivie, Alan Robinson, Edie Patrick of the Ad Hoc Faith & Practice Revision Committee; and representatives to wider Quaker organizations (Charles Schade to AFSC, Geeta McGahey to AFSC/SERO, Kelly Schoolmeester to FCNL, Kate Caldwell to FLGBTQC, Linda Trask to FWCC, David Ciscel to QEW).

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<sup>1</sup> The Recording Clerk asks Friends to please forgive her if she has missed their contribution during the yearly meeting for business to the discussion of the Kabarak Call, recognizing the importance of us all hearing each one another of us.

Friends express our sincere thanks to those who have cheerfully provided us with their leadership, assistance and representation for us in the greater world, knowing that the labor that each has put in to these leadings has been always a labor of love.

42-50-02: Minute of thanks to Planning Committee, Warren Wilson College, Student Workers and Staff and in Particular, Liz Brace for hosting out community here.

We Friends, nourished in the fellowship of one another, blessed with the opportunity to diligently seek the truth and to share in the richness of each others' paths, express our gratitude to the Planning Committee for putting together a YM that lends itself easily to those pursuits, and to the Warren Wilson College student workers and staff and in particular, Liz Brace, for sharing their space, an environment that inspires on its own, and their hospitality with us. We wish to express that the arrangements under certain difficult circumstances and planning were excellent.

42-51: Closing worship: 11:47 – past noon.

We closed our time together with a period of waiting worship, some choosing to worship well into the lunch hour.

Tim Lamm, Clerk

Adrienne Weir, Recording Clerk

(Archive copy signed)

Attachments:

- A. Attendance (print copies only)
- B. 2010 SAYMA Census
- C. Proposed Budget
- D. State of the Yearly Meeting
- E. State of the Meeting Reports
- F. Committee Reports
- G. WQO Representatives' Reports
- H. Monthly Meeting Responses to AFSC Queries
- I. Administrative Assistant's Report
- J. Epistles
- K. Nominating Committee Report
- L. Kabarak Call

Attachment A: Attendance (Print copies only)

Attachment A: Attendance (print copies only)

Attachment A: Attendance (print copies only)

Attachment B: 2011 SAYMA Census

**SAYMA Census 2011**

	Asheville	Athens	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Foxfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville	
1.a. Recorded members																						
Adults	41	28	173	36	11	0	5	31	19	30	17	5	6	7	8	6	43	50	10	47	65	
under 18	2	4		0	0	0	0		0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	3	8	
<b>Subtotal: Members</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73</b>	
1.b. Attenders																						
Members of another SAYMA meeting	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0		0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	
Members in another Yearly Meeting	1	0	10	0	d/k	0	0	1		1	0	0	3	3	1	3	4	9	2	3	0	
Not members of RSOF	10	0	103	23	18	1	12	37		15	22	8	3	12	1	17	15	55	7	16	20	
under 18		0	53	25	3	0	0	9		7	6	0	0	0	4	5	5	23	1	10	4	
Subtotal: Attenders	12	0	167	48	21	3	12	47	0	23	28	9	6	15	8	25	26	88	10	29	24	
<b>TOTAL: Individuals to report to SAYMA</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1266</b>
Adults considered inactive	17		37	20	1	0	1	8		11	3	0	2	2	6	4	20	2	6	14	40	194
<b>Report to FWCC (Includes PM/WG attenders; NOT members of other YM's)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1215</b>
<b>Reported to FWCC last year</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1052</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>163</b>
Members who																						
Attend you meeting	24		d/c	18	8		4			20	6	5	4		2	2	23	35	4	33	26	
Attend Worship Group under the care of your meeting	-	n/a	d/c	0	2		n/a	0		1	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a		
Attend another SAYMA Worship Group	1	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	d/k	0	0	0	0	
Attend another SAYMA Meeting	1	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	0		0	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	d/k	2	0	0	0	
Attend in another Yearly Meeting	1	n/a	d/c	4	0		0	1		0	2	0	0	n/a	1	2	d/k	2	0	0	0	
Attend in another religious tradition	0	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	3		0	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Attend rarely/not at all/don't know	17	11	d/c	21	1		0	6		11	3	0	0	3	3	4	19	8	6	14		

PLEASE NOTE: shaded meetings did not provide new data--2010 data was used.

**SAYMA Census 2011**

	Asheville	Athens	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Foxfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville	
<b>2. Count of Events</b>																						
a. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders under care of meeting	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0	
b. Marriage/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders NOT under care of meeting	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	1	1	n/a	0	0	0	
c. Marriage/commitment ceremonies under care of meeting, non members/attenders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0	0	
d. births/adoptions	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	1	2	0	0	1	
e. Deaths	0	0	3	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	2	0	1	1	2	0	
f. transfers in	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	n/a	2	0	5	n/a	0	0	2	0	2	1	
g. transfers out/withdrawals	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	n/a	0	0	3	n/a	1	1	2	0	1	1	
h. new members	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	3	n/a	0	7	2	3	0	0	
i. new attenders	4	6	d/c	d/c	6	0	1	3	1	6	3	0	0	5	1	6	5	15	4	4	8	
j. stopped attending	3	8	d/c	1	0	d/k	0	20	0	1	3	0	0	2	9	2	5	10	1	2	d/k	

\*Meeting does not distinguish between members and attenders



## Attachment C: Proposed Budget

	9/30/2011		3/3/2012 Proposed				
	Budget FY 2010	Actual FY 2010	Budget FY 2011	Actual FY 2011	Budget FY 2012	Actual FY 2012	Budget FY 2013
<b>Income</b>							
Assessments *	\$42,000	\$35,603	\$33,500	\$39,666.25	\$39,000	\$24,578	\$42,900
Bank Interest	\$700	\$552	\$500	\$490.27	\$500	\$184	\$500
Contributions	\$500	\$639	\$4,000	\$1,250.00	\$1,200	\$270	\$1,200
F&P Sales	\$250		\$1,500		\$1,500		\$275
SAYF Receipts							
YM Total Receipts	\$29,000	\$28,094	\$31,600	\$34,064.35	\$31,600	\$0	\$31,600
YM Receipts	\$26,000	\$25,060	\$28,600	\$32,012.10	\$28,600		\$28,600
YM Scholarship Donations **	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$1,000	\$881.50	\$1,000		\$1,000
YM Book Sales	\$2,000	\$1,634	\$2,000	\$1,170.75	\$2,000		\$2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$72,450</b>	<b>\$64,887</b>	<b>\$71,100</b>	<b>\$75,471</b>	<b>\$73,800</b>	<b>\$25,032</b>	<b>\$76,475</b>
<b>SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>							
Yearly Meeting	\$29,600	\$30,535	\$31,600	\$32,630.61	\$31,600	\$1,304	\$31,600
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$22,000	\$24,115	\$24,000	\$26,039.50	\$24,000		\$24,000
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$1,500	\$1,593	\$1,500	\$1,973.19	\$1,500	\$250	\$1,500
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$3,100	\$3,205	\$3,100	\$2,796.91	\$3,100	\$0	\$3,100
<i>Coordinator</i>	\$1,800	\$1,250	\$1,800	\$1,200.00	\$1,800		\$1,800
<i>Ass't Coordinator</i>	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,200.00	\$1,000		\$1,000
<i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>	\$300	\$705	\$300	\$396.91	\$300		\$300
Scholarship WQO Reps **	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$700.00	\$1,000		\$1,000
YM Bookstore	\$2,000	\$1,622	\$2,000	\$1,121.01	\$2,000	\$1,054	\$2,000
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$2,100	\$1,000.00	\$2,000		\$2,000
Delegate Expenses	\$6,900	\$4,588	\$6,500	\$2,831.73	\$5,000	\$2,291	\$5,000
Rep Mtgs	\$300	\$0	\$100		\$100		\$100
Del to WQOs	\$6,600	\$4,588	\$6,400	\$2,831.73	\$4,900	\$2,291	\$4,900
Committees	\$2,100	\$687	\$1,550	\$1,260.33	\$2,150	\$424	\$2,150
Ministry and Nurture	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,000	\$500.00	\$750		\$750
Ecological Concerns	\$300	\$0	\$150		\$50		\$50
Faith and Practice	\$400	\$687	\$300	\$723.97	\$750	\$424	\$750
Finance Committee	\$100	\$0	\$50	\$14.06	\$50		\$50
Nominating	\$100	\$0	\$50	\$22.30	\$50		\$50
P&SC					\$500		\$500
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$700	\$591	\$700	\$621.00	\$700	\$523	\$1,225
SAYMA Personnel	\$21,809	\$21,622	\$22,376	\$22,235.84	\$22,779	\$10,061	\$23,348
SAYMA Staff Training	\$100	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
SAYMA Office Administration	\$2,900	\$2,059	\$2,400	\$2,710.52	\$2,000	\$1,029	\$2,450

Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$929		\$575.40		\$246	
Postage		\$42		\$220.53		\$2	
Duplication		\$19		\$35.03			
Misc. Office		\$1,069		\$1,879.56		\$781	
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,300	\$1,318	\$1,000	\$913.29	\$1,000	\$170	\$750
SAYMA Directory	\$600	\$50	\$300	\$124.31	\$150		\$150
SAYMA Treasurer	\$600	\$432	\$550	\$516.87	\$550	\$216	\$550
SAYMA F&P	\$100	\$0	\$1,500		\$1,500		\$250
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0
Total Operational Disbursements	\$69,709	\$64,381	\$70,576	\$64,845	\$69,429	\$16,018	\$69,473
<b>YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS</b>							
Transfers To Funds	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$5,600.00	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240
Spiritual Development Fund	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	\$300	\$300	\$300
Released Friend Fund	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	\$300	\$300	\$300
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	\$1,325	\$1,325	\$1,325	\$1,325.00	\$650	\$650	\$650
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$825	\$825	\$825	\$825.00	\$700	\$700	\$700
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250	\$250
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$40	\$40	\$40
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
AFSC	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
FCNL	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
FGC	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
FWCC	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
Quaker House	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200		\$200
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700.00	\$700		\$700
Friends Peace Teams	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200		\$200
Wm Penn House	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200		\$200
Friends Journal	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200		\$200
Guilford College Archiving	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100.00	\$100		\$100
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200		\$200
Other		\$200			\$131		
Total Projects	\$11,600	\$11,800	\$11,600	\$11,600	\$8,371	\$2,240	\$8,240
Total Disbursements	\$81,309	\$76,181	\$82,176	\$76,445	\$77,800	\$18,258	\$77,713
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(8,859)	\$(11,294)	\$(11,076)	\$(974)	\$(4,000)	\$6,774	\$(1,238)

\* based @ \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attendee

\*\* Not actually counted separately from fees paid to college.

## Attachment D: State of the Yearly Meeting

An ever-changing array of blossoms line the path to Atlanta's meetinghouse. Memphis Friends also enter through an inviting sanctuary of plants, lovingly tended with attention to inviting butterflies. Swannanoa Valley and Chattanooga Meetings tend to their memory gardens on-site. Some Friends from Knoxville have been led to begin a community garden with flowers and vegetables, hoping to have opportunities to use it for outreach to their neighbors. The new Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group, in West Virginia, brought their dream of a community garden to their Lewisburg community and made it happen. All this attention to beauty and growth in nature reflects a spirit of community that is a blessing to us all. We value the opportunity to work together, build community and offer that to others. It is one of the ways we grow together.

The State of the Meeting reports from each Monthly Meeting give us insight into a multitude of ways we support, encourage, and need each other. Sometimes the attention is more inward – visiting and transporting seniors, welcoming young Friends with a baby blessing, supporting an active youth program, or accompanying each other through serious illness or the death of close family members. We meet for healing, creating listening and sharing, learning, discerning, and caring enough to struggle with our tensions together. Oh, and of course, we share meals together in true Quaker fashion – appreciating each gift brought to the table.

Our meetinghouses also serve as bridges. The worshipping together of just a few, or of a crowd gives us the desire and spiritual strength to reach out and to live as witnesses to the world. This year Friends from SAYMA have touched, and been touched, by work and visits in Kenya, Burundi, South Africa, Swaziland, Haiti and Latin America. We have brought our resources to people affected by poverty and inequality – giving food, making meals, standing up and speaking out for justice for immigrants, homeless people, miners, prisoner, and LGBT people. We continue to work for peace – trying to affect change, whether it is about children being bullied or nuclear weapons proliferation. We care about climate change and environmental threats – and we bring it home as we work to make our houses and our meetinghouses more reflective of our values and love of this planet. We study, but also actively engage as the Spirit pushes us to do so.

Columbia Friends are joyful to finally have their own meetinghouse. While some Meetings do struggle with smaller numbers, other Meetings have settled in and are able to turn their energies to new attenders and how to nurture them into this Society of Friends. We seek ways to be actively engaged in this, as well – not to passively expect good process and deep worship to occur without tender care. When one meeting was faced with serious misappropriation of funds this year, they struggled with how to respond lovingly and fairly. The depth of their spiritual lives and experience of good Friends process helped them to move forward. They report that “committed to the Light, we believe we have shown that modern Friends can deal with fundamental problems in a way that affirms the value of our heritage.” We join with Chattanooga Friends in saying, “Our meetings for worship are sometimes gathered, and, often, vocal ministry is pertinent to our lives, shining God's grace and light into our dark corners. We remain united and committed to meeting the challenges that lie ahead.” The gardens that we create as we sit planted in worship each first day are just as blessed as the

flowers we walk by. We feed our Meetings by example, by education, by asking for assistance when needed, by including everyone - young and old, by growing as a community planted and rooted in good soil.

## Attachment E: State of the Meeting Reports

- Asheville Friends Meeting
- Atlanta Friends Meeting
- Berea Friends Meeting
- Birmingham Friends Meeting
- Brevard Friends Meeting
- Celo Monthly Meeting
- Charleston Friends Meeting
- Chattanooga Friends Meeting
- Columbia Friends Meeting
- Cookeville Monthly Meeting
- Crossville Friends Meeting
- Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group
- Greenville Monthly Meeting
- Memphis Friends Meeting
- Nashville Friends Meeting
- Oxford Friends Meeting
- Royal Worship Group
- Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
- West Knoxville Friends Meeting

### **Asheville Friends Meeting**

Our Meeting is in a period of stabilization: we function well together. Although attendance at Meeting for Worship fluctuates, we have an active core of members who come together as a community in a cohesive fashion during our short, amicable, Business Meetings. We experience a great deal of Holding in the Light during our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. In fact, we have as many attending BM as we used to some years ago, even though overall attendance at MFW is down slightly compared to a few years previous.

Asheville Friends Meeting has gained two new members this year (Deanna Hatch and Gail Hipkins), although Deanna has recently moved out of state. In addition we have a number of new, faithful attenders whose presence enriches our Meeting for Worship and whose children enliven our First Day School activities. We continue to welcome visiting Friends and visitors from Asheville and other areas. Our Meeting is providing financial assistance for two young Friends to study abroad, in Italy and Monteverde, Costa Rica. Also, we have a young adult Friend, who grew up in the Meeting, now in the Peace Corps in Swaziland. We hold her in the Light. In September, we expressed our gratitude to out-going clerk, Katherine Kowal, and welcomed our new clerk, Kitti Reynolds.

We continue to sponsor a mid-week meeting for worship, hosted by a member who cannot attend on First Day and including a simple meal together. Last September we joined with people from other faith communities to oppose North Carolina Amendment 1 (which aims to further restrict the rights of same gender couples), and joined with people of Faith for Just Relationships to urge the city of Asheville to provide equal benefits to same-gender couples. This action was done by our clerk and other leaders of religious communities

Following is a summary of activities of some of our committees:

The Pastoral Care Committee:

Continues to monitor our senior members who no longer attend our Meeting for Worship, contacting them with phone calls and visits. They also visit members who are ill or unable to attend Meeting. The committee has recently completed an AFM Emergency Contact List which gives the contact information for 31 AFMers: their home address, email address, phone number, plus a family member's name, email and phone number, and a local friend's name, email address, and phone number. An Asheville Friends Meeting "Buddy" is listed with their phone number. The "Buddy" is

someone who will be in fairly regular contact with the person and inform the Meeting if there is a problem with that person.

The Religious Education Committee is happy to report that we have had an active year in First Day School. Attendance was up and we have had a fairly regular group of very engaged, dynamic participants ranging in ages from 4 to 13. We have been exploring the Testimonies in a variety of ways. We looked at each testimony as it played out in Quaker history and in the Bible, as it is experienced in our own Meeting, and as it is present in our own lives. We tried to use artistic and written expression in addition to music, drama, and food!

Our teens have been active with Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF), attending most of the regional retreats and hosting two in our own Meetinghouse. One of our teens is involved in the SAYF Nurturing Committee.

Our Meeting has also enjoyed a number of multigenerational events that has encouraged interaction between the adults and children in Meeting. This year, our special events included a secret pal exchange and a youth celebration and cook out.

Spiritual Enrichment typically sponsors Second Hour activities twice a month, except in the summer. In addition, they organized a retreat with Dan Synder, all day Saturday in May, 2011 with fourteen AFM folks participating. They also arranged a joint meeting with Swannona Valley Friends at their MH, with wonderful music provided Paulette Myer.

The Hospitality Committee:

Organizes the refreshments after Rise of Meeting with various members and attenders signing up to bring snacks. Friends enjoy a period of fellowship at the rise of Meeting, along with coffee and snacks. The committee also organizes people to act as Greeter before Meeting for Worship. We try to reach newcomers who are attending AFM Meeting for Worship for the first time in order to answer questions and help them to feel welcome.

Peace & Earth:

One of our main goals for 2011 was spreading awareness of peace and environmental issues in our meeting and larger community. Also, we engaged in direct service to our community.

P and E wrote a letter to the editor (following FCNL guidelines) about our opposition to the war in Afghanistan and had it approved by the Meeting before sending for publication in the Asheville Citizen Times.

We helped with three Sunday morning breakfasts in Pritchard Park, downtown Asheville. These are held to feed the homeless, and many members of the Meeting contributed food and drink or helped serve food. We collected food donations for Manna Food Bank and gave them many pounds of food in 2011. We purchased 10 Transition Handbooks to donate to our local public library system and UNCA library.

Our committee decided to hand out flyers from FCNL on the environmental destruction and climate change caused by wars and conflict at certain local events. This was done at the International Day of

Peace event and the 350.org awareness day, both held in September. Peace & Earth also sponsored the International Day of Peace event.

A member of the spiritual enrichment committee suggested that Peace & Earth have letter writing day (to elected officials) on the fifth Sunday of the month. Some members of Peace & Earth have taken on this project, and many letters were written in October 2011.

We distributed \$2,000 in funds from the Meeting to various organizations involved in Peace, Earth, and Social Justice. We also distributed \$2,000 in funds as part of our Quaker outreach.

**Conclusion:**

During this past year, most of our committees met and discussed their long-range visions/plans, the results of which were reported at many of our Business Meetings.

Looking to the future, we are enhancing the appearance of our Meeting House and property and plan to “green” our Meeting House as much as we can. We are working to increase the use of our property by our community and the larger Asheville community following the long range plans of various committees.

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**

The past year has been one in which it felt as though our community was disproportionately impacted by illness and death. Fear and sadness have come in the wake of these events. We have also found, though, that these challenges have drawn many of us closer to each other. The consciousness that death may be close helped us discover a new appreciation for the gifts of health and the joy we can find in each other. We shared rich worship, tears, and joy in hospitals, homes, and memorial services. We provided a stream of supportive services for each other and, in the process, grew to know each other better. These opportunities of being invited to be present to people opened many ways to become closer as a community and to be open to the Light in our community.

The Meeting continued to enjoy worshipping together. First Day Meetings for Worship remain well-attended. Newcomers often shared that they found the experience of worship with us very moving. The children joined the meeting for worship on fifth First Days for unprogrammed intergenerational worship. Other Meetings for Worship were regularly held on Wednesday mornings, on Wednesday evenings and on Thursdays at noon. The Meeting currently has 173 recorded members (37 of whom are inactive), 114 additional regular attenders, and 53 regular attenders who are under eighteen years old.

The Care and Counsel Committee ably coordinated ongoing care for many in our community during this difficult year. The committee has begun to hold joint meetings with the Ministry and Worship Committee in order to deepen the overlapping work of these committees. One of the issues these committees are exploring is how best to welcome children into our Meeting community, a concern initially raised by attenders from Burundi. Our efforts to find our way forward on this issue included a forum at which English/Kirundi translation was provided for the entire discussion. We found that the slower pace caused by the translation made our discussion more mindful.

The Ministry and Worship committee continued its efforts to enrich the spiritual life of the Meeting. It organized a well-attended workshop at which Valerie Joy of Friends World Committee for Consultation and Abel Sibonio of Evangelical Friends International helped us explore the theme of what it means to be 'salt and light' as we live 'the kingdom of God in a broken world.' The committee also organized both a forum on Vocal Ministry and a forum at which Peter Lang of Chatham-Summit Meeting spoke about the influence that Thomas Kelly's teachings have had on his own development. The committee shepherded the process of revising the sections in our Meeting Handbook that address marriage under the care of the Meeting. The committee also continued to wrestle with the perennial issue of latecomers, first proposing a policy of restricting tardy entry but later withdrawing it following discussion by the Meeting.

In the Meeting's Religious Education program young Friends are continuing to use the Godly Play curriculum. The curricular emphasis for their 2011-12 classes is on the Old Testament, while the theme is "Trusting God's Voice: Growing and Acting in the Light." There is monthly conscientious objector training for middle school students and monthly environmental programs for pre-school and lower elementary classes. The number of very young children using the nursery has been growing. The middle school students once again organized a fund-raising bazaar, donating the money earned to PAWS Atlanta, a "no kill" animal shelter.

The Meeting has been very actively exploring whether to embark upon a Quaker Quest program in Atlanta. Some members conducted a sample session of Quaker Quest in February and around 60 people attended a full day Quaker Quest workshop in November. In addition, Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is working to launch a pilot project in Atlanta: its first service house in which six QVS interns will live and serve for one year. Meeting attenders have been supporting this project and are considering what role the Meeting may wish to play in its future.

A very well attended Gathered Meeting Retreat explored the theme of "Listening for the Movement of the Spirit" with facilitation by Pat Loring of Friendship Meeting. Adult Religious Education continued to offer rich spiritual autobiographies of our members and attenders as well as discussions of spiritual writings.

The Ferguson Cabin Committee made exciting progress in building a new, bathroom-equipped, cabin at the Lake Burton site. More than 15 Friends and other volunteers spent 8 strenuous but fun and companionable weekends working on this challenging project, managing to get the new cabin up and enclosed. While a lot remains to be done to finish the cabin, the steps completed this year left the group with a big sense of accomplishment. During the year 50 different people used the Ferguson Cabin site on 25 separate occasions. The committee held well-attended meetings quarterly.

Social Concerns worked to maintain the positive momentum from 2010 both within and beyond the walls of the Meetinghouse. The committee shifted from holding monthly meetings on Thursday evenings to a quarterly meeting schedule on First Days. This seemed to work well, with significant agenda items and better attendance. The concerns and activities supported by either committee members or committee funds included Occupy Atlanta, Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, El Sitio Cenicero resettlement village in El Salvador, Poor People's Day at the Georgia State Capital, the Bible & Immigration Forum and the Angel Within prison program. With the assistance of



ORAIARH the committee held a forum to discuss ways in which we as individuals may better address our concerns surrounding incarceration.

The committee supported efforts to roll back punitive immigration legislation and provided support for those who are incarcerated because of their immigrant status. The Meeting adopted a minute on immigration to spell out our concerns regarding both the consequences of recent anti-immigrant legislation and the attitudes reflected in such legislation. One committee member tirelessly advocated for attendees' family members and friends who are stranded in refugee camps in Tanzania. The Meeting continued to provide support for the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry's emergency pantry and other services, including the Hagar's House emergency night shelter.

Green Friends, a part of our Meeting since 1997, collaborated with wider community activists to spotlight issues of global warming and other environmental issues, first helping to organize a rally protesting the Tar Sands Keystone XL pipeline and later acting on the issue of corporate personhood. It conducted an LED light bulb sale at Meeting; convened a seminar using the Quaker Institute of the Future booklet, "How On Earth Do We Live Now?" moderated by the book's co-author; and sponsored the film *The Milagro Beanfield Wars* with the AFM Movie Night series. The Meeting obtained a matching grant of \$3,500 from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, to be used to improve our building's energy efficiency. The Meeting provided support for one member's leading to travel to Africa to attend the COP-17 Climate Talks in Durban, to work with the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends and to attend the World Conference of Friends.

Members of our Meeting coordinated local efforts on behalf of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Many from the Meeting signed petitions and sent correspondence to public officials on behalf of Friends' concerns. They lobbied for passage of the new START treaty. They met with Senate staff members to lobby for cuts in the Pentagon budget, using a fruit pie as their visual aid. The Meeting was represented at the FCNL annual meeting. A Meeting delegation marched in the 2011 Gay Pride Parade.

The members of ORAIARH continued to support each other on concerns related to racism, staffing a weekly literature table with articles related to race and racism and helping to organize a discussion regarding racism in the justice system and mass incarceration. The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting continued to work toward our goal of becoming a more multiracial, multicultural spiritual community by regularly providing a "listening ear" for concerns about racism, discussing the book *Black Fire*, teaching a First Day class session related to racism, and helping to organize Quaker Quest efforts in anticipation that the program may foster outreach to people of color.

The Administration Committee improved the building and grounds by upgrading fixtures and insulation to increase our energy efficiency. The committee made structural improvements to the sidewalk leading to the entrance and also to the play structure. An ever-changing array of blossoms lined the front walk and the building and grounds were well-maintained. Trees were pruned. The committee initiated the process of re-visioning the Meeting's grounds. The committee also adopted new rental rates, developed new legal language to be used in rental agreements, created building

security guidelines, and generated plans for future permanent improvements. It checked on the adequacy of our insurance coverage regarding the activities of our renters.

Excellent efforts by Office Coordinator Jonah McDonald and the Friend in Residence John Roberts continue to yield a well-run building, a welcoming atmosphere, and increasing rental income. Aaron Ruscetta continued his service as Youth Program Coordinator, helping Young Friends coordinate gatherings with other teens in our Yearly Meeting as well as functions here. With the help of the Finance Committee, the Administration Committee set up a Care committee to support the Meeting's custodian, Joe Clay, as he moved toward retirement at the end of the year. Meeting attendee Dieudonne Ntibayazi began work as a cleaning subcontractor for the Meetinghouse and Meeting attenders Coryn Murphy and Wesley Morris, a wife-husband team, began employment as nursery caregivers.

Atlanta Friends welcomed another Burundian family who transferred from Arizona. The four Burundian families who attend AFM have become more independent and continued to contribute to the spiritual life of the Meeting. Attenders continue to gather each First Day before worship to enjoy singing together in Kirundi and English. The Refugee Support Friendly 8s group has found joy in blossoming friendships with these families.

The Meeting community continued to find more ways to gather around common interests. Groups of artists and photographers from the Meeting displayed their work in the Meeting House. There were monthly hikes. In addition, during the past year a group of attenders hosted monthly Movie Nights. These Movie Nights, which were open to the public, were attended by 12 to 40 people each month. Two of these Movie Night events served as fundraisers for the College Scholarship Fund, one was cohosted by Green Friends, and another was cohosted by the Young Friends.

Many attenders provide services to the Friends community beyond the Meeting. Several have very active travelling ministries anchored by the Meeting. Others are fulfilling responsibilities to the Yearly Meeting, to Friends General Conference, to wider Quaker organizations, and numerous local ministries.

Atlanta Friends Meeting finished the year with a financial surplus of \$13,484. The Meeting's rental income continued to increase, growing by \$12,125. The Meeting received contributions totaling \$120,166 and our expenses for the year ran approximately \$2000 below budget.

The Meeting continued to find it very challenging to fill all of the volunteer posts in our Meeting. We note, however, that although our grasp may exceed our reach the amount of work that is being done is exciting. Our difficulties in recruitment appeared to stem less from a lack of willingness to serve on the part of our attenders than the fact that these attenders had to divide their energies among competing worthy efforts.

During 2011 Dana Goldman, David Payne, and Alex Zinnes became members of the Meeting, as well as John and Diana Day (who have convened a Worship Group in Macon). David Foster transferred his membership to Atlanta Friends Meeting from Northampton Monthly Meeting, Peter Sederberg transferred from Columbia Friends Meeting, and Laura Norlin transferred from Grand Rapids Friends Meeting. Pete and Renda McCaughan transferred their membership to Wilton

Meeting and Anthony Smith transferred his membership to New Brunswick Monthly Meeting. We mourn the loss of Ceal Wutka, who passed from this life on February 26, 2011, Ann Byrne, who passed from this life on November 11, 2011, and Miles Alexander Horsley, who passed from this life on December 1, 2011. We rejoice in the coming of two babies: Evan Wuichet (April 10, 2011) and Arlie Rose Hallward (July 13, 2011).

### **Berea Friends Meeting**

Berea Friends Meeting continues to be a spiritually healthy and dynamic community of seekers.

We experience strong attendance at meeting for worship and at first day school – especially among teens. Our adult discussion sessions are well attended and provide fertile soil in preparation for Worship.

Visitors frequently join us. The participation of new regular attenders in all aspects of meeting life invigorates and energizes us.

While our spiritual focus continues to be primarily inward, we have begun to take more outward steps. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been re-established and experiencing success building relationships with our elected officials. Our Outreach Committee is developing plans for both inward and outward exploration with the assistance of FGC's Quaker Quest program.

We struggle to realize a budget which includes support to wider Quaker organizations, and to complete long-planned meetinghouse construction projects. While these are temporal matters, they impact our spiritual lives and continue to present spiritual challenges for us.

We continue to value many long-cherished aspects of our meeting: the opportunity to worship on a consistent basis in a space where mind and body can be still, a home where we can experience a Quaker identity, a safe, welcoming community committed to listening and seeking unity, and our vibrant youth program which models problem solving and respect for self and others. We value a community which provides gentle correction and guidance.

We seek to work together toward goals illumined by The Light and support and nurture each other in that work, share the value of spiritual listening with those outside the community, and to be examples of what we believe by living what we believe.

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting**

Birmingham Friends Meeting (BFM) continues to be a small but active presence in our community. Membership and attendance has been similar to previous years, with about a dozen Friends gathering for Meeting for Worship each week. This year brought a loss of one of our attenders who died early in the year. We continue to hold in the light one of our long time Members who has been waging a valiant struggle against cancer. We also hold others in our Meeting in the Light as they have struggled with health issues. We have had some new attenders who have brought welcome new gifts to the Meeting. We are encouraged by these new attenders and welcome their active participation in the life of the Meeting.

A local university held a forum on Diversity in Religion and two from our Meeting attended that forum which dealt with LGBTQ issues. We have been struggling with how to respond the harsh immigration law that was passed in Alabama. Mainly individuals from our Meeting have participated in the actions of other organizations such as the Alabama Coalition on Immigrant Justice and the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama. Representatives from BFM marched in the PrideFest March and passed out Quaker Literature and peace signs.

Each week Friends gather for Meeting for Worship and a Second Hour of programming. Second Hour provides a time for Friends to educate themselves and each other through readings and discussion of various topics. Some of the topics were Vocal Ministry, Non-Theist Friends, Bullying, and articles from *Friends Journal*. We were just beginning to discuss the book “Three Cups of Tea” when controversy about its authenticity came to the forefront. Other discussions were about Ben Pink Dandelion writings and the pamphlet “12 Quakers on Evil”.

Once a month our Second Hour focuses on social concerns. These programs included presentations about and by the President of the National Lawyers Guild, the Executive Director of AFSC-SERO, Human Trafficking, Faith In Action and Fair Union Elections by someone working with the UAW. Two Second Hours were devoted to discernment of FCNL issues.

We held another round “Creative Listening” sessions which are designed to be a bonding for the participants and therefore for the Meeting. We continued to hold monthly Simple Suppers in people's homes. During the summer, A Friendly Films series was held at a member's home.

At Christmas Friends collected gifts for families through Greater Birmingham Ministries. These activities were an important time of fellowship and fun. We continue to display the black flag the day after a state sponsored execution as an outward display of our opposition to the death penalty.

This year there were few young Friends at BFM. In spite of this, the Meeting has worked to keep these children involved through discussions and intergenerational activities. Recent attendance by several young adult Friends has raised questions about how to meet their needs.

While small in numbers, Birmingham Friends work to make their presence felt within the Birmingham community. Our property tax equivalent [goes] to the neighborhood Avondale School PTA. We also are members of local organizations that work on issues of poverty in our community and state. BFM has two representatives on the Board of Greater Birmingham Ministries. Members also participated in Wider Quaker Organizations such as SAYMA, FCNL, AFSC and Friends Journal.

As this report shows, Birmingham Friends spend a great deal of time nurturing the outside community. In the coming year we hope to spend time on the life of the Meeting. We ask for support in the work ahead.

### **Brevard Friends Meeting**

Members: 4

Attendees: 15

Average Attendance: 12

As has been our custom, we convene every First Day at College Walk Retirement Center in Brevard, NC. Our community activities include support of Sharing House, Bread of Life, and the Haven, including the latter's new facility, a shelter for homeless people in Transylvania County. Various Friends continue with long-term activity in community organizations such as Koinonia, Children's Center, Bread of Life, and Transylvania Animal Alliance Group (TAAG). Other Friends are active in international organizations such as the National Peace Foundation.

When the current clerk's term of office was up, he believed a new clerk was apropos because the clerk's function should rotate through the Meeting. When no one stepped forward, we polled the attendership and discovered that everyone favored the current clerk's continuing in office, and so he did.

Adult Forum is still an important spiritual and intellectual focus for the Meeting and continues to be ably co-clerked. Topics discussed have ranged from the meaning of free will to Steven Pinker's new book on the decline of violence in human affairs. Whatever the subject, the discussions are always vigorous, far-ranging, and stimulating.

Another important aspect of our Meeting continues to be pastoral care. Members and attenders are conscious of each others' needs and offer assistance when appropriate. Meeting has been exemplary in its spirit-led care for those who have had health issues and other concerns.

We continue to enjoy our superlative newsletter, thanks to our editor and many contributors from the Meeting. This year we have added a feature called "Clerk's Corner," wherein the clerk of Meeting gets to express a few choice remarks on a variety of subjects.

This past year we have experienced no weddings, no births, and one death, that of long-time attender Chuck Waugaman. One member moved away and transferred his membership to another Meeting. One attender commented that our attendance at Meeting was "dwindling," so in order to call the attention of the community to our presence, we joined the local Chamber of Commerce so that we could place some literature on the Meeting in their office in Brevard.

In summary, we continue to feel that our Meeting provides a hospitable environment and a rich spiritual experience for all members and attenders.

### **Celo Friends Meeting**

If life in our valley were represented by a tapestry, it would contain many interwoven parts. There would be different patterns mingling, some barely connecting to each other. Other patterns would be superimposed over broad sections, tying disparate parts together. Each of these patterns would represent a community. As individuals we have chosen to live in this valley because we value community. We find community in many different places. Many of us are a part of several different communities, just as one thread can be a part of many different patterns in a tapestry. Celo Friends Meeting is a spiritual community interwoven as one pattern in this tapestry. It has threads that extend out into all parts of the fabric and joins together elements from many other patterns in the tapestry.

Celo is a Meeting of a few seasoned Friends and more attenders who are seeking and exploring their faith. The only standing committee is Ministry and Care. The work of other traditional committees such as Peace and Social Concerns or Buildings and Grounds is accomplished on an ad hoc basis. As we enter our biennial nominations process we hope to draw in and involve more new attenders to positions of responsibility.

Many Friends in Celo do not have a lot of contact with Friends from other Meetings or with SAYMA. We work to encourage more contact by providing scholarship and encouraging attendance to SAYF retreats and Yearly Meeting. We look forward to hosting SAYMA representative meeting in March as a way to network with other Friends.

Though there are many young families connected to our Meeting, participation in First Day School is sporadic. We have found a good way to encourage involvement is to schedule seasonal events that draw the interest of the children. We had a wonderful Christmas play performance that involved lots of preparation and practice. In January we held a baby blessing which brought 18 children and their families to the Meeting for the day.

The work of Ministry and Care has included care for members and attenders with health issues, new births and preparation for burial. We have instituted the use of name tags and take turns as greeter on First day in an attempt to be more welcoming to visitors. We continue to have a time for hymn singing at the beginning of worship on First day. Some Friends come early to sing in the meeting house. By the time we are ready for silent worship all have arrived. We continue to be enriched during the summer by the attendance and enthusiastic singing of Camp Celo campers. We give ongoing attention to the quality of the time spent in worship. Our Meeting for worship is often largely silent. This is appreciated by many. Once a month we draft a query which is read out at the beginning of silent meeting to help deepen the experience of corporate worship. Often this leads to more vocal ministry. Some Friends have deep concerns for current issues in the geopolitical arena. We recognize that these concerns have a spiritual basis and are working with these Friends to find a balance in their vocal ministry so that their messages are not perceived as political.

We have held a number of enrichment experiences outside our regular worship time. One member led us in a series of listening/sharing sessions using The Fire and The Hammer, a musical celebration of the Spiritual Quest of George Fox. Another member was led to ask Dan Snyder of Swannanoa Friends to lead us in a workshop based on his pamphlet, The Spirituality of Restlessness.

Many Celo Friends are called to service and witness, locally and around the world, with the support of the Meeting. Celo Meeting supported one member who joined other Friends in a series of acts of civil disobedience at the White House to protest the proposed Keystone pipeline. Two members traveled to Haiti to work in a health clinic. Two members went to the Dominican Republic to work in a mobile health clinic for Haitian workers in the sugar cane industry. One member went to Kenya and worked as a doctor in rural maternal health and also in the Kaimosi Hospital before representing SAYMA at the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Gathering. One member has traveled to Honduras to work in a medical mission. A number of Celo Friends have committed themselves to getting a healthy food item each week to the local religious coalition, Feed-A-Child, which gives a food packet to 300 school children for weekend nutrition. Many members of the meeting are involved with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

### **Charleston Friends Meeting**

In 2011, Charleston Friends grew as a religious community through regular worship, expanded religious education, and fellowship. We supported wider Quaker organizations and took a worship group under our care.

#### **How has the Meeting supported “that of God” in each other over the course of the year?**

Meeting for Worship is central to our religious life. As in most unprogrammed meetings, worship is silent waiting for God's presence and guidance. Vocal ministry in worship has increased, with more Friends led to speak. Perhaps our adult religious education program, which lately has focused on the experience and testimonies of Friends, has helped individuals learn to recognize and respond to Divine promptings.

This year we were blessed with several programs that helped deepen our understanding of Quaker beliefs and practice. We concluded a series of sessions based on Friend Mark Wutka's workshop on *Early Friends Experience with the Light*. We continue to study readings in the Friends General Conference publication, *Exploring Quakerism*. A Pendle Hill pamphlet, Lloyd Lee Wilson's *Who do You Say I am?*, both complemented our Bible Study and provided welcome insights into the centrality of Christ in the religious life of most early and many contemporary Friends.

Charleston's slow-moving but deep Bible study group continued to wrestle with the book of Matthew, savoring Jesus' tales while trying to understand their application then and now. Some things we talked about included sacrifice, forgiveness, God's kingdom and earthly governments, the Trinity, blasphemy, and salvation. We often found examples and applications of the Biblical wisdom to our lives today.

We continue to have a book discussion group, meeting every two or three months, covering books ranging from *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* to *The Psychopath Test*. Worship Sharing on every fifth First Day uses queries from other Quaker organizations or of our own devising to allow Friends to focus on one particular religious theme in worship. The simple acts of listening to and appreciating each others gifts further our community.

#### **How has it supported groups and organizations within the Quaker community?**

Charleston Friends actively participate in the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) as distance and time allow. Few of us attend the annual session in June, but we try to respond promptly and thoughtfully to matters SAYMA refers to us. This year we had fruitful discussions of changes to SAYMA's *Faith and Practice*. We also considered a minute on harsh immigration laws adopted in some surrounding states.

*Friends Journal* was a special concern this year because of its financial problems. Mindful of the impact of multiple copies on the environment, Charleston Friends have shared a few subscriptions among themselves, rather than subscribing individually. We decided to contribute the price of the foregone paper subscriptions as a way of supporting the journal.

Charleston Friends are active in American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) volunteer work out of proportion to the meeting's size. We are a support group for the AFSC's West Virginia Economic Justice Project, working as needed to help staff with outreach. WVEJ staff co-authored the official

report of the 2010 Upper Big Branch mine explosion. The report memorialized the lives of the miners who were killed and injured and led to management changes that may avert future such tragedies. This year we hosted the national Board Program Committee meeting in May, helping the committee understand the history and importance of Quaker service in West Virginia. Two of our members serve on regional and national AFSC committees and boards.

In this time of economic difficulty, one practical measure of Charleston's support of organizations within the Quaker community is its budget. This year, about 2/3 of our expenditures were for contributions, of which more than half went to wider Quaker organizations, the balance going to local social service groups and projects.

Many Charleston Friends participate in the annual West Virginia Fall Gathering of Friends, which brings Quakers together from meetings in three yearly meetings, as well as unaffiliated groups. This year's theme was "Friends and the Planet."

Charleston agreed to take the Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group (Lewisburg, WV) under its care late in 2011. We are developing our relationship with the GVFWG and encouraging their participation in wider Friends activities. We've also had contact with a nascent worship group in Huntington.

### **How has the Meeting expressed its sense of God's leading with those outside the Meeting community?**

For more than 20 years the meeting has prepared dinner for a local men's shelter early in the year and hosted a Christmas breakfast at a women's shelter. We provided Christmas gifts for a family through a local charitable organization and responded to a soon-to-be-released prisoner's request for assistance with clothing.

In our effort to keep our measure of Light visible, we've been rewarded by hosting several visitors to Meeting for Worship. We encourage those who express an interest in Friends to learn more through our adult religious education program, and try to help them discern whether this Meeting is their spiritual home.

We have an active Web page, a telephone listing, and listings on national Quaker directories. Whether we are as visible as we could or should be has been a less frequent topic of discussion this year than previously.

We are attentive to the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and individual Friends frequently respond to FCNL action alerts as one means of conveying Quaker principles to the broader community. We have done more of this form of outreach as individuals than as a community effort.

In reviewing SAYMA *Faith and Practice* revisions and minutes, such as the section on earth care and the immigration minute, we have been concerned about how clearly Quakers express themselves on such matters to the broader community, and have tried to listen to the Divine voice, allowing it to speak through us. We are laboring over the issue of prevention of mass atrocities and how Quaker testimonies might influence individual and governmental response.



### **In summary**

This has been a busy year for our small and relatively isolated Friends community. We feel the Spirit working through us in worship, within our community, and in our relationship to the broader society.

### **Chattanooga Friends Meeting**

This will not be the usual “sweetness and light” report. This year Chattanooga Friends Meeting has had to draw on Quaker traditions, some long since thought by many of us to have been consigned to the dustbin of history. But committed to the Light, we believe we have shown that modern Friends can deal with fundamental problems in a way that affirms the value of our heritage.

In October, our respected treasurer, who had held the post since 2004, volunteered to the meeting for business that he had embezzled what he thought was something over \$20,000 from our treasury, but he promised to make restitution and to pay incidental costs growing out of his violations of our testimonies. We had \$55 in our checking account. Reeling from this revelation, our meeting looked at old Quaker disciplines and explored how to “deal” with a member’s transgressions, clear violations of our testimonies. Our Ministry and Oversight Committee—we came to value that controverted second noun—appointed a subcommittee to meet with our treasurer, and they concluded that he must repay what he had stolen with interest, seek counseling, and resign from nearly all committees on which he served; they warned that failure to live up to these could lead to disownment and legal action. Our Finance Committee, including a new treasurer, worked tirelessly to uncover the exact amount of the loss and draw up documents, including a promissory note, that our derelict treasurer has already signed. He has already made more than good faith repayments and is again attending meeting for worship. The total loss now reaches more than \$33,000.

In no way would we wish such an experience on other meetings, but we have learned important things from what happened: it is possible to hold onto our integrity and practice love, even as we had to discipline one of our number. Some have possibly been alienated—our worship attendance has dropped—but new people have appeared. We have learned to value our tradition, as we draw on it. Contributions have increased as Friends have rallied. We have begun to communicate more with those associated with the meeting. The value of the meeting itself, even to our former treasurer, is starkly clear and reassuring.

Other, unrelated happenings occurred. Our First Day School students are getting older—another has gone to college—so that some Sundays we have no children. Our teens and parents have been actively involved in SAYF. In January we had a public gathering to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peace testimony, and in February we co-hosted the visit of Mark Braverman, a Jewish advocate of a single state comprising the West Bank and Israel, to the city. Our meetings for worship are sometimes gathered, and, often, vocal ministry is pertinent to our lives, shining God’s grace and light into our dark corners. We remain united and committed to meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

### **Columbia Friends Meeting**

The meeting has finally found a permanent home. One of our faithful attenders became aware of a United Methodist Church in the northern part of the city that was no longer being used. After a lengthy series of conversations the SC Conference of the United Methodist Church agreed to

relinquish their ownership of the building and the land. With much soul searching, bureaucratic activity and trusting that “the way would open” we obtained title to the property in the 10<sup>th</sup> month. The Methodists were generous and kind to us, and the families who had been part of the church in the past are delighted that we are using it.

Working on the building has brought our community closer and has brought some old friends back into worship with us. We hope it will also bring new attenders.

We have to thank the clerk of the Building Committee for his amazing leadership as well as his skills as a builder and contractor. His energy and persistence have made possible the process of renovating an old building and making the worship space a place that enhances the presence of God in the silence. We have been worshipping in our new home since the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> month.

With a new building, we feel the responsibility of making it a useful space not only on first day, but through out the week. There are many discussions on how we can be good neighbors and make use of the land and the building. Recycling an old building and using environmentally friendly, cost effective products represent our values of being good steward of the earth. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has taken a lead in this in helping us discern the direction we should go.

Over the past year, the re-activated Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been busy. Early in the year they led a series of discussions on the queries about Global Change that have been brought to us by FWCC. The video, “Plan B” on responses to global warming was shown as part of those discussions. The Committee organized a community showing of Hibakusha, a movie about survivors of the atomic bombings in Japan. Members of the meeting invited David Rothauser, the producer and director of the film to come to Columbia for the showing, as well as arranging showings in Atlanta and Augusta. The meeting co-sponsored this activity which was held in a local movie theater with a question and answer session with the director. The theater was filled for the event. The same week we sponsored the annual Hiroshima vigil on the University of South Carolina campus.

Among the ministries of the meeting, several Friends continue to visit the federal prison near-by and we wrote an offering of letters for Bread for the World.

The meeting also hosted an FWCC mini “Salt and Light” event. We had about 40 people at the event which included students and faculty from Benedict College which is one of the historically black colleges in Columbia.

First Day School remains very small. We sometimes have no children on a given Sunday. We do have people who are prepared each first day to be with the children and provide a lesson. One first day the children prepare food for Food Not Bombs to feed the hungry; another week the children listen to Bible stories, another week involves Quaker themes, and another week the children prepare food for the potluck and talk about healthy and sustainable foods. The first day school made Christmas decorations to sell to send money to the Heifer Project. Every year we do projects to support the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Our Ministry and Nurture Committee met regularly for the first part of the year, but then the clerk of the committee became occupied with family issues and we had a hiatus of several months. However, we did visit the worship group under our care and we supported 2 people to attend Palmetto Friends Gathering with the Ministry and Nurture Committee Scholarship funds. We discussed how we could assist people from the community who called for financial help. We do have limited funds for emergencies, but are unable to provide continuous assistance.

We are excited about our new home and the opportunities it gives us. There is often a strong presence of the Spirit among us in meeting for worship and at business and committee meetings. Although not everyone always agrees at first, the sense of the meeting is found and we are able to move forward. The experience of last year seems to have helped us to treat each other more tenderly. Our experience of this year has made us believers in the Quaker saying, "Way opens."

### **Cookeville Friends Meeting**

After reflecting on the past year our small group continues to feel Spirit moving among us. We are not given to much vocal ministry but we nurture and are nurtured in our first hour worship.

Second hour discussion topics have included George Fox's miracles, nonviolent communication, and a reissued Pendle Hill Pamphlet called "The Taproot of Simplicity."

Outreach efforts included removable signage that we post on Sundays, a community-wide open house, and two articles written for the religion page of the local paper. We also held our first annual peace essay contest for local high school students.

We revived our Friendly twos and threes but had to discontinue our monthly meals with Dismas House (a halfway house for non-violent offenders) due to lack of participation. This had been a collaborative effort with the local Unity and Unitarian churches.

We move our monthly potluck meal to the home of a founding member for a few months due to her ill health.

### **Crossville Friends Meeting**

Our small Meeting struggles to maintain itself as a spiritual home for our members and attenders. We continue with outreach efforts but with limited success in attracting new people to our Meeting. We have contributed 8 articles about our Meeting to the local newspaper, and we maintain our website at [www.crossvillefriends.org](http://www.crossvillefriends.org).

Our long-time member and former clerk, Gladys Draudt, has had some health problems over the past year and has been unable to attend Meeting for Worship. We continue to hold Gladys in the Light and hope to hold a future Meeting at her home. Also, the transfer of membership for Jeff Strain and Susan Stark from Clear Creek, IN Meeting to Crossville Meeting has just been completed. Jeff is also coordinating efforts to have our Peace Pole erected near the Pleasant Hill church and have it dedicated to the memory of Phil and Winnie Thomforde.

Our Meeting for Worship provides spiritual nurture for our members and attenders. Our discussion period after Meeting for Worship has served to deepen our understanding of Quakerism and other

spiritual traditions. This past year we wanted to explore Islam and spent ten weeks listening to and discussing a taped series of lectures on Islam presented by Professor John Espisoto in the “Great Courses” program. We also had a number of discussions that arose from various articles in “Friends Journal.” We have found our discussion time after Meeting for Worship to be a productive way to deepen our understanding of our common spiritual interests.

Susan Stark attended the Friends General Conference last year in Iowa and Joe Parko attended the FCNL national meeting in Washington, DC. Members and attenders of our Meeting are involved in various ministries in our community such as environmental education, working in a food bank, serving as a scout leader, disseminating information on various issues, on-going involvement in Palestinian/Israeli peace efforts, and working for peace with Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice and the Shalom Center. Our members have also participated with other churches in events such as a Good Friday ecumenical program that related the Stations of the Cross to social justice issues and the MLK birthday program at the library. We continue our traditions of potluck dinners after Meetings for Business each month and an annual retreat over the Easter weekend at Cumberland Mountain State Park. Our Meeting is small but we strive to continue our Quaker witness here in Crossville.

On a final note, it seems wherever we look, a hallmark of these times is a heightened sense of uncertainty. The state of the nation and our world leave us with sense of sorrow and outrage that challenge us to seek constructive, healing choices. The deep listening and discernment that are required of Quakers challenge us to live in a life-affirming way in the midst of much death, destruction and sorrow. We do not have the luxury of giving in to despair.

### **Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group**

This, our first State of the Meeting report introduces Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group to SAYMA.

GVFWG emerged in Lewisburg, West Virginia in the context of a meditation group with a strong Quaker orientation. In addition, this group sponsored ten or more peace rallies in response to the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions. Participants in these actions formed a self-identified Friends group and began a Sunday Meeting for Worship by 2005. This group formalized itself as a Friends body by coming under the care of Maury River Monthly Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting) in Lexington, Virginia in 2008. Maury River proposed that we organize as a Preparatory Meeting but this project never fully materialized largely because of the small number of our members. Since 2008, GVFWG has gradually developed new focus and energy as a Worship Group. This process has been aided by the gradual addition of a several new members, a successful community project and contact with other Worship Groups and Monthly Meetings in West Virginia through an annual Fall Gathering of West Virginia Friends. Connection with Maury River had lapsed due to our small membership and related limited organizational structure. Interest in linking up with Charleston Meeting and SAYMA, present from the start, was encouraged by several of our members who had made personal relationships with Charleston Quakers. This interest grew as a result of the Fall Gatherings. In the fall of 2011 steps were taken to gain formal release from Maury River MM and to come under the care of Charleston MM.

One of the community projects alluded to above was initiating and leading the organization, planning and construction of a community garden in Lewisburg that became a reality in the spring and summer of 2009. One of our main activities in 2011 has been stepping away from active oversight of the community garden as it has become fully self-directing and self-maintaining under the management of actual gardeners who have gradually become the primary leadership of the project. A second continuing project has been the regular support of a local food pantry.

In the summer of 2011, the Worship Group began working out a stance toward the issue of mass atrocities and genocide after one Friend came under the weight of concern for this issue and proposed we send a letter/petition to local papers. The meeting began working over a draft of a letter and decided to take it to the 2011 Fall Gathering to see if other Friends might share our concern. This move may have been poorly executed, as, apparently, nothing practical resulted. After lying dormant for two months the letter was redrafted and consultations with FCNL began. These resulted in our letter being significantly revised yet again and then, early this year, sent to President Obama, our legislators and heads of the UN (with a small check).

To strengthen our understanding of Quakerism, on a fairly regular basis our GVFWDG has been reading and discussing writings of George Fox and other spiritual leaders among Friends. In September we began planning for the 2012 Fall Gathering of WV Friends which it is our turn to organize. We also began planning for a specifically local outreach project: having a table at an annual New Years Day event in Lewisburg. The results of this project and our letter writing effort will be the first items in our 2012 SOM.

These activities have had a vitalizing effect on the Worship Group and have led to increased concern for spiritual growth. We have a more active sense of being a community, and part of, state and national Friends communities. We have increased desire to participate in and contribute to these communities. Particularly in coming to unity around plans for the Fall Gathering, we have begun to see a need for the self-understanding and activity of our group to integrate and balance religious and humanistic attitudes toward life values, social service and political action. We also feel more intensely a need for education in Friends history, principles and process.

### **Greenville Friends Meeting**

Greenville Monthly Meeting has nine members and attenders who meet at the Furman chapel. We have one new attender but have also had a number of attenders leave due to changes in circumstances (including the death of a loved one, re-location for work and the seeking of alternative religious practices). There have been no births, deaths or marriages within the meeting but several of our attenders and members have lost loved ones themselves this past year.

Our First Day School continues with four children regularly attending. We now convene the first and second Sunday of each month and the parents rotate responsibility for the lessons. Children attend silent meeting for the first fifteen minutes of worship and return for the last five to share their thoughts and ideas around the lesson of the day.

One lesson theme that has become a real concern for the Meeting is that of bullying. All of the children had had experience of being bullied and sought out the advice and support of the Meeting as a whole to help them address this problem. After several discussions and lessons on this theme, each

of the children took direct action to confront and change the bullying going on around them at school. Our work and support on this topic is ongoing with the children.

We continue to place our emphasis on giving with local and regional organizations (PFG, SAYMA) and individuals, as per our Meeting's request. We continue to provide care and support for an aging friend who is no longer able to attend meeting by visiting her in her home and keeping a bridge open between her and the rest of the meeting.

Opportunities for fellowship have included our monthly First Day Potluck meals as well as social occasions and meals outside of Meeting. This year one of our attenders, a professor at Furman University, was honored with the opportunity to give a speech at the university on the topic of "What Really Matters" and friends shared a meal together prior to this speech and then attended in support of our friend. Some of us also attended Palmetto Friends Gathering as well as the Interfaith Forum and the Engaging Faith Conference hosted at Furman University.

### **Memphis Friends Meeting**

We can't yet put our finger on it, but we know that there is a welling up of the Spirit in our midst that is moving us away from focusing so much on our new meetinghouse (since late 2008) toward advancing our ministry beyond our walls and fostering diversity and leadership within.

It is clear to our community that silent worship is our deep center and the reservoir from which the Spirit rises in our individual lives and within our community. It is also a balance point from which energy spins from the inward spirit to the outside. With this in mind, Ministry and Nurture carefully seasoned a request to include a period for sharing joys and concerns before recommending that the best time to do that was after worship. It has proved to be a simple way for Friends to connect on a deeper, more personal level. And then at rise of meeting, our quiet worship room comes alive in a different way with Friends connecting and talking for sometimes an hour afterwards. Friendships are blossoming.

Some of the spark and light is being expressed and shared through the arts – musical, movement, visual, written and poetic – in individual and corporate endeavors. It is exciting to watch the Spirit soaring in small groups of all kinds. One Friend introduced our children to the Quaker Butterfly (*Neopithecops zalmora*) asking them to think about what a Quaker butterfly might look like and planting parsley to attract butterflies to our garden. Friends too are flitting among small groups, working, talking, healing, and doing things together, while ideas are flying from one committee to another. Surely within that motion the Spirit is faring among us. It feels fluid and fun and deep.

We love the path that leads us into our meeting room for worship. First Friends come through the garden, past tools in the entranceway hall, through the kitchen and into worship.

The garden has been a gift both to our meeting and to the neighborhood. One Friend generously donates her time to all the work it involves despite her demanding daily job, no car, and multiple health problems. Sometimes we wonder how a struggling person can create such an inviting sanctuary. Yet her story represents how many of us are faring in recent months. Personal tragedies have befallen a great many of us, but held in the Light and supported by the love and acceptance of

the meeting, we are finding confidence to move through life as it is and listen to the voice of our leadings.

The meeting feeds us opportunities for discernment and support and strength to go in ways we are called. One calling that we are encouraging more Friends to heed is serving the meeting as clerk. We have set a goal this year to nurture the clerk in each of us and to recognize all the ways in which that can manifest. As we share experiences of joy and grief, serenity and strife, Memphis Friends Meeting is vibrant with a Spirit that touches each of us in a significant and mysterious way.

### **Nashville Friends Meeting**

The Spirit within the Meeting has enriched our friendships outside the Meeting community – including those of other faiths. We have been blessed with a Spirit of love which has been reflected in the lives, actions, and witness of Friends and community members.

The Meetinghouse has seen increasing use by outside groups, including Nashville Peace and Justice Center and the Chinese Arts Alliance. When we negotiated the terms of the agreement with the NPJC, we did it in the form of a Quaker committee meeting. We recently had a shared midweek worship with a group from a local Methodist church.

Our hospitality and beautification committee members do a wonderful job making the space welcoming and lovely. Over the past several years, members of the Meeting have acquired and renovated a nearby house, Quaker Cottage, currently occupied by a member of the Meeting. Our resident Friend, Kandance Martin, has been a great ambassador to the surrounding neighborhood.

Our Social Ministry committee was revived this year, sparking work with Nashville Peacemakers, a local organization seeking to reduce youth violence, and with the Key Alliance, non-profit arm of the Nashville Homeless Commission, among other activities. Friends have played a key role in helping to bring Nashville Peacemakers from a vision to the beginnings of an organization, having successfully recruited an oversight board. The founder has told us that the spiritual support we've been able to provide has been as important as the technical knowledge. In our work with the Key Alliance of Nashville, we have begun forming a team that will provide social and spiritual support to formerly homeless people in subsidized housing.

Much of the Meeting's social ministry work has resulted from individual leadings, and we continue to offer support to Friends who feel the leadings of Spirit. Notable among these has been a young Friend who has been led to work with AIDS orphans in South Africa.

Many Friends have worked very hard to build an Alternatives to Violence Program in Nashville, but there have been a number of obstacles when trying to work within the prison system. At rise of worship on July 10, Nashville Friends approved a public minute deploring the inhumane and illegal conditions to which Private Bradley Manning was subjected during his months of pre-trial detention.

The Meeting has been blessed with active participation on most of our committees. We note with gratitude the long hours of service that committee clerk Dick Houghton members of the House and Grounds Committee have given to the physical upkeep and maintenance of the meetinghouse,

especially in moving the new kitchen towards completion. The Children's Education Committee has worked to deepen the spiritual dimension of religious education at First Day School, and in Adult Education, we continued to offer regular explorations of Quaker history and theology. We have continued our quarterly Meetings for Healing and are grateful for the leadership of Jan Stansel.

We are most grateful for the work of Friends helping other Friends during times of need, including surgery, sickness, new birth, and home building. There have been many opportunities for celebration, and we feel very blessed that we were able to pay off our mortgage this summer.

Our meetings for business have had good participation and many items on the agenda. We have labored to listen openly to all views, especially regarding money, property, and space decisions. We have come to clarity regarding some very important decisions, including a 10% meeting budget commitment to charitable giving, investing in a commercial kitchen to better serve a wider community, and potentially expanding the Meeting's property footprint in the neighborhood. The practice of conducting business meeting during worship is well established, and we believe that it has brought higher levels of participation. We are thankful for many newcomers and visitors, who are enriching our meeting community.

In both committee work and business meetings, Nashville Friends have sometimes struggled with the tension between getting things done and waiting for the leadings of Spirit. When we have run ahead of our Guide, we have sometimes been pulled up short by controversy and misunderstanding. Such occasions have been painful reminders of the need to conduct our business in a Spirit of love and forbearance, to center on God, and to wait patiently when unity is not forthcoming. We have used threshing sessions, called meetings, and clearness committees as tools to improve communication among Friends and resolve disputes. Although painful, we feel that these challenges have deepened the life of the meeting and relationships in the meeting community.

In this past year, we laid down the Columbia Worship Group. While there was interest, it was not sufficient to sustain a fledgling community.

We have been blessed with many signs of growth this last year, including three new members: Patricia Netherly (who transferred from Strawberry Creek Meeting in Pacific Yearly meeting), Norm Truxton (who had been an attender on and off since the 1970s), and Stuart Bonnington (who transferred from Chattanooga Monthly Meeting, SAYMA). A young couple in our Meeting, Clay Brunton and Rosemary Swain were married under our care, and we celebrated the arrival of two babies – Ciara Niyokwizera and Rowan Showalter.

We had one death this year – that of Norm Truxton, a beloved member of our community for many years. Friends feel very blessed that we had the opportunity to have a memorial celebration before his passing, rich with stories about his advocacy for peace and justice and care for the environment. Norm was a faithful volunteer with the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, and had self-published several books related to peace and sustainable living.



### **Oxford Friends Meeting**

2011 has been a year of loss but also of rebirth. The death in January of founding member and co-clerk Cora Jordan was the source of great grief, intensified by memories of 2007 when we lost three members and attenders who were very important to the meeting. This grief galvanized some people who were no longer attending, and two of those attenders became active once more. One decided that the time had come to make a greater commitment to the meeting and applied for membership. The meeting welcomed three new members over the course of the year and on a typical Sunday there are now more members than frequent attenders at meeting for worship. One of our new members had grown up in the meeting as a child, attending Children's Meeting regularly, and she applied for membership as she was ready to enter college. Over the course of the year the meeting has evolved into a small but dedicated group of members and attenders who contribute their talents to the meeting. However, one family has gone through a painful divorce, which made their participation difficult.

The greatest challenge over the course of the year was finding a new meeting place. The meeting has met for more than 10 years, since its inception, at the home of Cora and Win Jordan, a hospitable house that met the needs of our small meeting well. With Cora's death, the Jordan children inherited the house and made the decision to sell it, since none of them live in Oxford. We continued to meet at the Jordans' house after the house was sold but had to find a new meeting place by June, when the new owners took possession. We met in various members' houses from June through September while various members explored the possibilities for a more permanent meeting place. This search was eventually so fruitful that, at the September meeting for business, there were two offers of meeting places. The meeting accepted an invitation from the Powerhouse, a community theater, meeting place, and arts center. We meet in the arts center, a large room with soaring ceilings and large windows, where we partition off part of the space for silent worship. In return for free use of this space our membership has made an effort to participate financially and personally in the work of the Powerhouse. The arrangement is working very well, and we are very grateful to the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council for their hospitality.

Leadership. During 2011 there were three officers: two co-clerks and a treasurer. Although the meeting has only two formal offices, clerk and treasurer, we have chosen to acknowledge other contributions to the meeting. Thus, we now have a site coordinator, a SAYMA representative and SAYMA Ministry & Nurture representative, a webmaster, and—as previously—an ICM board member.

Starkville monthly meeting. Since Starkville preparatory meeting became a monthly meeting in December 2008, we have remained in close contact with them, although Pam Coe has been unable to attend.

Participation in the community. We have remained active in Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM), with two volunteers, one of them a member of the ICM board of directors. Many of our members and attenders support ICM financially through the meeting. We have continued to support ICM through the Win and Cora Jordan memorial fund (the meeting's monthly contribution to ICM as well as individual contributions in the Jordans' memory).

Individuals in the meeting have continued to maintain a ministry for a death row inmate at the Mississippi state penitentiary. The death row inmate we have supported was one of three inmates scheduled to die at Parchman Penitentiary during the spring of 2011. His lawyer made a successful appeal to stay the execution until his mental status could be determined by experts of the inmate's choosing, and his case is now making its way back through the appeals process. This appeal was successful only because the inmate suffered a major head trauma and brain injury, possibly from a fall in his cell. The meeting as a whole stands firm in opposition to the death penalty

### **Royal Worship Group**

We are a steady group of 6 worshippers comprising the Royal Friends Worship Group under your care. We meet regularly at 10 (summer) or 11 am (winter) for Meeting for Worship. We rarely attend to business. We presently hold a monthly potluck on the 2nd Sunday to nurture fellowship amongst us. A few other people participate less regularly and we occasionally have visitors. We welcome you to visit us.

### **Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting**

We have had a year of sharing laughter, tears, worship and service to the meeting and the wider community. We have supported and inspired one another and deepened our connections.

**The Meeting Community** Our meeting continues to grow both physically and spiritually. Frequently our meeting room is filled nearly to capacity. A Visioning Task Force has been created to look for ways to accommodate our growth. Several people have chosen to become members of SVFM. We support one another spontaneously and through Transportation and Visitation Committee, Ministry and Counsel, and our newly configured Spiritual Friendship Circles.

**Meeting for Worship** The silence and depth of worship nurture many, while the Meeting also recognizes the space for more vocal ministry and better discernment around keeping vocal ministry spirit-led. Afterthoughts are still more numerous than vocal ministry during meeting for worship.

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business** This year we have co-clerks, and this is working well. We continue to strive to be guided more by spirit. Each Meeting for Business begins with a reading chosen by a volunteer.

Our **First Day School** grew from about 8 children to 10-12. Three teachers continue to take turns teaching, with parents of the younger children assisting. The children give a lively report to the adults at the end of Meeting, which is helping us become a more vital inter-generational community. We have begun to nurture the older children as they approach teenage years.

Our **Adult Education Committee**, newly renamed Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture Committee, has offered us forums on a variety of topics including spirituality, peace and social concerns, celebrations and singing, Quaker faith and practice, and deep theological study of the Gospel of Mark. International presentations have focused on Christianity in Cuba, Palestinian rights, and the My Lai Peace Project by visitors from Vietnam and the Madison WI Quakers. There have been discussions on Quaker process, such as what is meant by 'sense of the meeting' and 'objecting,' but we have yet to formulate a systematic study of Quakerism. There is interest in increased focus on queries. A long overdue retreat is being planned in collaboration with Ministry

and Counsel. We have begun exploring more deeply what nurture means in all aspects of our Meeting community.

Our **Peace and Social Concerns Committee** is planning a forum to make members and attenders more aware of the issues and to seek unity regarding its mission and a possible name change to reflect better its activities. Meanwhile, the committee continues its vital partnership with local organizations addressing inequality as many in this region face financial and other difficulties in these challenging times. The Meeting supports the work of many organizations through budgeted small donations. Additional funds to support the committee's work are raised by its annual yard sale. We need to discern corporate leadings to support various issues of concern to Friends in a public manner. We seek more focus of our strong desire to contribute to mending the world's brokenness and increasing the well-being of our local community.

**Finance Committee** has advised us that we are in a sound fiscal place and can look beyond monetary essentials. After much discussion and discernment about the spiritual aspects of the use of money, we expanded and redefined the Contingency Fund, now called the Discretionary fund, with the intention of supporting individual leadings and helping those in our Meeting who have emergency needs.

**Ministry and Counsel** collaborated with Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture Committee to define respective specific responsibilities for supporting individuals' and the Meeting's spiritual growth. M & C finds it helpful to take the time to begin each of its meetings with a query. It has begun addressing the issue of confidentiality to find a balance between transparency and care for individuals. In order to stay alert to its charges, each member of M & C has an area of oversight. There have been several clearness committees. M & C feels blessed to have a younger member in a leadership position in the committee. It has made progress in helping people new to meeting find their way to a Spiritual Friendship Circle, be included on the listserve, and obtain a name tag. There is more to do. In the future it will examine such questions as how the meeting supports individual leadings and addresses conflicts, and how to improve eldering positively and in a timely fashion.

**Building and Grounds Committee** was split into two committees because of work overload. We are finding that our grounds, particularly our evolving memory garden, and our building, are receiving more constructive attention.

The **Library Committee** was presented by Phil Neal with the Margaret Calbeck Neal collection of 18 books. The theme is the Bible with an emphasis on the parables of Jesus. The committee is busy and has added a member to manage much material in a small space.

**Wider Quaker Connections** We had our second annual gathering with Asheville Friends Meeting and together enjoyed Quaker chants led by Paulette Meier. We were pleased to have Friends from Celo as well. Some of us attend SAYMA yearly meeting, and more of us attending would be better. Michael Galovic has found his way clear to attend the Sixth World Conference of Friends held by the Friends World Committee for Consultation in Kenya in April 2012 as a representative of SAYMA.

**Passings** Our beloved Charles Gardner died this fall. We miss his wise and vibrant presence, his concerns, and his skillful service to the Meeting and the broader community. A heartfelt memorial service filled the Meetinghouse to overflow capacity with his family, friends, and the meeting community. Grounds Committee installed a beautiful stone in the Memory Garden in his honor. The funds remaining from memorial donations will be given to People of Faith Against the Death Penalty to support efforts to end the death penalty in North Carolina.

Grateful for past blessings, we look forward to another year of worshiping, working, remembering, and celebrating together.

### **West Knoxville Friends Meeting**

Our last year has been marked by a number of significant events. We have had new faces appear and some old F/friends return to our Meetings for Worship on a regular basis, and several of them have chosen to take an active part in the life of the Meeting. At the same time, our meeting continues to be small and some members have moved away and some of our older members are not able to attend as regularly as they have in the past. As a result many of us serve on multiple committees. We will be without an assistant clerk in the near future and filling that position may be difficult given the small number of members who are not already deeply involved in keeping our Meeting running. Because we live at a distance from one another it is often necessary to do the work of the Meeting via phone or email, which is not as desirable as face to face contact but nonetheless reflects the reality of our situation.

The departure of a family of long-time attenders presented our greatest challenge this year. When they lost their house and decided to move to another state, the family moved into the Meeting House with all their worldly possessions, dogs, cats and multiple vehicles. They had originally told a Friend that they would only be staying a few days and those days stretched into almost five weeks. West Knoxville Friends were deeply divided on the appropriate response to this situation with some advocating for a form of “tough love” that would encourage the family to move on rapidly, and others feeling that an attitude of compassionate waiting was more appropriate and still others at many points in between. A committee was formed to help the family and several Friends who had the strength and grace to see the situation through helped effect a positive outcome. While there is still disagreement about what the “right” approach would have been, the Meeting as a whole is deeply grateful to the committee and we were not permanently divided because of the event. This experience provided us with the opportunity to grow and address conflict in a respectful way and then move forward. Some of our neighbors complained and when the situation was over we sent a letter to all the neighbors explaining what had happened and that this was not a new policy on use of the Meeting House. In some ways it was a blessing to have opportunity for outreach and to learn more about ourselves and our relationship to each other.

Several members have felt led to begin a community garden in the field we own and have planted blueberries and other perennials, annual flowers, garlic and other vegetables. We are hopeful that this will give us more opportunities for outreach in our immediate community. This year several Friends again went caroling at Christmastime in the neighborhood and we hope to continue this tradition.

We view the diversity of viewpoints and tension as an inherently good thing and we still have other issues to resolve. There is a difference of attitude in our Meeting between those who feel the individual spiritual path is the true path to the divine and those who find their spirituality manifests in social action and outreach. This tension will most likely be with us for some time as it reflects the dynamic nature of our community. Since we feel confident of the love and commitment we have for each other, this tension is not necessarily destructive, but rather it reflects our human diversity.

We look forward to the coming year with its challenges, opportunities and blessings and pray for the grace to embody peace and love, within our own hearts, in our Quaker community and in the world at large.

## Attachment F: Committee Reports

- Ecological Concerns Network
- Faith and Practice Revision Committee/Ad Hoc Publishing Committee
- Junior Yearly Meeting Oversight
- Ministry and Nurture Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Outreach Committee
- Personnel Committee
- SAYF

### **Ecological Concerns Network**

ECN has been encouraging one or two workshops at Yearly Meetings each year which have been very well attended. Also gatherings have been held at Yearly Meetings at mealtimes and other communications among ECN-connected, environmentally concerned Friends. Information on action issues have occasionally gone out to Friends on the ECN email list during the year.

### **Faith and Practice Revision and Publishing Committee(s)**

#### *Revision Committee*

The Committee to Revise the Guide to our Faith and Practice (Revision Committee comprised of Alan Robinson, Edie Patrick, Barbara Esther, Missy Ivey, Tim Lamm (x office) and I) and Ad Hoc Guide Publishing Committee (Alan Robinson, Hank Fay, Liz Perch, Tim Lamm and I) are happy to announce that way has opened to proceed with the publication of SAYMA's Guide to our Faith and Practice.

The Revision Committee met for a long weekend after YM 2011 had approved the changes we submitted at that time. Part of the editing of the Guide was to include a glossary to assist those who do not know "Quaker Speak". The glossary was based on the glossaries of three different Yearly Meetings. The Revision committee recommended at the fall 2011 Representatives Meeting that a Publishing Committee be created to deal with the details of getting the Revised Guide printed. Representatives Meeting approved our recommendation that clerk of the Revision committee, the Admin. Asst. of the Yearly Meeting and someone from finance committee serve on the committee. They also added Hank Fay, the SAYMA website administrator, to the committee for which we have been grateful. Alan Robinson was the person who was approved to represent the finance committee.

The Revision Committee has agreed to continue until it completes the review of the Queries section of the Guide. No other changes will be made to the other parts of the Guide as published by this revision committee. The committee asks that the Nominating Committee find at least two new members to join the committee in order to achieve the minimum size needed (5) to constitute a valid revision committee. If you feel led to join the committee for the sole purpose of reviewing and, where necessary, revising the Queries on pages 56 thru 61 of the 2012 SAYMA Guide, please contact the Nominating Committee or me. You can be sure that the time and energy spent will provide a wonderful return on your investment. Note that the Revision Committee has mostly been meeting twice a year for a full weekend either in Asheville, NC or in Knoxville, TN.

### *Publishing Committee*

The Ad Hoc SAYMA Guide Publishing Committee, established at the fall 2011 Representative's Meeting, has chosen Lulu.com as the publisher of our YM's 80-page Guide. This will allow anyone to order a copy online at Lulu's website and have it shipped to the address of their choice without needing to order thru the Administrative Assistant's office. It also means that we don't need to put a lot of money into book inventory. Using Lulu.com will make it much easier to make future changes to the Guide, like the Queries Section, which is still being revised.

Each Monthly Meeting and Worship Group that ordered Guides will be picking up their books in the registration area on their arrival at YM. There will also be additional copies of the Guide available at the SAYMA YM bookstore for purchase at the same \$7.00 a copy price that the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups were charged. The committee was able to pay for the shipping and handling costs due to the volume discount received on the 600 copies we ordered to bring to YM. We ended up with orders for 493 books from 23 Meetings and Worship Groups which allowed to go to the next price break which was 600 copies. See exhibit A for the breakdown by meeting/worship group. The YM makes a gross profit of about 70 cents on each book ordered directly from the Lulu website.

To Order copies of the Guide you can go to: [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and in the search box type "SAYMA"

OR

Go directly to the Guide's web page on Lulu by entering: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/southern-appalachian-yearly-meeting-and-association/fp2012/paperback/product-20122494.html>

The e-book version of the Guide is in process of being created and that work will be primarily done by Hank Fay, with assistance from Liz Perch. This will allow a free download from SAYMA's website of a file that will work with the major e-readers. There is also a PDF version of the Guide on the SAYMA website that can be read online or downloaded at: <http://www.sayma.org>

Summarizing the finances from the first order:

Total Revenue to be realized from the pre YM orders (see exhibit 1 for details): \$3,451.00 (493 X \$ 7.00). Total cost of printing 600 copies including shipping/handling was \$2,716.49 and that leaves the YM with a Gross Profit of \$734.51. The YM also has 107 books remaining at zero cost. After 20 gift copies that we are donating to various organizations (see Exhibit B) we will have 87 printed Guides that will be available to sell at the YM Bookstore at \$7.00 each which might produce additional revenue of \$609.00 (87 X \$ 7.00) for a possible total by the end of YM of \$1,343.51 (\$734.51 + \$609.00). There is a good possibility that some of the gross profit that is produced by sales of the Guide may be used to obtain software that is needed to create the e-reader version of the guide that is still to be produced.

The Publishing Committee thanks everyone for their patience while we got this job done. It was the first time any of us had used a self-publishing tool and while there may be hiccups in our new online purchasing process, long term the YM will benefit from using this technology by making

it easier for future revision committees to publish future versions of the SAYMA Guide to our Faith and Practice, as well as making it easier for people all over the world to get a hard copy without even contacting anyone inside SAYMA...at nearly the speed of light.

Thank you to all who have served on the various revision committees during more than 11 years during which we worked and prayed our way to clarifying what we in SAYMA collectively believe to be a Guide to our Yearly Meeting’s Faith and our Practice. Thanks to everyone at all the Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups who reviewed the many revisions sent by the Revision Committee and to those who participated at any of the Yearly Meeting sessions from 2001 thru 2011 and did the “Spirit Wrestling” needed to produce SAYMA’s 2012 revision of our Yearly Meeting’s Guide to our Faith and Practice.

Now all we need to do is to keep the Faith and to . . . . Practice . . . Practice . . . and then ..... Practice some more.

**Exhibit A: Orders by Meeting to be delivered at YM 2012**

<b><u>Meeting/WG</u></b>	<b><u>Number ordered</u></b>
Asheville	24
Atlanta	100
Berea	6
Birmingham	20
Brevard	7
Canton	1
Carrollton	10
Celo	10
Charleston	15
Chattanooga	30
Columbia	12
Cookeville	4
Crossville	10
Greenbrier	10
Greenville	1
Huntsville	7
Memphis	40
Nashville	24
Oxford	4
Royal	8
Swannanoa Valley	50
West Knoxville	<u>100</u>



**Total for 23**

**WG/MM: 493**

**Exhibit B: Donated Copies of the Guide:**

1. SAYMA archives (Missy Ivie)
2. SAYMA office (Liz Perch)

---**Friends' Libraries** (No's 3-5 receive & archive our minutes and newsletters):

3. Guilford College (Hedge Library/Friends Historical Association)
4. Swarthmore College (Friends Historical Library)
5. Haverford College (Quaker Collection)
6. Woodbrook Library (England) who already get our newsletters

**Major Friends Organizations:** (in no particular order)

7. Friends General Conference (Barry Crossno, General Secretary)
8. American Friends Service Committee (Lucy Duncan, AFSC-Friends Relations)
9. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC Southern Regional Office Library)
10. Friends United Meeting (Colin Saxton, General Secretary)
11. FWCC Section of the Americas (Robin Mohr, General Secretary)
12. Quaker House (Chuck Fager, director; Lynn & Steve Newsome, co-directors designates)
13. Friends Journal (Gabriel Ehri, Executive Editor)
14. Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) staff.
15. Friends Committee on National Legislation Library
16. William Penn House Library
17. American Friends Service Committee (Shan Cretin-General Secretary)
18. American Friends Service Committee (Bonnie Horton-Southeast Region Executive Director)
19. Deborah Fisch, FGC Associate Secretary for Ministries
20. Pendle Hill Library c/o Jennifer Karsten, Interim Executive Director

**Junior Yearly Meeting Oversight**

Jonathan Schinhofen and Beth Myers, will be completing their last year as JYM coordinators this summer, SAYMA 2012. They have enjoyed the experience very much, and found it to be a meaningful and creative three years.

The theme for the JYM program this summer will be "Communion with the Spirit." Beth and Jonathan have designed activities around silence and listening. This will include meditative/reflective activities in nature, art and practices like yoga. Very young friends will have their own programming during some of the quieter times.

Beth and Jonathan contacted past participants, and also recruited new participants for the program. These attempts were not part of the official registration process, but an important part of keeping participation high and the energy dynamic. Volunteers are always needed for the program. At the time of reporting, 13 young friends have registered for JYM 2012.

Decorating t-shirts will once again be an art activity at SAYMA, same as the last two years, and they will have the SAYMA logo on them this year.

After three fabulous years, the coordinators are handing JYM over to Michael Kramer and Jennifer Dickie from Atlanta. They have had much experience working with children, especially in a Quaker setting. Beth and Jonathan plan to meet with Michael and Jen during Yearly Meeting to facilitate the transfer of responsibilities.

The JYM committee is looking for another member for the coming two-year term. Wendy is stepping off, Jonathan and Beth will serve, as is the custom for recent coordinators, and Jane Goldthwaite as agreed to serve. One or two more members would be ideal.

### **Ministry and Nurture Committee**

Ministry and Nurture Committee members met twice this year, at Nashville Meeting in November 2011 and at Chattanooga Meeting in May 2012. We rejoiced in our time together and in spending time with the host Meetings.

A major event was the workshop organized by Kristi Estes, “Deepening the Spiritual Life of Our Meetings,” at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman, Alabama. Eighteen Friends from eight Monthly Meetings and one remote Friend living in Jackson, Mississippi participated in fellowship and experiential learning on forming spiritually based Clearness Committees.

We began our Meetings with stories of our personal and Meeting spiritual journeys.

Below are listed some of our concerns and activities for this year.

1. We granted Geeta McGahey \$100 for her trip to Kenya where she was to offer medical care and to attend the FWCC Triennial.
2. We discussed membership and the term “Birthright Friend,” generally agreeing that the term “Birthright Friend” sets a hierarchy and that young persons should be encouraged to become full adult members in their own right at the appropriate age. We noted that SAYMA uses the term “associate member” rather than “junior member,” and M&N members feel it is important to record young persons as associate members.
3. We discussed Outreach. Some Friends spoke positively of their Meetings’ experience with Quaker Quest, but that outreach according to QQ is expensive and requires more time and energy than is available.
4. We discussed financial concerns of one SAYMA Meeting
5. We considered ideas for SAYMA workshops that would consider confidentiality versus gossip and the care and proper use of Monthly Meetings’ money.
6. We were delighted and appreciative of the hard work of the committee that is publishing the new SAYMA Faith and Practice.
7. We chose greeters and holders for Business Meetings.
8. We supported Kristi Estes in her willingness to coordinate another retreat/consultation in the East similar to that offered this past year in Cullman. The tentative focus is on New Attenders. We hope one newer Friend and one more seasoned Friend would attend the workshop/retreat.
9. We expressed concern that last year’s State of the Yearly Meeting Report was not presented during meetings for business at SAYMA and suggest that a copy be emailed to each

Monthly Meeting for distribution to Friends at their Meetings. We hope that this will encourage awareness of what goes on regionally to local Friends, many of whom are unable to attend SAYMA.

10. We prayerfully read each State of the Monthly Meeting report and drew inspiration from each. Out of these reports we compiled the State of the Yearly Meeting Reports.

11. Nancy Whitt is coming to the end of her term as Clerk of Ministry and Nurture; the possibility of Co-Clerks was discussed briefly.

12. We discussed intervisitation and nurturing the next generations of Friends, suggesting we ask Young Friends what they need from us.

13. We agreed to discuss whether or not two meetings a year of the committee are needed and the committee will discuss this concern after SAYMA.

### **Nominating Committee**

The SAYMA Nominations Committee has been through a difficult time in the 2011-2012 inter-Yearly Meeting period. Experienced members of the committee have dropped off the committee, the Clerk resigned, and a temporary convener currently is gathering the committee together. The tasks facing the Nominating Committee are not insurmountable, but they will pose a challenge to the remaining members of the committee.

Committees that will need new members at the 2012 Yearly Meeting are: Personnel Committee, SAYF Steering Committee (needs co-Clerk), JYM Oversight Committee, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (needs Clerk), and Nominating Committee (needs Clerk).

The Committee to Review the *Guide to Our faith and Practice* will continue to work toward adding a Queries Section to the F&P. The committee requires two additional members. Inquiries are encouraged. Ministry and Nurture will require a new clerk and new members.

In addition, several wider Quaker organizations need new representatives or renewal of existing representatives. AFSC is going through structural re-organization. There are no longer representatives sent to SERO. However, we do need to nominate one representative to the AFSC Corporation (replacing Charles Schade). And SAYMA may appoint two representatives to the AFSC South Regional Executive Committee. Other wider Quaker organization who need new representatives (or for the old representative to continue) are RSWR, QEW, and FCNL.

### **Outreach Committee**

The ad hoc SAYMA Outreach Committee was less active during this past year than in previous years with the primary form of communication the Outreach Committee's Google group. New people joined the group and there were additional participants in the conversations. What did not happen was a face-to-face meeting of the Committee, nor the presentation by the Committee of a request to Yearly Meeting to become a Standing Committee rather than simply an ad hoc committee. The Committee is united in the need for SAYMA to have an on-going focus on outreach, but as earlier committees have experienced, has found that it is difficult to provide more than a forum and exchange of ideas. FGC's Quaker Quest program is a "package" that many Monthly Meetings have either examined or have used or are currently using. It is clearly a valuable model that emphasizes the importance of self-examination before attempting to reach

out to others. Small meetings, however, find the formal model (and expense) not well suited to their needs.

### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee reports and regrets that Sue Gerdes has resigned as a member of the Committee. We thank Sue for her service.

After ten years of service as SAYF Administrative Assistant, Therese Hildebrand is retiring at the rise of Yearly Meeting. The Personnel Committee greatly appreciates Therese's years of service and her valuable contribution to our SAYF program.

The Personnel Committee and Co-Clerks of the SAYF Steering Committee met by conference call on December 7, 2011, to determine a process for selecting a new SAYF Administrative Assistant (SAA) and to revise and approve the job announcement, application, and job description. These documents were sent to the following: clerks and SAYMA reps of each Monthly Meeting, Chapel Hill Meeting, all meetings with SAYFers, SAYF Steering Committee, Personnel Committee, and to all FAPs. SAYMA received applications from three excellent candidates for the SAA position. The Co-Clerks of the SAYF Steering Committee screened the applications and recommended that Jonah McDonald be hired as SAYMA SAA. The selection committee composed of Susan Phelan, Wren Hendrickson, and Carol Nickle made the final decision to offer the SAA position to Jonah. We are pleased to announce that Jonah is SAYMA's new SAA.

Documents developed for this hiring process are in the Personnel Committee notebook.

### **SAYF**

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) planned for six retreats during the past year and hosted five. Our October retreat, planned to be in Atlanta, was cancelled due to lack of attendance. For the five completed retreats, we have averaged 34 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 64 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all five retreats and others attended one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. All retreats this year were hosted at meetinghouses....and we are deeply appreciative to Friends for allowing us to use their facilities.

We also held two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats, again using meetinghouses, and those too are detailed below.

We would like to recognize three special notes of our year:

First, at our January retreat we participated in a nation wide contest sponsored by AFSC making a video answering the query: "If I Had a Trillion Dollars...." This video was selected as one of the top 20 videos and three of our Young Friends went to Washington DC for an AFSC sponsored weekend of lobbying and an awards celebration screening of all the winning videos. Second, two of our FAPs who met at SAYF were united in matrimony at Nashville Meetinghouse on May 12, 2012. They were married with the love of all of us at SAYF and the presence of several Young Friends, FAPs and SAYF Steering Committee members.

Third, After 11 years of service, Therese Hildebrand is stepping down as SAYF Administrative Assistant. We are grateful for her hard work, her easy-going nature, and the love she has shown for the SAYF program. We also welcome Jonah McDonald as our new administrative assistant.

**SAYF Retreats:**

**1. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat                      September 9-11, 2011**

Theme: Community Building

# of YFs: 38

# of full-time FAPs\* 8

(\*Friendly Adult Presence)

Activities included: community building games, an outing to the Hot Springs, a silent walk, worship sharing and singing on the porch.

**2. W. Knoxville Meetinghouse Retreat                      November 18-20, 2011**

Theme: Dancing Your Way Through Life

# of YFs: 23

# of full-time FAPs: 6

Activities included: outdoor team building games, and a fish bowl activity: “What stresses you and how do you deal with it?”

**3. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat                              January 13-15, 2012**

Theme: Little Magic Reindeer Ponies and Hats: a retreat for a kind and generous new beginning

# of YFs: 39

# of FAPs: 8

Activities included: both a workshop and a video production around the statement “If I Had a Trillion Dollars...”, a service project with Global Soap Works, a conversation with the Tibetan Science Initiative entitled “The Faith to Doubt” and an Indian Cooking class.

**4. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat                              March 23-25, 2012**

Theme: Express Yo’Self

# of YFs: 40

# of full time FAPs: 8

Activities included: two workshops: (one on Quaker nakedness and the other on poem and song writing) and a concert by Friends Jon Watts and Maggie, a hike through the botanical gardens, and an evening talent show.

**5. W. Knoxville Meetinghouse Retreat                              April 13-15, 2012**

Theme: Light, Nature and the Four Elements

# of YFs: 28

# of full time FAPs: 6

Activities included: a field trip to the Berea College fields for an afternoon of games and kite flying, a yoga class, candle making and an evening bon fire.

## **Nurturing/Steering Committees Retreats**

### **1. Swannanoa Meetinghouse. August 19-21, 2011**

# of Nurturing Committee Members: 10

# of Steering Committee Members: 5

We spent considerable time discerning how to incorporate more spirituality into our retreats. We reviewed went well with SAYF at Yearly Meeting and noted changes that we wished to make for the upcoming year. We reviewed the process started last year concerning outreach: both to Young Friends in more isolated meetings and outreach to other Quaker Youth programs. Several ideas were presented which we felt best to season for a few months. We reviewed a new draft 12 page pamphlet developed by one of our Steering Committee members. We updated the first aid kit.

### **2. W. Knoxville Meetinghouse February 23-25, 2012**

# of Nurturing Committee Members: 12

# of Steering Committee Members: 6

We reviewed application packets for SAYF Administrative Assistant position. After a lengthy discussion the Steering Committee found clarity in making a recommendation for Personnel Committee. We looked at how SAYF was doing so far this year and from those discussions we developed a new introduction to presenting the guidelines and a new introduction to the worship journals. It is hoped that this will help set a more worshipful tone for both of these activities. We developed our calendar of retreats for the 2012-2013 year. We considered changes to the graduation held each year at Yearly meeting to address issues that arise and to develop a more worshipful atmosphere.

## Attachment G: Wider Quaker Organizations Representative Reports

- American Friends Service Committee—Corporation
- American Friends Service Committee—South Region (*formerly SERO*)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Friends General Conference
- Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Quaker House
- Right Sharing of World Resources

### **American Friends Service Committee**

The Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) met in Philadelphia March 2-3, 2012. The Corporation is a group of 120 to 180 Friends who are the “members” of the AFSC as required by the organization’s charter in the state of Pennsylvania. The Corporation appoints the Board of Directors and has various other functions including some measure of advice and communication with the larger Friends community. This report summarizes the events of the meeting and the actions the Corporation took at that time.

1. Attendance. From the relative numbers of acceptances and regrets during the roll call, it seemed that perhaps 2/3 of the 126 members were present, which might have been slightly fewer than in previous years.
2. Introductory remarks. Arlene Kelly, Clerk, indicated that Corporation members “are the lifeblood” of the AFSC’s relationship with Friends.
3. The AFSC-Friends Relations (AFR) Committee clerk (Jeanette Raymond) summarized the committee’s work during the past year, which consisted principally of working through some of the unfinished business of the Working Group on the Size of the Corporation and Role of Corporation Members. Three work products are a proposed job description for Corporation members, a bylaws revision lengthening Corporation member terms to three years, and modifications to the structure of the Corporation meeting.
4. General Secretary’s report: In another memorable formulation of the AFSC’s mission, Shan Cretin summarized it as “making a difference in the world’s attitude towards the effectiveness of love.” She invoked words of Martin Luther King, who said that power without love is reckless, and love without power is sentimental to reinforce the idea that AFSC programs, while dealing with empowerment, do so with the intent of transformation through love rather than replacing oppressors with new oppressors emerging from the previously-oppressed. She shared the booklet *Introduction to Quaker Testimonies*, which morphed from an internal document aimed at informing non-Quaker staff about the values that drive the AFSC, to something broader. It is available in hard copy through the FGC bookstore or as a free download from <http://www.afsc.org/testimonies/introduction>.

Shan spoke about AFSC projects in Africa which, in partnership with local Friends, are working to bring about violence-free elections. She used that model to describe a vision of the AFSC working more in partnership with local Friends, sensitive to needs of communities. She

described a need for restorative tools to heal past injustice, and AFSC's efforts to help build fair and accountable institutions (the AFSC's economic justice projects embody this). She noted the Service Committee's involvement with the Occupy movement, which has been a supportive role, not attempting to control or direct, but to offer practical help such as nonviolence and process training. She said that the AFSC had recently been awarded a \$1.5 million Kellogg Foundation grant to develop sustainable agriculture in New Mexico.

5. Seasoning sessions. New this year were "seasoning sessions," part of the AFR Committee's effort. Perhaps, these sessions were intended to make Corporation members feel a vital part of the AFSC's corporate decision making. The stated purpose was "to provide Corporation members with a worshipful seasoning of challenges/opportunities facing the AFSC." SAYMA's members were able to attend two of the three, described below.

a. Strategic plan development. After a period of silent worship, the conveners presented the timeline for AFSC strategic plan development and an outline of the process, which is expected to be complete by year's end. There does not appear to be room in the process for seasoning or considered input by Friends meetings, as the "seasoning bodies" are the strategic planning committee, staff leadership, Board Program committee, and various other internal bodies of the organization. The "seasoning" which took place at this session consisted of a word game (suggest three "strong" words and three "action words"). The current AFSC mission statement was put forth as examples/templates. This session bore no relationship to any seasoning process in which I've ever participated. No proposal was presented for seasoning (the plan development process only having begun two days prior to the session), and it was completely unclear how the word salad that resulted from the session would influence the development of a mission statement.

b. Quakers and AFSC. This was a very important session as it allowed me to address the SAYMA minute which asked how many Quakers worked for AFSC. The clerk of AFSC was in attendance and we were able to reach agreement that the important question was: "How can Quakers be more involved in AFSC?" There are not that many jobs in AFSC that Quakers can do besides administration as most of the program staff needs to come from the groups that are being served and few Quakers meet those so important criteria. AFSC seeks God's leadings and also strives to follow Friends process. A booklet has been published by AFSC in November 2011 entitled "Quaker Faith and Practice". This has been sent to the SAYMA list in PDF form and is available at the AFSC website: The facilitator, Jeannette Raymond said that AFSC strives to integrate the Inward Light with Outward Service. Sound like what most Quakers who do service work are dealing with.

Many of the Corporation Members present asked for more service and less advocacy from AFSC. Others believed that Service and Advocacy need not be in opposition. AFSC is working to build stronger ties to the Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings. With the cutbacks in staff and in the size of the Board of the Corporation, more Quakers will be able to serve as volunteers.



6. Staff presentations. This year's staff presentations differed from previous year's in that they were more participatory and seemed engineered to draw Friends into participation in the activities presented.

a. AFSC's Work in Israel/Palestine and Why Divestment is Important. AFSC has joined with others, including Jewish Voice for Peace to encouraging individuals and investment firms to divest their holdings stocks and bonds of corporations that profit from the Israeli Occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. TIAA-CREF, one of the world's largest retirement funds and a self-described "leader in socially responsible investing", invests nearly \$600 million in corporations that profit from Israeli military occupation. Some of these corporations include Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Veolia, Northrup Grumman, Elbit, and Hewlett-Packard.

For more information see <http://www.afsc.org/story/join-we-divest-campaign>

b. AFSC and Occupy/Unoccupy Together: Supporting the Movement's Commitment to Nonviolence, Economic Justice, and Inclusion. Eisha Mason and Scilla Wahrhaftig led this session, which consisted of a series of exercises related to attitudes towards economic justice and a presentation of some images of how the AFSC and Occupy had interacted. The occupy movement, in many respects, embodies economic justice principles for which the AFSC has long stood, and at its best represents populism rooted in ideas of fairness and inclusiveness. The exercises were engaging, but it's not clear whether the intent was to have Corporation members replicate them for education in their own communities That would be tricky, as one of the reasons the exercise "worked" was the skill of the facilitator.

c. Immigrant Allies: Coloradans for Immigrant Rights and our Meeting. Jordan Garcia, a very polished AFSC staffer from Colorado, led the session, which provided an exercise in describing "allyship" (a rather ungainly neologism). The term represents a condition of being supportive of others, and developing allies is apparently the strategy of the Colorado program. The AFSC has developed a short series of video vignettes describing the history and situation of several immigrants and their families in their own words (see <http://afsc.org/video/immigration-stories>). An encyclopedic resource CD including topics such as "Adopt a Policy Maker," "Handouts," and "Letter writing and other media resources" are available through program staff. If Friends review the website or the blog posts from this program, they can appreciate the extent of efforts staff is making to present immigrant stories, educate, empower, counter hate speech with truth telling, and generally help the public see immigrants in appositve light. At the conclusion of the session, there was an altar call in the form of commitment to action after the meeting. Having come with the intention of learning about the program rather than adding anything else to his plate, this Friend was compelled to admit that he would probably do nothing in response to the session, undoubtedly labeling him a Bad Quaker (albeit a truthful one).

d. Religious Intolerance in Indonesia and the United States: Ways that the AFSC and your Meeting can Create More Welcoming Communities. We had a live hookup to Indonesia where the AFSC staff was up at 3 AM their time so they could participate in the workshop. They explained how Christians were the minority in Indonesia, which has the largest Moslem population in the world. The Staff explained that their work in Indonesia is a lot like the work in the Southern USA where we see hostility against the Moslem minority by the Christian majority. Fears of the "outsiders" taking jobs and of their children developing friendships and then dating

are happening in Indonesia and creating violence against Christians. We were then shown a documentary "Welcome to Shelbyville" about how a small town in Tennessee overcame their hostility to the Moslem newcomers as they learned more about their new neighbors. It was interesting to see how the Moslem community had to be more open to their neighbors than they were used to in order to help them overcome the fears that can come between people with different faiths and cultures. Anne Lennon, Area Coordinator from the Greensboro NC office answered questions after the film.

7. Worship at the Corporation meeting. There were three general periods of intentional worship: an unprogrammed session prior to the start of the meeting, a second, shorter unprogrammed session at the end (which was somewhat disrupted because several of the sessions ran beyond their appointed times, so that Friends straggled in to an already-abbreviated session), and a programmed session featuring readings from Revelation emphasizing universality and the actual presence of the New Jerusalem in the existing world. To a Quaker, this was a compelling and positive interpretation of what can seem an incoherent or simply frightening vision (his message is at <https://www.starcafe.org/governance/corp/Documents/Quakers%20and%20African-Americans%20Approach%20the%20New%20Jerusalem.pdf>).

8. AFSC regional reorganization and communication with monthly/yearly meetings. At lunch on the Saturday, we were seated in groups by new AFSC US region. The former Southeast region has been folded into the South region, which includes some states previously in the Middle Atlantic and South Central regions. The good news is that all SAYMA states are now in a single region, with headquarters in Atlanta. The bad news is the region stretches from El Paso to Baltimore. To mitigate the impact of such dispersion, the AFSC will be strengthening/creating local and area program committees.

Regional executive committees (RECs) will have delegated program choice responsibilities. How a committee based in a city 500 to 1000 miles from a program site will exercise effective choice and oversight remains to be demonstrated. The AFSC board will appoint RECs. Because of the large number of yearly meetings within regions, it is not certain that every YM will have appointees on a REC; the AFSC encourages YMs to nominate Friends for RECs. The RECs are advocating seats on the AFSC board for all (instead of one) REC clerks, which would in this Friend's opinion, represent dangerous backsliding towards a larger Board, undoing the progress towards simplicity that has occurred in recent years.

Don Gann and Margaret Rowlett introduced "two way communications" between the AFSC and yearly meetings. Communication with monthly meetings is planned through a Meeting Liaison program (possibly similar to the FCNL's approach) directed by Lucy Duncan. The overlaps/interactions between those two efforts are unclear. As an initial effort for YM communication, the AFR committee has developed queries, which it would like YMs to consider in worship sharing or discussion, responding to the AFR committee by about September 15.

9. Finances. The Treasurer's report expressed the "belief" that the AFSC had stabilized its financial situation after several very difficult years. Although 2011 ended with a \$6 million operating surplus, the organization is vulnerable because of the \$70 million reduction in net

assets since 2007 (representing over 1/3 of assets). One particular issue that is common among both for-profit and not-for-profit companies of all sizes is adequate funding of retirement programs. These are obligations to current and former employees. The AFSC is a religious organization that bases its actions on an articulated set of values. It does not have the choice of walking away from the obligations or using the subterfuge of bankruptcy. The Board has a plan to address retirement shortfalls over the next five years, but it will inevitably require assets that could be directed to program. The need to address retirement and to strengthen the balance sheet will probably put a damper on expansion of services for the foreseeable future.

10. Routine business. The Corporation is legally obligated to appoint the Board of Directors and also appoints 60 to 90 Corporation members at large each year. The Corporation approved these appointments, as well as appointments to its Standing Nomination Committee and Naming Committee. The issue of the pro forma nature of these appointments and the consequent question of integrity of the process that many Friends raised during discussions of Corporation size and role remains unaddressed.

11. Proposed Corporation member job description. The AFR Committee issued a proposed Corporation job description that was provisionally adopted with little chance for discussion as the last item of business. It may be useful for the Nominating Committee, although it is functionally little different from the current statement of responsibilities in the Corporation Manual.

#### **American Friends Service Committee—South Region**

AFSC has been looking into re-organizing the structure of the U.S. Regions for quite some time. It has now become a reality. Previously there were nine U.S. Regions, now there are four. The South Region contains the 8 states that formerly made up the Southeast region but now it includes Texas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. The Southeast Region states were Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana. The process for determining make up of the South Executive Committee has not been completed but it appears that in the future the Yearly Meetings will have only one representative rather than two. Atlanta will remain the regional office. There are no AFSC programs in Texas or Oklahoma. In the South Region there are offices in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Greensboro, N.C., Miami, and New Orleans. The four Strategic Areas that are the focus of AFSC work are Peace, Human Migration and Mobility, Economic Justice, and Healing Justice.

The AFSC South regional office is located at 60 Walton Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303. This office is also home of the Georgia Peace Center.

#### **North Carolina:**

*NC Peace & Economic Justice Program:* Quakers value life as sacred and seek to avoid all violence. We try to find peaceful solutions to conflicts and differences and to address root causes of violence. We sponsor exhibits and films highlighting issues of peace and economic justice. We host peace tables and workshops in local schools and communities that promote non-violence & conflict resolution. We educate and engage the community around local and national budget priorities. We advocate for investing our tax dollars in sustainable, just and peaceful

communities. In spring 2011, we brought the national travelling mural exhibit, *Windows & Mirrors* to North Carolina to promote reflection on the human cost of war in Afghanistan. *NC Immigrant Rights Program*: Guided by the Quaker belief in the infinite worth of all people, AFSC supports the rights and dignity of all people, regardless of their legal status. We educate the general public about immigration issues and build solidarity between immigrants and non-immigrant allies to change hostile attitudes toward immigrants and work together towards welcoming communities. We train, empower and prepare undocumented immigrant communities in case of raids and deportation. We advocate for just and humane immigration policies locally, statewide, and federally and fight policies that criminalize immigrants. We strive to connect the struggles that US immigrants face with the roots of migration. Through all our work, we utilize popular education techniques and 21st Century techniques, like digital storytelling, to empower the community and convey our messages.

### **Miami:**

American Friends Immigrant Services (AFIS) has been evolving throughout the years and currently has found a balance its work in two ways: 1) to create and support public advocacy and education to have human laws, regulations, and policies; and 2) to legally represent people before the complex immigration systems. AFIS is part of coalitions and collaborates with organizations in support of immigrant's and refugee's human rights as well as accompany them to navigate the immigration system in South Florida.

AFIS mandate is to help meet some of the needs of immigrants and refugees and to serve as an avenue to educate society on causes of migration and contributions to their new environment by bringing stories into light. Florida's political environment is a challenge in that from the highest office to lower offices are advocating for anti-immigrant bills. To counter these efforts, AFIS collaborates with a variety of organizations and coalitions like the Florida Immigrant Coalition and the Haitian Grass-root Coalition to oppose such way nativist thinking. Also, AFIS uses media, public forums, and give presentations to inform the public and repudiate anti-immigrant sentiment.

**New Orleans:** *Peace and Conflict Transformation Project*: The Gulf Coast Program was organized in 2005 in response to Hurricane Katrina. The initial program had offices in Gulfport, MS and New Orleans, LA. Today, the focus of the program is on New Orleans where the project is one of only a few on-going projects left that were organized by national non-profits in the year following Katrina.

In Fiscal Year 2012, the youth component of our work helps young people find alternative ways to deal with the violence on multiple levels: personal, group, and community. Our work includes peace training in dialogue with young children using art in a variety of community settings and partnerships; our Peace by Piece peer trainers provide conflict reduction workshops to other youth in schools and through community centers; our annual giant Peace Puppet Parade is a community wide celebration of the International Day of Peace; in addition, we organize a variety of creative engagements with youth and adults to articulate a message of peace and concern for others through the arts.

**Atlanta:** Through the work of the *AFSC Georgia Peace Center* we seek to build a movement based on shared concerns and our shared identity as workers; listening and learning from others as we share our concerns and find mutual connections that will lead to authentic collaborations. The Peace Center is a space where diverse groups can gather to share information, learn from each other, present programs, perform research and network.

AFSC Georgia Peace Center is located in downtown Atlanta and is accessible by numerous forms of public transportation. The space is welcoming to all peoples and is handicapped accessible. We currently partner with and provide meeting and program space for a long list of partner organizations that includes: Homeless Veterans Program, Atlanta International Action Center, The Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Alternate ROOTS, Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition-Atlanta, Performing Artists for Nuclear Disarmament , WonderRoot, Emory Muslim Students Association (MSA) , Atlanta Friends Meeting, Friends School of Atlanta, Georgia WAND, The Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace, Women Watch Afrika, Inc. ,Arab Spring Committee, Democratic Socialist of America, Nuclear Watch South, and UUCA Peace Network.

Our program partners include the groups above in addition to Amnesty International USA-Southern Region, Metro Atlanta Task force for the Homeless, Emory University Center for Ethics, Human Rights Atlanta, WRFG 89.3FM, and the ACLU.

**Baltimore, Maryland:**

*Friend of a Friend Program:* Physical altercations can be common in correctional institutions. To provide new strategies for dealing with such conflict, AFSC established the Friend of a Friend mentoring project which now operates in five sites in Maryland. The goal is to reduce institutional violence by providing tools that build healthy relationships, create support structures, and develop effective communication skills. Conflict resolution training is the primary activity for each mentoring group. Weekly meetings focus on anger management as well as conflict, communication and coping skills. New participants work with a mentor to identify their own values, attitudes, strengths and weaknesses. They analyze problems and potentially frustrating situations, determine alternative solutions, and decide upon a healthy course of action. Role playing makes the sessions more realistic.

*Youth Empowerment Through Conflict Resolution:* The Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution program works with young people in Baltimore to find peaceful resolutions to conflict in their lives. Participants learn to use tools from the Help Increase the Peace Program as well as other community building skills. Working in under-resourced schools, the program helps young people deal with violent and impoverished neighborhoods, learn about conflict resolution and human rights, and get the support they need to become educated and engaged citizens. Through education, we hope to instill a sense of confidence in Baltimore youths – confidence that they can make a better tomorrow for themselves and their communities.

**Washington DC**

*The DC Peace and Economic Justice Program* has had two different projects in recent years: a Human Rights Learning project in the DC public schools, and a worker's rights project. In both

the basic approach has involved using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the framework for examining and addressing peace and economic justice concerns in the DC area.

### **West Virginia**

The *Appalachian Center for Equality* is dedicated to creating opportunities for young people in the southern coalfields of West Virginia to pursue their goals and a productive future by working and learning together. We accomplish this through interpersonal skill-building, college trips, and community engagement projects with the belief that together we can make our communities in southern West Virginia stronger and more vibrant for everyone.

The *West Virginia Economic Justice Program* works statewide on issues affecting low income and working families. The project helps people get the best possible deal from the current system, engages in campaigns to gain or defend economic rights for workers and low income families, and helps build effective coalition support of economic justice for all people in the state.

Where possible, AFSC has worked with the Occupy movement to enhance the work of both.

#### Contact Information:

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Although the AFSC web site has not yet caught up with the regional re-organization much can be gleaned from it about the work of AFSC and there are many videos on several different pages. I suggest spending some time reviewing this site. (<http://www.afsc.org/>)

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

The SAYMA Representatives to FCNL for 2012 are Joe Parko, Kelly Schoolmeester and Jane Hiles. Joe is unable to be with us due to illness, and we are holding him in the Light at this time. Kelly Schoolmeester serves on the FCNL Policy Committee and Jane Hiles serves on the FCNL Field Committee as well as the General Committee.

This year we have been engaged with the priorities process once again. Thanks to all the SAYMA monthly meetings who submitted a list of legislative priorities this spring; participation was excellent among SAYMA monthly meetings in this very important work. The responses from monthly meetings have gone to the Policy Committee for seasoning, and at the November meeting the General Committee will deliberate further on them. By the end of the November meeting the General Committee will approve legislative priorities for the next Congress.

This year marks an important turning point in the Quaker campaign to align our national budget with human needs and peaceful goals. If the Budget Control Act of 2011 is not attenuated by

amendments, it will require a reduction of about \$1 trillion in planned Pentagon spending over the next 10 years. However, there is already substantial pushback against this legislation and many amendments are being proposed to lessen the Pentagon budget reduction and instead reduce funding of peaceful responses to deadly conflict as well as funding directed to meeting human needs. These budget decisions will be made before the end of 2012, so this summer and fall are crucial times for Friends to make their voices heard. The FCNL Executive Committee has minuted its concern for these critical decisions and is calling upon Friends to

- **Minute** their support for the reduction in projected Pentagon spending and the preservation of budgets for human needs and the peaceful prevention of conflict.
- **Communicate** your support to the public (through letters to the editor and other public venues) and to Congress.
- **Contact** your elected officials personally to reiterate this message.

### **FCNL Executive Committee Minute and Call to Action**

#### Encouraging Friends to Act to Reduce Pentagon Spending

The FCNL Executive Committee is laboring under a concern for the critical decisions on the federal budget that must be made by the end of this year (2012). Growth of U.S. spending on war threatens our ability to address essential human needs. Current law—the Budget Control Act of 2011—requires a reduction in projected Pentagon spending of \$1 trillion over 10 years, providing a momentous opportunity to shift budget priorities. This prospect faces powerful opposition that could persuade Congress to restore Pentagon funding by making major reductions in budgets for the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict and other human needs.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation has identified this Pentagon budget reduction as a means to realign national priorities and now urges active engagement and lobbying efforts from Friends across the nation. The Executive Committee urges Friends meetings and churches to embrace this historic opportunity and take action, such as the following:

- Minute endorsement of the reduction in projected Pentagon spending and the preservation of federal budgets which support the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict and other human needs.
- Encourage Friends to communicate their support for these budget priorities to the public and to Congress.
- Encourage Friends within the meeting to contact their elected officials to report this message.

This is a holy time, a time of great possibility, great testing. May we respond bravely and faithfully to the task before us.

### **Introduction to Minute**

Now is the time for action

This is a critical and historic political moment. For the first time that anyone at FCNL can remember, legislation requiring a significant reduction in Pentagon spending has become law. In the summer of 2011, Congress approved and the president signed legislation, the Budget Control

Act of 2011, that requires planned Pentagon spending to be reduced by about \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.

The question is, will Congress let these cuts stand? Here in Washington, we are seeing a powerful pushback against the \$1 trillion in Pentagon spending reductions. FCNL's Executive Committee has identified the push to preserve Pentagon cuts as a priority. Earlier this month, the Executive Committee approved the enclosed minute and call to action. Please take this minute to your monthly meeting or church, discuss it among Friends at your yearly meeting annual session, and find a way for your community to participate.

The actions that you and others take between June and November could make a big difference. Lobby visits in your state, your phone calls, letters to the editor and organizing of public events could help persuade senators and representatives to maintain the planned cuts in Pentagon spending.

For information, please visit [fcnl.org/budget\\_action/](http://fcnl.org/budget_action/) or call (800) 630-1330.

### **What can I do?**

- Come to FCNL's first Quaker Public Policy Institute, November 15-16, in Washington, DC. Visit [fcnl.org/lobbyday](http://fcnl.org/lobbyday) for more information.
- Lobby in your home district with friends and neighbors.
- Visit Washington and lobby on Capitol Hill.
- Write letters to the editor throughout the summer on the budget, naming your elected officials when possible.
- Ask a public question at a town hall meeting or event hosted by your elected official.
- Become a coordinator of letter writing events focused on preserving Pentagon budget cuts.

For more ideas or if you have questions, please call Katherine Philipson at (800) 630-1330.

### **Preserve Pentagon Budget Cuts: Talking Points**

#### ***What we want to ask senators:***

Will Senator \_\_\_\_\_ agree to oppose any effort to reduce the level of cuts in Pentagon spending required by the Budget Control Act of 2011?

*The talking points below are meant to provide several ways to approach a discussion about preserving cuts to the Pentagon. There is no need to memorize these points. Please use those that work for you and consider which would be most persuasive to your senator.*



### Scale of Pentagon Spending

- Pentagon spending is higher today in inflation adjusted terms than at any time in the last 60 years.<sup>2</sup>
- Not counting war spending, the core Pentagon budget grew by 50% over inflation in the last 12 years.<sup>3</sup>
- The U.S. spends more on its military than the next 17 countries combined.<sup>4</sup>

### Trade-Offs

- Existing Budget Control Act cuts would leave millions of people without access to basic services. We simply can't afford any more cuts to human needs programs. The Pentagon should pay its fair share. For example, 75,000 children would lose access to Head Start, 17,000 seniors would go without Meals on Wheels, and 670,000 people would no longer receive job training.<sup>5</sup>
- For what our state pays this year for the Department of Defense, we could afford \_\_\_\_\_ instead. (Go to <http://nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/>. Select your state and "Enacted Department of Defense for FY 2012.")
- Protecting the Pentagon while cutting other programs will hurt our state. Our state receives \_\_\_\_ from the federal government for Pentagon procurement compared to \_\_\_\_ for certain human needs programs. (Find your state: [http://fcn.org/state\\_budget\\_sheets/](http://fcn.org/state_budget_sheets/))
- Pentagon spending is the least efficient job creator. For every 100 jobs created by Pentagon spending, the same investment would create 251 jobs in education, 169 jobs in health care, or 147 jobs in clean energy.<sup>6</sup>

### Pentagon Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

- The Pentagon has lost, wasted and misspent more than the total budgets of 5 other federal departments - State, Interior, Commerce, Justice and Energy.<sup>7</sup>

### Questions to ask Staffers

- A number of groups and individuals from across the political spectrum, including The Sustainable Defense Task Force, the Simpson-Bowles Commission, and Senator Tom Coburn all recommend \$1 trillion in cuts to Pentagon spending - the same amount

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<sup>2</sup> Stephen Daggett, Costs of Major U.S. Wars (Congressional Research Service, June 29, 2010). <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RS22926.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See [http://fcn.org/issues/budget/Index\\_to\\_Practical\\_Options\\_to\\_Save\\_Billions\\_in\\_the\\_Military\\_Budget.pdf](http://fcn.org/issues/budget/Index_to_Practical_Options_to_Save_Billions_in_the_Military_Budget.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2012, SIPRI military expenditure database.

<sup>5</sup> The Coalition on Human Needs, "Self Inflicted Wounds: Protecting Families and our Economy from Bad Budget Choices," (April 2012) [http://www.chn.org/pdf/2012/BudgetReport3\\_29\\_12.pdf](http://www.chn.org/pdf/2012/BudgetReport3_29_12.pdf). See page 5.

<sup>6</sup> Project on Defense Alternatives. Commonwealth Institute. <http://www.comw.org/pda/111120pent-jobs.htm>

<sup>7</sup> See [http://fcn.org/issues/budget/Waste\\_Dollars\\_in\\_the\\_Pentagon\\_Budget.pdf](http://fcn.org/issues/budget/Waste_Dollars_in_the_Pentagon_Budget.pdf)

required by current law. Which of these recommendations would the senator support, if any?

- Would the senator be willing to oppose any effort to reduce the level of cuts to Pentagon spending in the Budget Control Act? If not, which programs would the senator cut instead?

### **Friends General Conference**

*FGC asks itself, “What is the Spirit calling us to do? What are our affiliated meetings asking from us? Who among our Religious Society will answer our call to service?”*

Friends General Conference is not a “denomination”. It is an affiliation of Yearly Meetings, Fellowships, and independent Monthly Meetings. It seeks to be a resource and service for those Meetings, represents us to the wider world, and connects us in ways that are difficult for meetings that tend to be scattered and small. It organizes a large Gathering of mostly unprogrammed Friends every summer and encourages visits and sharing among Friends to build relationships and a rich network for us. We are really blessed to be a part of FGC and its work.

Friends General Conference has had an incredible year, and members of SAYMA have been instrumental in finding the Way open. Thanks to many of us, FGC’s Stoking the Spiritual Fire Campaign has been a huge success, raising \$6.5 million dollars over five years. As the campaign wound down FGC has been reviewing current programs and projects, inviting Friends to participate in surveys on what programs and services of FGC they value and use, prayerfully considered where God is calling FGC as a Friends organization, and envisioning bold and exciting plans to help move in those directions while being fiscally responsible with the resources entrusted to FGC by their affiliated yearly meetings and donors all while continuing to offer a wide breadth of projects and programs for Friends in the U.S. and Canada. Many of us participated in surveys, SAYMA’s response rate was among the highest. With the help of our responses and the seasoning of various committees, FGC is prioritizing the support of; Deep Worship, Welcoming/Outreach and Loving Community.

The ministry of FGC continues to be at the heart of the organization. Religious Education offerings include curriculum like *Build It! A Toolkit for Building Intergenerational Spiritual Community*, and workshops on *Godly Play*. Quaker Quest continues to offer full-day workshops. The Traveling Ministry Program coordinates visits from seasoned Friends, often at the request of Monthly Meetings looking for a particular resource person. The annual White Privilege Conference is not a Quaker event, but has been well attended by Friends, FGC has been invited to be a part of future planning. Yearly Meeting Clerks have the opportunity to gather every two years at an FGC consultation to encourage each other in this role, share, learn and fellowship. We hope SAYMA’s next clerk will participate as the last three have been able to.

SAYMA is well represented in the work of FGC. Stoph Hallward is the current treasurer. Kristi Estes clerks the Subcommittee for Deepening – a part of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries. She travels for the Traveling Ministries Program and leads retreats for spiritual nurture. Liz Perch is on the Nominating Committee for Central Committee. Christina Van Regenmorter is the Assistant Recording Clerk. Tom Kenworthy is involved with development work. Maia Hallward has stepped back some from her position work with Youth Ministries, but volunteered

in small working groups as an alternative way to get involved in discreet projects, one was helping to facilitate a Consultation on Intervisitation this year. Gita Larson is on the committee for nurturing ministries/growing subcommittee, and is active with Quaker Quest. Quaker Quest from the beginning was a time-limited program, so we have been planning for the next phases of this ministry during the past year. At the moment, it appears we will move to a volunteer coordinated program with less staff than in the past, as the funding from grants ends. There are 40 Quaker Quest Travel Team members, with 30 currently active. Over the course of the Quaker Quest initiative in North America, 63 full day workshops have been conducted in Canada and the US; 18 half-day preparation workshops were offered, and 25 meetings have held public sessions. Over 10 events are already on the books for this fall. Quaker Quest is offering a full day workshop to each yearly meeting during the upcoming fall and winter season, at no charge. Each meeting in the yearly meeting can send two people to experience the workshop.

Looking forward, FGC is planning to launch an extensive web rebuild at the Gathering in the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, this has been the culmination of countless hours of work from volunteers and staff. We can anticipate a new set of Faith and Play stories for Quakers to be published soon. The staff of Quaker Books of FGC are a resource about the books and publications offered, please contact them with questions if you are looking for something on a specific topic or looking for a hard to find out of print book!

In the last year, the Committee for Nurturing Ministries has held several projects and events including:

- Consultation of Young Adult Friends in January 2012 to consider what kind of projects and support FGC can give to these Friends.
- Consultation on the ministry of intervisitation to explore what yearly meetings are doing and might do to encourage Friends to do more intervisitation within their own yearly meetings and among other yearly meetings to help rekindle a sense of spiritual connection among Friends and learn from each other. (February 2012)
- Offered support for Quakers to attend the White Privilege Conference that helped provide a strong Quaker presence at the Conference. (March 2012)
- Co-sponsored with FGC's Long Range Conference Planning Committee a training session for clerks for the High School and Young Adult Friends groups at Summer Gathering. (April 2012)
- Offered a supportive presence to Young Adult Friends dealing with concerns regarding the support they receive from their yearly meeting (May, July 2011)
- Visited approximately 15 meetings, worship groups, or Quaker organizations through the Traveling Ministries Program and consulted with several others.
- Gave a travel assistance grant through the Margaret Fell Fund to a monthly meeting supporting a member in extended travel in the ministry.
- Held regional retreats for Friends engaged in ministry.
- Led several Couple Enrichment workshops.
- Sponsored a consultation for Friends of Color. (November 2011)
- Served as spiritual support to new representatives to FGC Central Committee, the body of Central Committee and the clerks at the 2011 October Central Committee.

- Offered Quaker Quest workshops and trainings and held retreats for Quaker Quest Team Leaders including:
  - Public Sessions; 3 series
  - Full Day Workshops - 13
- Provided an active presence at the FGC Summer Gathering by:
  - Supporting the People of Color Center
  - Serving as prayerful presences in the High School and Young Adult Friends' meetings for worship with a concern for business
  - Offering two meetings for worship for racial healing and another where F/friends are invited to share their present joys and concerns regarding racism among us at the Gathering
  - Offering an opportunity for young Friends of Color to gather, reading stories and attempting to maintain our shared awareness of issues regarding equality.
  - Holding a gathering for Friends called to travel in the ministry.
  - Offered a workshop on Eldering and the Bible
  - Offered several interest groups on Quaker Quest, Faith and Play, Traveling Ministries, Religious Educations etc.
  - Couple Enrichment workshops

This doesn't even mention all the Friends from SAYMA who participate or lead workshops at Gathering. FGC depends on our contributions of funds, and energy, and spiritual support. We are enriched by their continued mission to nurture us and the larger community of Friends.

### **Quaker Earthcare Witness**

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a network of Friends in North America who are taking spirit-lead action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

This has been an active year for QEW. QEW has a new Clerk, Shelley Tannebuam, from the Strawberry Creek Meeting in California. Our two staff members, Anne Mitchell, Executive Secretary, and Louis Cox, Publications Coordinator, are busy working with Quakers around the world and creating new publications. Anne attended a conference of Quaker leaders in London England earlier this spring. Members of the QEW steering committee Mary Gilbert, Judi Lumb, and David Millar have traveled to work on environmental issues around the world related to United Nations initiatives and to the FWCC meetings in Kenya. In addition, QEW members have increased their cooperation with other wider- Quaker organizations. In particular, QEW has worked with FCNL on their new Earthcare Center. QEW has an active educational program at the FGC Gathering, including this year's Gathering in Rhode Island in July.

The themes for QEW for the past two years have been Food and Biodiversity. Each October, QEW holds its annual educational conference in Chicago. This past year QEW had speakers on food production and biodiversity in the urban environment. This year's fall conference will be from October 4 to 7, 2012 in Chicago with a continuing theme on food, food quality and food production for a sustainable future. Roy Taylor, SAYMA Representative to QEW, has been one of the primary organizers of these conferences. Everyone is welcome at the conferences. If you

become interested in the work of QEW, it is possible to join the steering committee after being active in the organization. This fall is also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Reports and representatives from over the years will be at the fall conference.

QEW also has an active mini-grant program to encourage Friends meetings to engage the ecological crisis in small ways. QEW will provide up to a \$500 grant to a Friends Meeting that plants trees, starts a garden, or increases the sustainability of the meetinghouse. See the QEW web-site for details on how to apply.

Communication with QEW is easy to accomplish. QEW has an active web-site where you can read all the latest materials created by and for Friends related to the environmental crisis. The two main publications, BeFriending Creation and Quaker Eco-Bulletin, are available in downloadable e-form on the web-site. There are also many booklets and pamphlets available. And it is possible to donate to QEW on the web-site also. The web-site is at <http://quakerearthcare.org>

### **Quaker House**

After an extensive search, Steve and Lynn Newsom of Charlotte Friends Meeting have been employed to succeed Chuck Fager when he retires in November, 2012. Technically it is Steve that we are actually hiring but that Lynn will lend her skills to the position as well.

Steve and Lynn are both longtime members of the Society of Friends. Together they have been involved with Monthly Meetings in Chapel Hill, Cincinnati, Roanoke and Charlotte. Lynn served on the early Quaker House board as a representative from the Chapel Hill Meeting. Since 2007, they together have served on the QH board from the Charlotte Meeting. They know what we are all about. In addition, Steve has experience growing up in a military family, as a veteran, and as a volunteer with the Plowshares Peace Center in Roanoke and the Center for Peace Education in Cincinnati.

Quaker House continues to pursue its primary mission of participating in the national GI Rights Hotline. The following description of the full array of GI Rights services available through QH is available on the website (<http://quakerhouse.org/>):

“If you are in the military, we can help you understand your rights:

- Discharge procedures & regulations
- Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP): If you have signed up for DEP and want to get out
- If you are AWOL or UA we can advise you on how to resolve your status.
- Conscientious Objection: If your conscience or religious faith is telling you not to take part in war, you may be a Conscientious Objector (CO), and the military is supposed to respect your beliefs. We can advise you about CO claims and help you through the process.
- Truth in Recruiting: If you or someone you know is thinking about joining the military, read this *important information* first, especially the messages from Sgt. Abe the Honest Recruiter.

We offer an individual sounding board, to help you understand your options so you can make up your mind in an informed manner. Our service is free and private. We do not report to any military or government agency. We are supported by private donations.”

In addition to GI Rights, Quaker House participates in other initiatives commensurate with its mission, reflecting the energies and talents of Chuck Fager, our current director. Two important examples are helping to organize a local response to homophobic statements by clergy provoked by the acrimony surrounding a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Second, Chuck continues his work against torture as one of the coordinators of QUIT, the Quaker Initiative to End Torture. They hope to develop ways to remind Friends of the continuing need for accountability in order to begin to return the US to the ranks of law-abiding nations. The larger goal is to resist the pressure to forget about US official torture. Chuck continues to visit the Johnston County Commission to witness monthly against the continued use of the airport there for torture flights. He has also developed a new "Investigate Torture, Mr. President," postcard to help build pressure for accountability. To get a free packet of postcards for yourself or your Meeting, write Chuck at Quaker House.

Financially, Quaker House is operating within its budget but our new directors will need to keep their eye on maintaining and extending its donor base to remain strong in the coming years in terms of program support and maintenance of the physical facilities. SAYMA remains a strategic partner in the good work of Quaker House.

### **Right Sharing of World Resources**

The scene has been played out many times in the 19 years that I have visited RSWR projects. After the visit, which consists of being greeted as the honored guest, viewing the income-generating projects, speaking to the group, and then some discussion with the women, we would drive away from the village. To start a conversation with the NGO director in the car, we would ask some variation of the question, “How did you come to do this work?” In virtually every instance, the response was, “This is my village.”

The world of grassroots organizations with which RSWR works is led almost entirely by people who have been able to get some education and move from their home village. These people are also the ones who have committed their lives to going home to help people in their village improve their lives. These men and women are passionate about this mission and deeply competent in their hard work of helping very poor women and their families improve their lot in life.

RSWR has been, and remains, committed to new, small organizations working with the poorest of the poor (women and children), for three key reasons:

- There are very few international funding sources to which these grassroots organizations can turn. In many instances, we are their only hope.
- In addition to funds, the work of empowering women via economic development requires technical competence, personal connection and dedication. Small, grassroots organizations certainly have the passion and commitment to assist the villagers (sometimes their fellow villagers) build a better economic life. They do not, however, have the technical competence, personal connections and access to funding sources that large funding organizations require. For

example, RSWR's policy is that we will not fund organizations with annual budgets over \$16,500. Most large funders will not fund organizations unless their annual budgets are at least twice that amount.

- RSWR places emphasis on personal contact and passion as part of a project. The aim of a RSWR-supported project is women's empowerment (with economic development being the means). Therefore, personal contact and passion are critical to the project's success. Helping poor people rise out of poverty and empowering women and their families requires meeting the people where they are, understanding their needs and being able to offer genuine, respectful guidance to assist them to grow in their own sense of power and accomplishment. Organizations which are known and trusted by the people, and which are able to be in relationship with the people with whom they work are in a unique position. These are the organizations in Kenya, India and Sierra Leone which RSWR supports.

Last October I traveled in Tamil Nadu India to do some site visits but, more importantly, to hold a series of three, one-day consultations with current and recent past project partners. The purpose of these consultations was to listen and learn. A part of what I learned was that it is increasingly difficult for new and small NGOs to get started, due to increasing governmental regulations in a post-9/11 world. This makes the life of an NGO director very hard. I asked many of them why they don't take their skills and move to a larger NGO which would provide stability and resources that are not available when working with the grassroots organizations. To a person, the answer was that ... it would take them away from their close connection to the poor people in the villages.

Working for RSWR for the past 19 years has been a tremendous blessing in my life. When I came to the organization, RSWR was a program of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas. The RSWR office was in a former linen closet at Community Friends Meeting, in Cincinnati, Ohio. I was the only paid staff, and was part-time. My primary focus was reviewing and preparing grant proposals for the RSWR committee's consideration for funding. RSWR's annual budget was about \$95,000 at the time.

In 1999, when FWCC devolved RSWR, we became a free-standing nonprofit organization with a board of trustees rather than a program committee. New staff have been hired over the years and we have developed field staff programs for our incountry work in Kenya, India and Sierra Leone.

RSWR is now able to offer training and support which help to make the projects more successful and sustainable. Our annual budget has increased 275% in these almost 13 years. It has been an extreme privilege to work with RSWR these past 19 years. My life and the life of my family has been deeply touched by hundreds of project partners with whom I have been blessed to walk and talk. As I begin a new work, back to the inner city of Cincinnati, I will carry all that I have learned and experienced in my heart. My prayer for RSWR is that we maintain this same commitment to working with passion for economic justice, and personal and community empowerment for the poorest of the poor. As we say in all the grant award letters, "Together, we can build the world of peace and justice that God desires."

Roland Kreager

## Attachment H: Monthly Meeting Responses to AFSC Queries

### **SAYMA Monthly Meetings' Responses to Queries for Friends on Quaker Witness and the Work of the American Friends Service Committee April-May 2010**

At the recent American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation Meeting (March 3, 2012), SAYMA's appointed Corporation members received a request from the AFSC Friends Relations Committee (AFR Committee) to ask Friends to consider three queries "...on Quaker witness and the work of the American Friends Service Committee." In its request, the AFR Committee asked for "appropriate contacts" in the SAYMA to whom these queries should be addressed.

In discussion with the Clerk of the committee, your Corporation members learned that the AFR Committee wanted to have responses to the queries from yearly meetings by the fall of this year. As SAYMA's yearly meeting agenda was already planned, we concluded that the best way to provide responses from SAYMA Friends would be to ask monthly meetings to consider them through a discussion or worship sharing session. The AFR Committee did not request a minuted response from yearly meetings.

Representative Meeting #128 (March 10, 2012) asked monthly meetings and worship groups to consider these queries and respond to the Corporation Members by May 15. Six meetings and one worship group sent the responses below.

#### **AFR Queries**

1. What one or two aspects of AFSC programs speak most clearly to your discernment of Quaker witness?
2. Is there a particular need or opportunity in your yearly meeting's region for work furthering Friends' Testimonies - work that Friends in your yearly meeting might support and take on - perhaps with guidance or coordination with AFSC? How are you working on this now?

(A third query was inadvertently omitted from the mailing, because of an error in scanning the AFR request for distribution by electronic mail. Unfortunately, the AFR Committee did not supply queries in electronic form. That query asked, "In what ways might AFSC more fully express Friends truths and hopes for the world?" To some degree, that query expands on the second query that all groups addressed. Perhaps these responses address it partially as well).

#### **Common themes in SAYMA responses**

Friends had some difficulty identifying *aspects* of AFSC programs, and instead tended to describe programs that they felt spoke to Quaker witness. Part of the explanation for this may be that in several meetings, Friends noted they had little knowledge of the programs themselves. Some wanted more contact with the AFSC. Friends in two meetings expressed concern about inconsistencies of some programs or activities with Quaker witness.

Economic justice, environmental stewardship/witness, prisons and the justice system, and peace were frequently mentioned, either in the context of Quaker witness or of needed support for



meeting concerns. Immigration was the most commonly mentioned opportunity for further work mentioned by SAYMA meetings.

Two meetings hoped for increased opportunities for Quaker volunteer service with the AFSC. One meeting put into words a thought that many may have shared: "How would AFSC recommend that small meetings affect change?"

The full responses from each monthly meeting are listed below, edited only to remove greetings and signatures.

### **Asheville Friends Meeting 4/22/2012**

The queries and answers were:

1. What one or two aspects of AFSC programs speak most clearly to your discernment of Quaker witness? Answer: Peace work, Support of Occupy Movement, Economic Justice, and Environmental Justice
2. Is there a particular need or opportunity in your yearly meetings region for work furthering Friends Testimonies – work that Friends in your yearly meeting might support and take on – perhaps with guidance or coordination with AFSC? How are you working on this now? Answer: Immigration - Suggestion was made that we hold a forum and present AFSC and their programs and then ask the questions.

There was also the suggestion that a presentation be made about what AFSC is doing, since some folks seemed unaware. Also, some wanted more time to discuss this (we did it during sandwich Sunday) but our Meeting is rather busy in the next few weeks, so we did it when we could fit it in.

### **Oxford Friends Meeting 4/22/2012**

The AFSC queries were read again:

1. What one or two aspects of AFSC programs speak most clearly to your discernment of Quaker witness:
2. Is there a particular need or opportunity in your yearly meeting's region for work furthering Friends' Testimonies, work that Friends in your yearly meeting might support and take on, perhaps with guidance or coordination with AFSC? How are you working on this now?

The AFSC is requesting feedback on these queries.

Friends felt they were not familiar with the current work of AFSC, so were unable to focus on individual issues that AFSC is working on.

Issues that rose that individual Friends were particularly concerned about are:

Economic justice and socioeconomic issues/poverty, secondary to changes in the economic structure of this country; death penalty; immigration; profiling; prison conditions; justice system reform; voter suppression.

Friends were cognizant that we are a very small meeting and do not have one issue that we intend to take action on except for our corporate support of ICM. This is important work for this community, addressing homelessness, poverty and emergency needs. We asked ourselves if there was more we could do or if the AFSC has any current work in this area that might serve as a resource.

How would AFSC recommend that small meetings affect change?

#### **West Knoxville Friends Meeting 5/4/2012**

A small group of F/friends met to discuss the AFSC queries at the West Knoxville Friends Meeting House. Since it was such a small group, this discussion does not reflect the spirit of West Knoxville Friends but may be helpful in formulating a response. This is a general summary of the discussion:

1. In general these Friends were impressed with AFSC's work with people rather than with government. AFSC is trusted to use money wisely and work directly with people. It is the only global Quaker outreach organization and a co-sponsor of QUNO. There is concern that the employees are more of a political/activist bent rather than sticking to Quaker/pacifist principles.
2. These Friends feel very cut off from AFSC. We've not had direct contact with AFSC for over five years. They did not see the need for support for the yearly meeting since most Peace and Social concerns committees function at the level of the Monthly Meeting. Some of the issues of most concern: immigration, nuclear arms in our region, environmental witness, are generally handled at the local level. These friends would like to have a direct connection with AFSC.

#### **Celo Friends Meeting 5/7/2012**

About ten Friends met after meeting around a table during our weekly potluck. Our discussion was not in the manner of worship sharing but rather in the form of a spirited discussion. One Friend had formerly been in charge of a work camp in Mexico that was under the offices of the AFSC, two others are parents of a current employee of the service committee, two others were former members of different regional boards, all had direct experience with the AFSC. This represents my notes, and [they] were not shared with the meeting as would be the normal procedure for framing minutes. Note that we are a rural meeting in Southern Appalachia.

There is a need in our region and throughout the US for opportunities for Friends of all ages to do service work under Quaker auspices.

Make better use of social media about successful programs.

The service committee is too top down-there are excellent workers in the field who do not feel supported by Philadelphia.

There is a need in training leadership in community organizations around immigration issues.

More needs to be done about providing leadership around immigrant rights for non-immigrant citizens; witness for immigrants that are about to be deported.

We have very positive feeling about the peace witness run out of Atlanta by Alice Loveless, Ann Lennon, and Morgan Khamala.

**Charleston Friends Meeting 5/13/2012**  
**Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group**

Thirteen Friends from the Charleston Monthly Meeting and Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group discussed the queries related to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) that we received via SAYMA. After a brief discussion of AFSC's history and current program activities, Friends had the following responses to the two queries we considered.

1. AFSC programs and Quaker witness. Many Friends do not know what the AFSC does. Of the programs presented in the current edition of *Quaker Action* (Spring 2012, available during the discussion), several Friends thought several did not represent Quaker witness as they understood it. They were considered "good things," but not rising to the level of "witness." Friends cited examples of Quaker witness such as the caring for victims of war during World War I.

While praising such historical programs as authentic witness, Friends expressed concern with how AFSC programs get started and get implemented today. There were examples of very small ventures that the AFSC can jump into (such as West Virginia's House that Love Built) that work and allow Friends to witness to Quaker testimonies, but other, longer-standing AFSC programs were characterized as "a closet full of elephants," that were not necessarily connected with Quaker witness.

One Friend described how she had searched the AFSC website for opportunities for young Friends to be involved in AFSC work, and was surprised to few local programs in which teens could participate. This was in an organization whose roots were in direct voluntary service. Another Friend asked, "If I wanted to work for the AFSC in Charleston, could I *do* anything?"

2. Needs/opportunities for work furthering Friends testimonies in West Virginia. Friends gave several examples of needs, many of which they'd personally identified and tried to address. Support for hungry neighbors through food pantries, and better nutrition through community gardens were examples.

One Friend noted the issue of protecting people from ruinous funeral expenses, and described efforts to form a funeral alliance. Another noted that this issue might not seem an AFSC concern at first blush, but might be viewed as a matter of economic justice. So, others observed, might end of life care, in which wealthy people withdraw to protected communities, but there is less support for "aging in place" that is the only choice for most people.

Environmental stewardship and sustainability are two important concerns in West Virginia, especially with the development of natural gas through hydraulic fracturing.

International peace efforts/antiwar actions have long involved Friends. We wondered why there was less activity now than in recent years, and Friends expressed appreciation of AFSC's support through Boots on the Ground and the Cost of War display.

One Friend described recent experience speaking to a high school ROTC group, in which he received a "cool" reception. Support for peace education in schools seems needed. At present, there is statewide concern with bullying in schools; volunteer conflict resolution work in schools might be welcome.

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting 5/15/2012**

1. What one or two aspects of AFSC programs speak most clearly to your discernment of Quaker witness?

Peace and Conflict Resolution

2. Is there a particular need or opportunity in your yearly meeting's region for work furthering Friends' Testimonies – work that Friends in your yearly meeting might support and take on – perhaps with guidance or coordination with AFSC? How are you working on this now.

Schools – There have been an excessive number of macing of students in schools by the Birmingham Police. This is an area that we felt could use some conflict resolution. Currently some members/attenders from our Meeting are working with a group called Faith In Action to get this macing stopped.

Immigration – the Alabama immigration law has been a challenge to our Meeting. Rather than having a GBM response, we have chosen to join in as individual members/attenders to participate in functions sponsored by the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice and the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama.

Meditation Programs for Prisoners - one of our attenders who is a reporter for a local TV station reported on a program in a area prison that has a meditation program that has decreased the violence within the prison. AFSC possibly could help with this by conducting training for setting up and conducting these programs in other prisons. We will be following up on this to determine if this has been or could be expanded to other prisons.

There are a few opportunities to conduct Compassionate Listening sessions such as the one done in Alaska over fishing rights. One would be between police officers who have maced children in schools and the children who have been maced. Another could be between opponents and supporters of the Alabama immigration law.

## Attachment I: Administrative Assistant's Report

### **1. Yearly Meeting Registration**

In my second and hopefully last year entering SAYMA registrations, I once again spent countless hours creating a database that could be used for all manner of reports, including meal counts, housing requests, workshop counts, nametag creation, JYM lists, volunteers, and all financial information. Although an earlier deadline meant I was not quite as pushed for time in getting counts to Warren Wilson as last year, I continue to be frustrated by Friends apparent inability to be timely and communicate well.

### **2. Directory**

I had planned to have a draft directory available at yearly meeting for Friends present to correct. However, losing ten productive days at the beginning of May with a mild transient brain trauma/concussion and recovery, coupled with not receiving the files from most of the larger meetings until just at or after the deadline is making this less likely. Drafts will be sent to meeting contacts with a short turn around, and the directory will be published on schedule in July, albeit not quite as thoroughly reviewed.

### **3. Faith & Practice Revision**

Six hundred copies of the newly revised *Guide to Our Faith and Practice* were ordered from Lulu, the print on demand publisher chosen by the ad hoc publishing committee. I spent over 4 hours unpacking the books and packaging them for meetings as pre ordered. I also received and deposited advance payments for most of the orders, thus eliminating any cash flow issues for the yearly meeting.

### **4. Other duties**

A complete as possible census is attached to this report. I monitor the list serves, answer routine emails, forward requested materials to Friends, solicit and distribute State of the Meeting reports, and coordinate hospitality requests for rep meeting with the host meeting. I submit an expense report to the treasurer each month, including all receipts for debit card purchases.

## Attachment J: Epistles

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association  
Yearly Meeting Epistle June 7-10, 2012  
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina

To Friends Everywhere,

We met on warm, sunny days of late spring under the theme “Walking Cheerfully over the World,” on the verdant campus of Warren Wilson College. With renovations underway in the cafeteria, our eating area was moved to a smaller café with a large patio adjoining it. Although the serving area was cramped, the chance to mingle and munch in the perfect weather all weekend seemed more a gift than a sacrifice. Even with the move from the cafeteria we still celebrated many flavors of ice cream; the line for ice cream was as long as ever. Among the 219 Friends who came to our gathering were 153 older adult Friends, affectionately called OAFs. Forty first-time attenders enriched our gathering. We were overjoyed to welcome and hear reports from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends Peace Teams, and Friends General Conference (FGC). We also had a visitor, Alicia Lucasi, from Bolivia who is traveling to share about Quaker Education Fund of Bolivia, which provides board and room as well as guidance for students who live a four to eight-hour walk from the nearest public school, and only return home on the weekends.

We enjoyed two plenary sessions, one on each of Thursday and Friday evenings. On Thursday Young Friend Camille Beugeard Platt spoke of her experience assisting her aunt and uncle in their mission day care center in South Africa. Many of the center’s children were orphaned, some were HIV positive, but what touched Camille was their friendliness and acceptance of her. Her slides accompanying her talk captured the children’s love and cheerfulness. Although Camille was struck by the poverty of many and extreme wealth of a few in the community surrounding the day care center, she is eager to return to work toward better lives and education for the children she met on this six week sojourn. On Friday night Geeta Jyothi McGahey shared her experience – still fresh in heart and mind – at Kabarak University in Kenya at the Sixth World Conference of Friends in April 2012. Joy in worship and song, giving thanks and praise to God flavored the conference. Geeta shared the stories of plenary speakers who explored the way we are called to be salt, not sitting idle in a shaker, not overly salting as when Friends run themselves ragged, but properly salting to be effective; as well as being light: candles illuminating those around us, sparked to flame by Spirit. She carried the message of Friends who have experienced great loss from violent conflicts, yet who can actively seek to heal a wounded people through truth, justice and reconciliation. We felt the inspiration of the world gathering conveyed by Geeta’s sharing.

Attachment J: Epistles

Our meetings for worship were deep and comforting. Our meetings for business were, for the most part, smooth and informative. We recalled the thorough process of preparation for the World Conference in Kenya and considered “The Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice” approved by that body after the concerted work of FWCC World Consultation on Global Change held in 2010 and 2011. Friends feel challenged to respond in a variety of ways to this call. One highlight for our yearly meeting was the publishing of the revised *Guide to Our Faith and Practice*. Friends will be able to purchase a book or use the online version, with an e-book to be available soon. Afternoon workshops covered many topics, from kite-making and flying to Quaker history and activism. Worship-sharing groups met twice to consider a set of queries about how each of us has encountered and nurtured the Light and endeavored to unite with the wider Quaker community all over the globe.

Our thirteen children 4 to 11 years of age in the Junior Yearly Meeting enjoyed numerous fun activities, including playing in the creek that runs through the campus. The 37 twelve-year-olds through high school group in Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) also had separate activities and workshops as well as a business meeting during our gathering. As many as seventeen Young Adult Friends (YAFs) enjoyed fellowship, shared simple meals and held their meeting for business. YAF also hosted a worship sharing on Saturday evening and welcomed graduates of the SAYF program. On Friday evening the YAF and older adults shared their insights and experience with the high school aged SAYF young adults in an anonymous question and answer session known as “Fishbowl”. The two groups separated and placed written questions into a pot, from which the other side would draw and answer in front of the group. The event was intended to be a safe place where questions could be answered in a loving and nurturing atmosphere. The older and younger groups learned a lot from each other.

On Saturday we had a multigenerational talent show before dinner and the Hibbard Thatcher Memorial Folk Dancing led by Frederick Park, after dinner. The plenary talks, the workshops, worship as well as the fellowship and playful times at yearly meeting all brought us closer to fulfilling our theme of “walking cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.”

## YAF Epistle

Alright, this is the year it's going to work. Why this year? Why is this the year we'll put together a robust, healthy YAF group? Well, for one thing, we had more YAFs in our group this time than any time in recent memory - as many as seventeen YAFs attended SAYMA this year. Not to mention seven recent SAYF graduates whom we hope will remain in our community in the coming year. On top of that, seven members from the greater community attended our worship sharing with us, where we talked about community and God's calling.

Numbers alone don't make a cohesive group if you can't hold them together through the long haul, however, so this year we as YAFs will keep in touch, taking the occasional opportunity to remind ourselves that we are part of a community. I've been told we have a Facebook group, so I'll be spending the coming year trying to find this Facebook group, and possibly making another one.

My sister Rachel, in the meantime, will be working on a website to give us an online presence. Our YAF magazine, that on our first attempt last year received a whopping one submission from our very own industrious Willa Mae, will get one more go - this time Casey promises to really hold our feet to the fire - In a Quakerly way of course - so we will be sure to have that magazine full of content for its upcoming first publication.

One thing that we know you all have been clamoring for is participation in the greater community. This year we continued our participation in SAYF's eye-opening fishbowl and notoriously rambunctious wink game. Rachel spent the entire weekend with the SAYF community as a FAP. But that's not all. We are pleased to announce that this year, drum roll please, we have two YAFs scheduled to be on the nominating committee, Judy and Bethany. Bethany will be especially busy this year, also a member of the outreach committee and nominated for the planning committee with Rachel as well.

All in all, I'd say things are looking pretty good for the YAF community.

Submitted by

Samuel Leeman-Munk



Attachment K: Nominating Committee Report

Nominations for June 2012 Final

New appointees in 2012 appear in boldface. Blank lines indicate appointments needed.  
 Note: All terms are two years in length unless otherwise noted. Terms begin & end after YM each June.

Officers

CLERK	<b>Carol Nickle</b>	<b>12-14</b>	<b>West Knoxville</b>
ASSISTANT CLERK	<b>Tim Lamm</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>Berea</b>
RECORDING CLERK	Adrienne Weir	11-13	Asheville
TREASURER	<b>Alan Robinson</b>	<b>12-14</b>	<b>Asheville</b>
ASST. TREASURER	<b>Charles Schade</b>	<b>12-14</b>	<b>Charleston</b>

Standing Committees

Ministry & Nurture Committee

CLERK	<b>Errol Hess</b>	11-13	Clinton
MEMBER	<b>Thais Carr</b>	12-14	Nashville
MEMBER	Sharon Annis	11-13	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Becky Ingle	11-13	Chattanooga
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mary Kedl		West Knoxville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mike Passino		Nashville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kristi Estes		Oxford
MEETING APPOINTEE	Jere Licciardello		Chattanooga
MEETING APPOINTEE	Jane Goldthwait		Celo
MEETING APPOINTEE	Edie Patrick		Asheville

Finance Committee

CLERK	Linda Trask	11-14	Nashville
MEMBER	Leann Swarm	11-14	W.Knoxville
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	11-14	W. Knoxville
MEMBER	<b>Wood Bouldin</b>	12-14	Greenbrier WG
MEMBER	David Ciscel	11-14	Memphis
Ex officio	Alan Robinson – Treasurer		Asheville

Personnel Committee

CLERK	<b>Tim Lamm</b>	<b>12-13</b>	Berea
MEMBER	Susan Phelan	11-13	Huntsville
MEMBER	<b>Bob McGahey</b>	12-14	Celo
MEMBER			
SUPERVISOR OF Adm. Asst.	<b>Carol Nickle</b>		<b>West Knoxville</b>
SUPERVIOISR SAYF Adm. Asst.	Mark Wutka/Aaron Ruscetta		Nashville/Atlanta

SAYF Steering Committee

CO-CLERK	<b>Mark Wutka</b>	12-14	Nashville
CO-CLERK	<b>Aaron Ruscetta</b>	12-14	Atlanta
MEMBER	Mary Linda McKinney	11-13	Nashville
MEMBER	<b>Chuck Jones</b>	11-13	Chattanooga
MEMBER	<b>Martin Gonzalez</b>	11-13	Durham
MEMBER	<b>Wren Henrikson</b>	12-14	Chapel Hill
MEMBER	<b>Terese Hildebrand</b>	12-14	Berea
MEMBER	<b>Jonathan Schinhofen</b>	12-14	Lexington
ex officio	Jonah McDonald		Atlanta

JYM oversight committee

CONVENER	<b>Beth Myers</b>	12-14	Berea
CONVENER			
MEMBER	<b>Jane Goldthwait</b>	12-14	Celo
MEMBER	<b>Charlie Wilton</b>	12-14	Berea
MEMBER			
JYM Coordinators	Michael Kramer & Jennifer Dickie	12-15	Atlanta

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

CLERK	<b>Carol Ciscel</b>	12-13	Memphis
ADULT PROGRAMS	<b>Hank Fay</b>	12-13	Berea
WORKSHOPS	Bill Wolfe	11-13	Nashville
CO-REGISTRAR	<b>Laura Seeger</b>	12-13	Chattanooga
CO-RESGISTRAR	<b>Annie Black*</b>	12-13	Cookville
BOOKSTORE	<b>Chris Berg</b>	12-13	Greenville
ASST. BOOKSTORE	Jere Licciardello	12-13	Chattanooga
LOCAL ARRANGMNT	Bob Welsh	12-13	Swannanoa
JYM COORDINATOR	<b>Michael Kramer &amp; Jennifer Dickie</b>		Atlanta
YAF REPS	Rachel Leeman Munk/Bethany Vega	12-13	Chapel Hill/Memphis
WORSHIP CO-ORD.	Sallie Prugh	11-13	Columbia
LAYOUT EDITOR	<b>John Potter</b>	12-13	Nashville

\*not approved at YM

Young Adult Friends

CLERK	Samuel Leeman-Munk	Chapel Hill
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Nominating Committee (named by the Naming Committee at SAYMA)

Co-CLERK	David Ciscel	12-14	Memphis
Co-CLERK	Barbara Esther	12-14	Asheville
MEMBER	Kit Potter	09--13	Nashville
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	09--13	W. Knoxville
MEMBER	Hank Fay	09--13	Berea
MEMBER	Laura Maynard Lane	11-13	Asheville
YAF MEMBERS	Judy Scoville/Bethany Vega	12-14	Nashville/Memphis

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

CONVENER	<b>Jere Licciardello</b>	12-14	Chattanooga
MEMBER			
MEMBER	<b>Bob Welsh</b>	12-14	Swannanoa
MEMBER	<b>RD Flowers</b>	12-14	Nashville

Ecological Concerns Network

CO-CLERK	Chris Berg	11-13	Greenville
CO-CLERK	Pat Williams	11-13	Atlanta

Southern Appalachian Friend

EDITOR	Beth Ensign	11-13	Atlanta
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Web Support

MANAGER	<b>R.D Flowers</b>	12-14	Chattanooga
CLERK	Hank Fay*	12-14	Berea

\*not approved at YM

Archivist

Archivist	<b>Missy Ivie</b>	12-14	West Knoxville
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Outreach

CLERK			
MEMBER	<b>Dennis Gregg</b>	12-14	Crossville
MEMBER	<b>Hank Fay</b>	12-14	Berea
MEMBER	<b>Sandy Tracy</b>	12-14	West Knoxville
MEMBER	<b>Roger Wise</b>	12-14	Charleston
YAF MEMBER	<b>Bethany Vega</b>	12-14	Memphis

## Ad Hoc Committees

### Faith & Practice Revision

CLERK	Alan Robinson	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	Began 01	West Knoxville
MEMBER	<b>Wood Bouldin</b>	Began 12	Greenbrier WG
MEMBER			
MEMBER	Edie Patrick	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER			
MEMBER	<b>Thais Carr</b>	Began 12	Nashville

### Handbook

CLERK	Sharon Annis	06	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	02	West Knoxville
MEMBER			

### Site Selection

CLERK	Errol Hess	?	
MEMBER	Linda Trask	?	Nashville
MEMBER	Kathleen Mavournin	?	West Knoxville
MEMBER		?	

### Development

CLERK			
MEMBER	Leeann Swarm	?	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Bob Welsh	?	Swannanoa
MEMBER	Brian Yaffe	?	Celo

## Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

(normally serve three-year terms)

AFSC Corporation	<b>Free Palazzo</b>	12-15	Atlanta
	<b>Lee Ann Swarm</b>	12-15	West Knoxville
AFSC SOUTH REC*	<b>Peter Furst*</b>		Birmingham
FCNL	Joe Parko	10--13	Crossville
	<b>Charlie Wilton</b>	12-15	Berea
	Jane Hiles	10-13	Birmingham
FGC	Gita Larson	10-13	Columbia (Asheville)
	Kristi Estes	11-14	Oxford
	Stoph Hallward	11-14	Atlanta
FLGBTQC			
FWCC	<b>Geeta McGahey</b>	12-15	Celo
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	<b>Adrienne Weir</b>	12-15	Asheville
QEW	Roy Taylor	11-13	Canton
QUAKER HOUSE	Larry Osbourne	11-13	Knoxville
RSWR	Karen Morris	12-15	Atlanta
WM. PENN HOUSE	Jane Hiles	11-13	Birmingham

\*Appointed by AFSC

## Attachment L: Kabarak Call



### The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice was approved on 24 April 2012 at the Sixth World Conference Friends, held at Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya. It is the culmination of the FWCC World Consultation on Global Change which was held in 2010 and 2011. It is being circulated with the Conference Epistle.

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me". We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations – this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumors of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbors. We waste our children's heritage

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems – by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

- ❖ We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.
- ❖ We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?" (Job 38:4)
- ❖ We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.

- ❖ We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us – where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step.

**Bwana asifiwe. A pu Dios Awqui. Gracias Jesús. Jubilé. Salaam aleikum. Migwetch.  
Tikkun olam. Alleluia!**