

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
43rd Annual Meeting, June 13-16, 2013**

Thursday, June 13, 2013, 2:00 – 4:45 PM

43-01: Opening Worship

We gathered for the 43rd annual gathering of the Southern Appalachia Yearly Meeting and Association with an extended period of silent worship in the familiar surroundings of the Canon Lounge at Warren Wilson College.

43-02: Welcome and Reading.

Carol Nickle, Clerk of SAYMA, welcomed Friends to our sessions. She invited us to greet one another and said that now we would continue with our meeting for worship with attention to business. She asked that we hold each other in the Light as we continue this afternoon and throughout the weekend. Some Friends who are holding our business sessions in the Light are sitting together at the front right, and those who feel so led are invited to join them.

Our theme for this gathering of SAYMA is “Let us see what love can do.” In keeping with our theme, the readings for each business session will be Quakers (not the most well-known) at different periods of history and in different areas, who have exemplified what love can do. The reading for this session is about Anthony Benezet.

In eighteenth-century Quakerism, a second biblical precept begins to guide the peace-centered reform movements: “Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you.” This was read by the prophetic members of the Society of Friends as God’s affirmation of “equal regard for all (humankind),” and it became the rallying cry to their opposition to slavery and affirmation of the rights of Native Americans.

Philadelphia Quaker reformer, schoolteacher, and abolitionist Anthony Benezet (1713-1784) sought a nonviolent solution to the colonies’ dispute with England and published pamphlets urging the cause of peace. Throughout all of his works on war and peace, Benezet’s founding commandment is the biblical injunction to love one’s enemies. For Benezet, enemy love is diametrically opposed to the conditions of war

Anthony Benezet taught African Americans for twenty years in his home, and persuaded the Society of Friends to establish a school for black and Native American children. He also organized education for white girls and poor children. His 1762 treatise against slavery was foundational for the work of many abolitionists, including Thomas Clarkson and Methodist founder John Wesley.

Benezet’s practice of nonviolence developed through a process of cultivating compassion, the virtue he considered essential for human transformation: “If we are moved with compassion toward our fellow-men, let us cherish this sensation; it is a call from the God of Love ... God is Love – and he that dwelleth in God dwelleth in love and God in him.”

Friends Journal, January 2013

43-03: Introductions/Roll Call

The Recording Clerk called the roll. Friends were asked to indicate their presence when their meeting or worship group was called. A full list of those attending the Yearly Meeting is appended as Attachment A.

We recognized Jack and Martha Willis, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Jack reminisced with us about the full-circle that they have lived together, being present at Cumberland State Park at the birth of SAYMA and being here today on their anniversary.

We welcomed and recognized first-time attenders. We also welcomed and recognized the following visitors: John Meyer of Friends General Conference, and Lucy Duncan of the American Friends Service Committee.

43-04: Agenda Review

The Clerk called Friends' attention to the proposed agenda for our business session printed in the Yearly Meeting materials and posted on the wall behind the clerk's table. On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approved the agenda.

43-05: Epistle Committee

The clerk announced that Gita Larson (Asheville) and Arnold Karr (Columbia) have volunteered to serve on the Epistle Committee. Karen Morris (Atlanta) agreed from the floor to serve on the committee. The purpose of the Epistle Committee is to summarize the spirit and essence of our gathering. It is shared worldwide among Friends to communicate the spirit of our gathering for Truth's sake.

43-06: Naming Committee

The purpose of the Naming Committee is to recommend Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee. Service on the Naming Committee is limited to the duration of the Yearly Meeting, at which time it is laid down. The clerk announced that Kathleen Mavournin has agreed to serve on the Naming Committee. The clerk called for additional volunteers from the floor of the meeting. The clerk will announce the names of members of the committee later in our sessions.

43-07: Administrative Assistant's Report [Attachment B, Administrative Assistant's Report]

Liz Perch reported that most meetings submitted Census data. The final 2012 census was distributed [Attachment C: 2012 SAYMA Census].

A draft of the 2013-14 Directory is on the Reading Table in Gladfelter. Attenders have a final opportunity to proof. The Directory will be distributed in July.

The Post Office has changed the zip code for the SAYMA PO box: It is now 31414. All payments (including assessments and donations) should be mailed to Liz at the SAYMA office. She makes the deposits. It was noted that having deposits separate from payments is good accounting practice.

43-08: Southern Appalachian Friend (SAF) Editor's Report [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Beth Ensign reminded us that her tenure is up as SAF Editor. She has enjoyed doing the work. She is willing to pass that responsibility on to another Friend who may be led to serve as Editor. She is also willing to continue as Editor. She posed the question to us that she has posed in the past in Representative Meeting: "What role should Southern Appalachian Friend" serve? Should we consider laying it down?

Comments from those of us at the Yearly Meeting: Several Friends expressed that they prefer "Slow" such as Slow Food and similarly Slow Information (one advantage is that, in contrast to Internet based information, Slow Information provides a filter to what information we do finally get); one purpose of the newsletter was for us to keep in contact throughout the year (queries, testimonies, spiritual lives of our meetings) in order to continue to be in touch with each other's' spiritual growth; One Friend expressed concern that we run the risk of being left behind if we remain slow and cited a study by the Barnard Group. Beth reported that for source material, she receives a newsletter from one monthly meeting and that Errol Hess sends compilations of information gathered from some monthly meetings, Additionally, Beth includes, in the newsletter, requests for material to stimulate input from meetings. She is unable to travel to Representative

Meetings. Therefore, SAF is dependent upon the material that she receives from Friends. Integrating electronic versions of monthly meetings' newsletters might help to provide material to include in SAF. Another Friend who was previously Editor of SAF, mentioned that he used to receive meeting minutes, sense of meeting correspondences and a regular contribution by a member who has now moved and is in another YM. Beth confirmed that she welcomes contributions from individuals or from meetings, either is fine. Our sense is that we would like to continue with the Southern Appalachian Friend as we have been so far.

43-09: Minute presented by Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting [Attachment G, Swannanoa Valley Minute]

Bob Welsh from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting read a proposed Minute that urges a boycott of Israeli settlement products. The Minute was approved by the SVFM at its business meeting on April 7, 2013. Bob reported that the Minute was approved only after study, a lot of labor, and reflection on the experience of Friends who have been present in the West Bank. It was not easy. After its adoption by SVFM, the Minute was distributed to SAYMA monthly meetings. Friends did not discuss the Minute at this session.

43-10: Friends General Conference – John Meyer, FGC Rep [Attachment H, Traveling Minute from FCG]

Gita Larson, one of three SAYMA representatives to FGC, introduced John Meyer, a visitor from Friends General Conference.

John told us that he is primarily here to listen, observe, and engage in two-way conversations. He is looking for ways that FGC can support our monthly meetings and worship groups. He also wants to find out what meetings are doing in order to bring those developments and innovations through FGC to share with other Friends.

He reported that FGC has a new youth education curriculum entitled "Sparkling Still". Quaker Quest is still providing programs that meetings can use for both in reach and outreach. Friends can use FGCQuaker.org to find out about the work of other meetings. FGC has developed Quaker Cloud, a central cyber-location that serves monthly meetings with web administration and maintenance. The New Meetings project is particularly exciting for new meetings and isolated meetings, providing support to get them off to get a good start.

Stoph Hallward, Kristi Estes, and Gita Larson are SAYMA representatives to FGC. Their report is included in Attachment E.

43-11: Nominating Committee [Attachment I, Nominating Committee Report]

Barbara Estes, co-clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the report. Carol Nickle thanked Barbara and the Committee for its work over the past several months, and Barbara replied that it was a team effort.

The Nominating Committee is posting a report beside the cafeteria and at the back table to allow Friends to see a written list of available opportunities to which they may feel led. On the sheet, Friends can see who has held the positions so that they might interview those leaving about what the job has entailed and meant to them. Barbara reminded us that we could either wait until the last minute to answer a call to fill a position or we could research the positions, find our inspiration, and step up to the call in advance.

Friends approved the following nominations for two year terms, to June 2015, unless noted:

Missy Ivie (Personnel Committee)
Christina VanReganmorter (FGC Representative 2013 Oct - 2016 Oct)
Charles Schade (Treasurer)

43-12: Personnel Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Tim Lamm, Clerk of Personnel Committee presented the report. He explained that the SAYMA Assistant Clerk serves as Clerk of the Personnel Committee. The job descriptions for both SAYMA employees have been revised within the past 18 months and have been given to the Handbook Committee. The Personnel Committee has recommended a merit raise for the SAYMA Administrative Assistant and a cost of living raise for the SAYF Administrative Assistant. The Committee has given its recommendations to the Finance Committee.

43-13: Handbook Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Sharon Annis reported that the SAYMA Handbook has been in draft form since 1995. Even as the Handbook Committee members arrived at Yearly Meeting they found new developments to be included. Some examples of items to be added include: Child Safety concerns, details regarding roles of planning committee participants, and personnel committee job descriptions. The Handbook Committee has a goal of getting the Handbook into a disc format and on the Web by the end of the summer.

Interesting findings that the committee found in their work: they found that they had to clarify policies that appeared in minutes, but did not appear in Faith and Practice, nor in the last Handbook; there was no description of Website or Website Administrator; there was no history or even mention of SAYF, which we recognize as a significant part of SAYMA.

The Committee acknowledged Bettina Wolff [Donavon], among many others, who have worked on the Handbook throughout the years.

In order to keep the Handbook current, the Committee recommends:

1. Ad Hoc committee continue and be expanded to include one more member (total of three)
2. At least once a year, each committee and officer review Faith and Practice and the Handbook and ask themselves questions concerning how pertinent and accurate the entries are in these documents in reference to the work that those committees and individuals do.
3. Any changes would be kept in the SAYMA office and website.
4. The Handbook should be considered secondary to Faith and Practice and, therefore, if any significant changes are made to the Handbook that would affect Faith and Practice, they should be kept in the office until the annual review of Faith and Practice.

One Friend suggested that the Ad Hoc Handbook Committee might become a standing committee.

The question was raised as to why the Handbook has been left in draft form and what implications that has as to which policies are actually to be followed. The Handbook Committee pointed out that the content of the Handbook is not actually policy, but rather specific nuts and bolts instructions to get various tasks done.

The SAYMA Clerk stated that further discussion of the Handbook will be carried forth to Representative Meeting, and she welcomed more comments.

43-14: Finance Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Lee Ann Swarm, interim Clerk of Finance Committee, presented the report. The Finance Committee acknowledged Charles Schade for stepping into role of Treasurer. Lee Ann reported that we have now spent down our excess funds to leave our reserve to its target amount of half of SAYMA expenses.

Lee Ann explained that the balanced budget that the Finance Committee will present does not include contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations or Yearly Meeting Funds. The Committee recognizes that the budget is actually still a work in progress, and the Committee seeks clarity on how to proceed supplying our Yearly Meeting Funds and support Wider Quaker Organizations.

The Clerk pointed out that this is an opportunity for us to reassess our priorities.

Because the Treasurer's Report sheds light upon the issues brought up by the Finance Committee's Report, the Clerk suggested that we receive the Treasurer's Report today rather than tomorrow.

43-15: Treasurer's Report [Attachment K, Treasurer's Report]

Charles Schade, Assistant Treasurer, distributed and presented the report. He explained that our budget bottom line fluctuates a good bit because we operate on a "cash basis" in terms of our accounting.

We have received income for Yearly Meeting, but have not yet paid the associated expenses, giving us an inflated picture of our fiscal health.

Charles called our attention to the report of Historic Revenues and Expenses. The chart shows that for the past seven years, exclusive of expenses and revenue for Yearly Meeting sessions, our operating expenses are rising and contributions are declining.

Charles reminded us of the importance of isolating the banking roles of incoming and outgoing funds as standard and prudent accounting practice.

43-16: Closing Silence

The Clerk called our attention to the Sign in the Foyer which reminds us to have gratitude. We settled into a moment of silence to give thanks for our work together and for the food that we were about to eat.

Friday, June 14, 2013, 8:00 – 10:45 AM

43-17: Opening Worship

We began with worshipful, silent, expectant waiting.

43-18 : Welcome/Reading

Carol Nickle, Clerk, welcomed Friends. She shared a reading about the Goff family in Ireland, who gave unconditional love to both sides during the Rebellion of 1798.

"Practicing Peace in the World through Loving Enemies"

The Goffs were among the many Irish Quaker families during the Rebellion of 1798 who practiced peace by offering medical assistance in their homes to both loyalists and rebels. Although both sides threatened them with death, these families steadfastly refused to turn their patients over to military authorities. And they tried to love both the loyalist and rebel soldiers who were intimidating them, even as they condemned the violence they were perpetrating.

The unconditional love emanating from these families, who willingly put themselves at risk, convinced soldiers on both sides that Quakers like the Goffs were simply practicing peace by extending care to everyone in need. So, although journals from that period record that both armies had scorched earth policies, historian Margaret Hirst wrote that because no known Friends' homes were destroyed during the rebellion, "strangers passing the houses of Friends and seeing them preserved with ruins on either hand would frequently, without knowledge of the district, say they were 'Quaker houses.'

Only God can know the contents of a human heart, so the Irish Quakers knew they could never fully comprehend what was impelling the soldiers to acts of desperation and cruelty. They also knew from looking within themselves, that the capacity for evil is in us all, and so instead of passing judgment, they expressed loving kindness to those who found swords within their hearts and chose to use them.

The challenge of loving those traditionally considered enemies lies at the heart of the Quaker peace testimony, because when we are able to extend our love, even to those who would frustrate, terrorize, or harm us, we bring God's grace of transformative love into our homes, communities, and a world weary of violence. The future of our planet may ultimately depend on our ability to enlarge our capacity for redemptive love and our willingness to extend that love even to those who threaten us.

London Yearly Meeting, during the Crimean War, 1854:

No plea of necessity or of policy, however urgent or peculiar, can avail to release either individuals or nations from the paramount allegiance which they owe unto God who hath said, "Love your enemies."

Practicing Peace: A Devotional Walk Through Quaker Tradition by Catherine Whitmire

43-19: Introductions/Roll Call [Attachment A, Roll Call]

The Recording Clerk read the roll call of SAYMA meetings and worship groups, and Friends associated with those meetings indicated their presence.

Visitors present today are Rebecca Sullivan and Liz Nicholson of Quaker Voluntary Service in Atlanta, and Alicia Lucasi, from La Paz, Bolivia. Alicia is with the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF), started in 2002, which provides education for resident students. Alicia expressed how difficult and expensive it was for her to come and asked for our financial support of the BQEF.

The Clerk reminded us to be recognized by her before speaking, and to address the Clerk or the group, not an individual Friend. Also please give name and monthly meeting. Written announcements can be put on the Clerk's table for reading at the end of the business session.

43-20: Naming Committee

The Clerk announced that we still need additional Friends to serve.

43-21: Ministry and Nurture Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Errol Hess, Clerk of the Ministry and Nurture Committee, presented the report.

Aside from the accompanying report, Errol proposed that Minutes that will affect how we do things or indicate action items (would affect our Faith and Practice and/or the Handbook) be pulled out of the whole document and be stored someplace that will call our attention to it sooner rather than later. Discussion included suggestions to store our documents in the FGC Cloud and in a searchable format so that a Friend seeking specific information could locate it simply. Our web manager pointed out that our website has a place for committees that has not been used much and that it could be used as long as someone indicates to the web manager where that data should be categorized. Our Administrative Assistant rephrased the issue explaining that when minutes are made at SAYMA Meetings for Business, that they be flagged if they require an entry or change of Faith and Practice or the Handbook in order for those changes to be implemented in a timely manner. One Friend expressed that this is a big topic; another Friend suggested that this go to a committee to make a recommendation. The subject will be discussed further at a later time.

Ministry and Nurture brought before us the question of what to do with Worship Groups that are not under the care of one of our Monthly Meetings. Typically Worship Groups are under the care of a Monthly Meeting and, therefore, are a part of SAYMA, listed in our directory, and included in communications to our memberships. Ministry and Nurture recommends that Worship Groups that prefer not to be under the care of a Monthly Meeting not be listed in the SAYMA directory nor included in SAYMA communications. This does not apply to Worship Groups who are in the process of seeking sponsorship.

Friends raised a concern about our potential for growth being hindered by limiting the visibility of and outreach to “non-SAYMA” Worship Groups in our area. Where does the “Association” in our name come into effect? Can an individual Friend be associated or affiliated with SAYMA? If Worship Groups receive our newsletter and other communications from SAYMA, should they be expected to share in the cost?

Two more recommendations that will be postponed include:

- When a Monthly Meeting does not respond to census or state of the meeting requests over a period of two years, then we recommend that they not be included as having active meeting status.
- Ministry and Nurture is concerned that knowledge of SAYMA is not getting out to all of our meetings (e.g. newsletter not being seen) and will be working on ways to connect more thoroughly and widely with SAYMA members (individuals and meetings).

The following Friends have been appointed to the Ministry and Nurture Committee by their monthly meetings: Kim Saderholm (Berea) and Wood Bouldin (Charleston & Greenbriar Valley Friends).

43-22: Naming Committee

The clerk announced that Kathleen Mavournin and Bert Skellie are serving.

43-23: Wider Quaker Presentations; Right Sharing of World Resources (Betty Tonsing) [Attachment E, Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations]

Karen Morris, SAYMA representative to Right Sharing of World Resources, introduced Betty Tonsing, who has been General Secretary of RSWR for about a year. Betty has recorded her RSWR travels on the RSWR website. Her background includes UN USAID as a Fulbright Scholar, Catholic Relief Services, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, and working in South Africa. She wrote “Quaker in South Africa; Social Witness against Apartheid” as a PhD dissertation (published by Mellon).

Betty shared with us good news that is also very troubling. She travelled up and down the coast with Samson Ababu, of Kenya, listening to his stories about the work he has done with women, increasing their earnings from \$1 to \$2 a day. Although this is still so little, it is a double of their earnings. In response to his friends’ jibes as to why he is working with women, Samson emphasized that he is “still a peace-maker”. The upshot is that the improvement of women’s economic situations reduces violence.

Betty emphasized that RSWR gives Grants, not Loans. The RSWR program is one of “Bless and Release”, the money going to women who then circulate the earnings back into their own community.

In addition, RSWR has educational materials, including intergenerational games, that are available through the website. This afternoon Betty will be sharing “The Graham Cracker Game” with an intergenerational group as one of the workshops. She has several items available for purchase.

43-24: Nominating Committee

Barbara Esther presented an update. Friends approved the following nominations for two year terms, to June 2015, unless noted:

LeeAnn Swarm (Clerk, Finance Committee)
Wood Bouldin – (Ministry and Nurture Committee) [changing from Monthly Meeting appointee to YM at large member]

43-25: Wider Quaker Presentations: American Friends Service Committee (Lucy Duncan) [Attachment E, Wider Quaker Organization Reports]

Lee Ann Swarm introduced Lucy Duncan, who is the Friends' Liaison for the American Friends Service Committee. Lucy will have been on the staff with AFSC for two years this August. She is also a storyteller and will be available during this weekend, so do not hesitate to seek her out to hear what she has to share with us.

Lucy read from the AFSC Epistle to yearly meeting, and stressed that AFSC strives to move people from the harm they are experiencing to healing. Peace begins with moving from trauma to healing, and listening undergirds all transformation. AFSC says "Challenge us and engage with us."

The Quaker Meeting Church Liaison Program is welcomed by a now smaller AFSC staff as a way to gain from Meetings more than just monetarily. Assistance from AFSC is available for meetings to work on Peace and Social issues.

Lucy explained that AFSC is focusing on Palestinian-Israeli relations, immigration, mass-incarceration, and education to reduce Islam-phobia

Lucy reminded us of Projects for Youth such as the "If I had a Trillion Dollars" video-making project.

"Acting on Faith", a blog on the AFSC site including interviews of Quaker Peacemakers is intended to promote dialog.

AFSC and FCNL had a joint consultation which produced "Shared Security", a new document / working paper on foreign policy, which Friends are invited to help refine and then carry the message beyond Quakers.

AFSC also invites us to engage with them to let them know what it is that makes an organization Quaker.

AFSC is not going to move back into the Meeting Houses, but AFSC and communities with whom AFSC interacts have much to teach Quakers and Quakers could play more of a roll in what they have to offer AFSC.

Attention was called to the Threshing Session this afternoon.

43-26: Southern Appalachian Young Friends Steering Committee Report [Attachment L, SAYF Report to SAYMA 2013]

Mark Wutka, Co-Clerk of SAYF Steering Committee presented the report.

This year SAYMA has hired a new SAYF Administrative Assistant, Jonah McDonald, who has had help moving into that position from outgoing Therese Hildebrand. SAYFers are a younger crowd this year, with only two outgoing seniors and only one of them able to attend SAYMA this year.

A development that has had a big impact on SAYF is the new Child Safety policy which will require a background check of all adults working directly with SAYMA minors.

There is still a need for adults to volunteer to be a "Friendly Adult Presence" for SAYF retreats. Friends who want to see what it might be like to serve as a FAP could volunteer as "Night Shepherds" at this SAYMA Yearly Meeting.. A "Night Shepherd" serves for about a two-hour shift to provide a watchful presence and act as a reminder of the guidelines, or to give assistance. For instance, a Night Shepherd could help SAYFer who has a headache. Friends are reminded that SAYF has its own Nurturing Committee concerning guidelines, interpersonal relations, and other issues among the teens. Adult Friends can best serve as FAPs by being present and supporting the community of SAYFers. The SAYF community strives to embody what Quaker love is.

Carol Nickle explained how to submit an application to volunteer to work with the youth, including a background check. It is a three-part application that is to be submitted to Liz Perch only. It will be kept completely confidential in a locked file cabinet to protect the applicant's personal information such as social security number.

43-27: Finance Committee – First Reading of Budget [Attachment J, Budget]

Lee Ann Swarm presented the draft FY 2013-2014 budget. The Finance Committee is asking Friends to offer insight concerning two issues:

- 1) how to handle the decrease in our net potential resources
- 2) how these diminished funds should be allocated to Funds and wider Quaker Organizations

Friends were reminded that committee clerks should communicate with the Finance Committee to inform them of your committees' budgetary needs or wishes.

43-28: We ended our business meeting with moments of silence.

Saturday, June 15, 2013, 8:00 – 10:45

43-29: The buzz of discussion and fellowship that we have been sharing in this weekend made way easily and familiarly for us to settle into the silent worship we come to share.

43-30: Welcome/Reading

The Clerk welcomed Friends to this session and recognized first time attenders. The reading continued our exploration of Quakers whose lives exemplified "Let us see what love can do."

Bayard Rustin was a twentieth-century Quaker civil rights leader and advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. In a 1943 letter to the U.S. Draft Board, he spoke from this spiritual tradition when he wrote:

The Conscription Act denied brotherhood – the most basic New Testament teaching. Its design and purpose is to set men apart – German against American, American against Japanese. Its aim springs from a moral impossibility – that ends justify means, that from unfriendly acts a new and friendly world can emerge ... Segregation, separation, according to Jesus, is the basis of continuous violence. That which separates man from his brother is evil and must be resisted.

Until recently Rustin's role in the civil rights movement has been obscured because he was an openly gay black man in the America of the 1950s and 1960s. A brilliant peace activist, a key voice in introducing nonviolence into the civil rights movement, and the pivotal organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, Rustin attributed his activism in part to his Quaker upbringing and to the influence of his Quaker grandparents.

In 1957, Bayard Rustin assumed a guiding role in meetings leading to the formation of the Southern Negro Leaders Conference on Nonviolent Integration. He believed that the final organizational gathering of January 11, 1957, could "go down in history as one of the most important meetings to have taken place in the United States." It was here that the twin platforms of the civil rights movement – freedom and nonviolence – were agreed upon. "We call upon them (the Negro people) to accept Christian love in full knowledge of its power to defy evil...Nonviolence is not a symbol of weakness or cowardice, but as Jesus and Gandhi demonstrated, nonviolent resistance transforms weakness into strength and breeds courage in the face of danger." For Rustin, the commitment to nonviolent change as the path to social equality showed the way to addressing the economic injustices of society and the deep moral crisis of the United States.

Rustin was one of the authors of 1955's *Speak Truth to Power*, one of the key texts of the civil rights movement. Published by the American Friends Service Committee, it said: "The early Friends realized only too clearly that the Kingdom of God had not come, but they had an inward sense that it would never come until somebody believed in its principles enough to try them in actual operation. They resolved to go forward then, and make the experimental trial, and take the consequences. So we believe and so we advise.

Friends Journal January 2013

After the Reading, knowledgeable Friends provided a context in which Bayard Rustin may have originated the phrase “Speak Truth to Power”.

43-31: Introductions/Roll Call [Attachment 02, Roll Call]

Present today was Christina Repoley, Founding Executive Director of Quaker Voluntary Service: The Clerk pointed out to us that there is a December 2012 *Friends Journal* article about QVS and their work. Christina reminds us that at the 2010 Plenary, she spoke about her leading to create Quaker Voluntary Service. Currently, seven Young Adult Friends serve full-time for local non-profits in Atlanta. Two new programs will be opened: one in Philadelphia and one in Portland, Oregon. This year QVS will be welcoming 22 volunteers to the three city network. SAYMA and Atlanta Friends Meeting have been very supportive and instrumental in the origination of the program. Many of QVS volunteers are young people who have had Quaker influence in their lives that has led them to be Seekers. www.quakervoluntaryservice.org. An Atlanta Friend shared with us that Spiritual Nurturers of Atlanta and QVS volunteers were mutually transformed by a mentoring pairing that they participated in together.

43-32: Nominating Committee [Attachment I, Nominating Committee Report]

Friends approved the following nominations for two year terms, to June 2015, unless noted:

Carol Ciscel (Handbook Committee)
Wren Hendrickson (Co-Clerk, SAYF Steering Committee)
Kathleen Mavournin (SAYF Steering Committee Member)
Arnold Karr (SAYMA Representative to Quaker House)

The Co-Clerk of Nominating related her own experiences of how her participation in committee work provided her with an opportunity to get to know others better and to become more active in SAYMA as a way to encourage us to step up to committee work ourselves.

43-33: American Friends Service Committee [Attachment M, AFSC Threshing Unedited Transcript]

Approximately 80 Friends attended the Meeting for Threshing on Friday afternoon to share their thoughts on the following queries:

1. What is SAYMA's response to the AFSC letter denying our request to provide SAYMA with the percentage of Quakers on their staff?
2. What should be SAYMA's relationship to AFSC?

Twenty-one people spoke. Others would have, except that we ran out of time. The meeting was successful in allowing the expression of a wide range of views on the queries and the tone of the meeting was receptive.

The Clerk opened the discussion of this issue with the question “Where are we led?” Do Friends have a leading in reference to either of the queries?

One Friend, who came from another religion to become a Quaker (as did other Friends who spoke on Friday), expressed a hope that we could focus more on the question of values and practice rather than on membership-

One Friend spoke to the effects of the work done by non-Quakers in West Virginia in carrying out Quaker values. She wondered if hiring practices is really the issue of concern that we have with AFSC or if it is an issue of trust or

One Friend reminded us that we have Threshing Sessions as an acknowledgment that the Spirit is not leading us all in the same direction. This Friend expressed belief that we are not yet united concerning our relationship with AFSC and that we should be prepared and might look

forward to the process through which we will lovingly continue to thresh and discern our way to Unity in this question.

The Clerk expressed a sense of the meeting that Friends are indeed not ready to reach unity today.

Another Friend reminded us to maintain engagement with AFSC throughout the process. Lucy Duncan, Member of Goshen Monthly Meeting (PhIYM), Liaison from AFSC,

1. Reminded us that we can send up to 5 representatives to the AFSC corporation meetings and that we could do so to the March corporation meeting and that AFSC will help with the funding
2. Friends Relations Committee of AFSC is currently dealing with the question "What does it mean to be a Quaker organization" and they would like our input . Every year the General Secretary will present a report regarding this question at the corporation meeting
3. Next year Lucy will be leading a full-day workshop concerning the AFSC Meeting/Church Liaison program in Greensboro, NC.

A Friend wondered if we could move forward through a response to the AFSC's letter reflecting the concerns that have come up in our discussion and to communicate that we have not found unity in regards to the relationship we will maintain with them

A Friend shared her recent discernment for membership as being central to her spiritual path now. The Friend went on to provide us with an analogy of SAYMA as an aging body where one physical ill has a multitude of effects on that person and that person's relationships. The touch of the physical therapist to that original ailment is painful, but suddenly healing and renormalizing of all of those connections that the original ill had put out of kilter.

One Friend believes that we might be in unity in terms of the second query, that is that we might be in unity in finding more ways to engage with AFSC. The Friend provided several suggestions of how we might do that.

A Friend described her experiences with young people doing volunteer work through another organization. The Friend's wish is that AFSC provide opportunities like these and others to young people and that AFSC were better known to these young people.

The Clerk reminded us that we are still not in unity. We will take it up again very briefly tomorrow. The Clerk invited Friends who are led to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a response to AFSC's letter to come forward, in case such a committee is called for.

43-34: Finance Committee - Treasurer's Report [Attachment K, Treasurer's Report]

Treasurer Charles Schade reminded us that the Treasurer's Report was presented on Friday. He provided a brief summary of that report and opened the floor to comments and questions regarding that report.

Declining revenue cannot be attributed to a decrease in membership since census data actually reflects an increase.

It was explained that money is transferred into the FWCC Third World Delegate Fund every year and held there until FWCC asks for monies to fund a third world delegate to attend a triennial.

A Friend stated that regardless of the reason for our declining revenue, it might be reasonable to expect a \$60 assessment per member in order to offset that.

The Treasurer and Finance Committee acknowledge the positive feedback that they have received concerning the transition that they have made over the last year, but they remind us that they are all still in learning—curve or data-overload shock.

43-35: Finance Committee - Budget [Attachment J, Proposed FY2014 Budget]

The Finance Committee would like for the Ministry and Nurture Committee to be responsible for oversight of Spiritual Development and Friends Release Funds, and for the Young Adult Friends to be responsible for oversight of the Youth Enrichment and Young Adult Scholarship

Funds. Oversight would include recommendation of the allotment that should be made to those funds in the budget.

The Finance Committee welcomed input and questions. A Friend expressed a concern in our apparent drop in revenue. The Friend would like to know if this was something that reflects just a way that a deposit was administered or is it a potential on-going pattern? The Friend hopes that we do not decrease our contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations based on a non-trend.

Alicia Lucasi of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund let us know that this would likely be her last visit to the United State. She asked SAYMA if we would be willing to take on the support of one student as if they were a son or daughter in her program. The Clerk let us know that Alicia will be writing an article for the Southern Appalachian Friend.

One Friend shared that her Monthly Meeting (she suspects similar to others), whether times are lean or fat, always keeps up its contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations and other organizations and concerns.

43-36: Peace and Social Concerns Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Convener Jere Licciardello reported that the Committee is very busy and has a vibrant membership. The Kabarak Call has been addressed well in the Monthly Meetings and each of those meetings has a story to tell about their responses. There will be an open Kabarak Call discussion at lunch today.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends that the Palestine-Israeli Minute presented to the Committee by SVFM be shepherded through SAYMA by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and brought to monthly meetings and worship groups to consider. Friends expressed concern that in reference to this question, we need to move with all deliberate speed in our response and that a response might be needed before next year's Yearly Meeting. Jere encouraged Friends to read the Minute to see and act upon the concrete recommendations in it.

*43-37-01: Friends approved a minute that Peace and Social Concerns Committee will shepherd the minute (4-7-13 minute approved by SVFM) on Israel and Palestine through SAYMA Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

One Friend would like to hear syntheses of the collective responses and the shepherding processes of Peace and Social Concerns at Yearly Meetings.

43-38: We closed with silence.

Sunday, June 16, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00

43-39: Worshipful silent expectant waiting

We gathered this Sunday morning with a period of silent worship.

43-40: Welcome & Reading

The Clerk welcomed Friends and shared a Reading about Quaker Margaret Hope Bacon.

In 1944 Margaret Hope Bacon stepped into a maelstrom of suffering when she accompanied her new husband, Allen, to his conscientious objector placement at a state mental hospital in Maryland. There Margaret witnessed unimaginable suffering and needed unremitting patience to endure the long, hazardous days she spent working with potentially violent patients. Tranquilizers were not available, and the building was dark, rank, and noisy. She described it as a place where "disturbed patients roamed about the halls, hallucinating and shouting, and often fighting."

On her first day of work, Margaret was filled with fear when told to bathe Sophie Brown, the most uncontrollable woman on the unit. In addition to mental illness, Sophie suffered from tuberculosis of the bowels and Margaret found her huddled in a locked room, naked and mumbling.

The stench was overwhelming. When Margaret greeted the woman, Sophie lunged at her, but Margaret was able to restrain her by pinning her arm to her back. When she held Sophie's bony, feverish body, Margaret felt her own fear subside as she was filled with a deep sense of compassion for Sophie's tragic condition. From that day on Margaret was genuinely fond of Sophie, and she was the only staff person with whom Sophie would cooperate.

Eventually Margaret was transferred to another part of the hospital. Two years later she heard that Sophie experienced a short period of clarity and spoke coherently for the first time in twenty-two years as a result of a lobotomy. Some of her first words were, "How is that nice Mrs. Bacon? She is the only friend I've had since I came to this place."

Sophie's inquiry confirmed Margaret Hope Bacon's belief that enduring patience, anchored in God's love, can break through isolation, comfort fears, and bring peace into the most difficult of circumstances. Having endured we can then gratefully acknowledge, as did the poet Emily Dickinson, "Lord, by thy favor thou has made my mountain to stand firm."

Practicing Peace: A Devotional Walk Through Quaker Tradition by Catherine Whitmire

43-41: Introductions/Roll Call [Attachment B, Roll Call]

The Clerk welcomed visitors Allison Letz of Quaker Voluntary Service, an attendee at Atlanta Friends Meeting, and Steven and Lynn Newsom of Quaker House, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

43-42: SAYMA Representative Meetings:

The September 28, 2013, meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee.

The March 15, 2014, meeting will be held in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Clerk stated that having the Spring 2014 Rep. Meeting in Huntsville expands our meeting locations to include one of our smaller monthly meetings as the host meeting. This is a stretch for small meetings, but seems a positive step in strengthening our SAYMA community. To aid in this endeavor, the Clerk is appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to study, discern, and bring a recommendation to the September Representative Meeting concerning what assistance, financial or otherwise, may be needed by Huntsville from SAYMA. Liz Perch is sending a survey form to all individuals who have attended Representative Meeting in the last two years to obtain information to be used by the ad hoc committee and others as we look at the cost of Representative Meetings. Susan Phelan from Huntsville Meeting and Errol Hess, Clerk of Ministry & Nurture Committee, will serve on the ad hoc committee, and a third person will be appointed.

43-43: Quaker Earthcare Witness Report [Attachment E, Wider Quaker Organization Reports]

Roy Taylor reported great things are happening with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and SAYMA has a role in how the organization is moving forward. Roy, SAYMA's representative to QEW will take on the role as Clerk of the organization in October. David Ciscel, of Memphis Friends, already holds the officer position as Treasurer.

43-44: American Friends Service Committee [Attachment E, Wider Quaker Organization Reports]

Friends were invited to share concerning where they believe SAYMA should go in reference to our relationship to AFSC. Stimulating dialog, beginning with writing a letter replying to AFSC's response to our 2011 Yearly Meeting minute and strengthening our relationship with AFSC through connection with one or more of the regional offices were both suggested. Friends were reminded of the invitation by Lucy Duncan to engage in three different ways with AFSC, the first being that Meetings were invited to send indicators of what makes an organization Quaker. A substantial number of Friends have come forward to be on an Ad Hoc letter-writing committee to prepare a

letter to be presented to Representative Meeting. Concerns were expressed that letter-writing might become an on-going argument or that it might just be ineffective. A Friend recommended that if we were to evaluate the “Quakerliness” of AFSC, we might first examine its Mission Statement and then see how closely AFSC’s actions follow that Mission Statement. The percentage of funding that is received by AFSC from Quaker sources was reported by one Friend to be only 15% and therefore that Friend suggested that AFSC might not be as responsive to Quaker concerns as it is underrepresented in its funding pool.

The Clerk expressed a sense of the meeting that we are not ready or united to write a letter, but that we are prepared to form an Ad Hoc Committee to continue to examine and discuss where SAYMA may go from here in reference to AFSC and that that Committee will bring a report to Representative Meeting.

Lucy wanted to let us know that although Quakers may only represent a small percent (but that percentage has not been assessed recently) of funding, other funders are influenced by Quakers and that we are again invited to engage with AFSC through Meeting/Church Liaison Project.

43-45: Reading of Epistles: [Attachment O, Epistles]

SAYF Epistle:

Southern Appalachian Young Friends held six normal retreats and two nurturing retreats this school year. The number of SAYFers has not changed much since last year for a total of sixty-eight. In August we revamped our guidelines, which had not been changed since 1995. We have also developed a phone tree for emergencies. The retreats have including themes on nature, community building, and opportunity.

The Clerk thanked the SAYFers and the adults who work with them. SAYF is the future of SAYMA!

Young Adult Friends Epistle:

The YAF Epistle was sung with a chord progression and is attached.

43-46: Naming Committee

The Naming Committee brought forward Kathleen Hardee of Nashville and Jane Goldthwaite of Celso to serve on the Nominating Committee, each for a two year term. Friends approved.

43- 47: Nominating Committee

Friends approved the following nominations for two year terms, to June 2015, unless noted:

Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

Michael Galovic (Representative to Friends World Committee on Consultation)

Arnold Karr (Representative to American Friends Service Committee)

Lisa Rose (Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness)

Susan Phelan (Representative to Friends for Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgender and Queer Concern)

SAYMA Committees

Pat Williams (Peace and Social Concerns Committee)

Mike Mikel (Outreach Committee)

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Chris Berg (Recording Registrar)

John Potter (Worship Coordinator)

SAYMA officers

Susan Stark (Assistant Clerk to June 2014)

Susan Phelan (Recording Clerk to June 2014)

The Nominating Committee is still seeking two Junior Yearly Meeting programming/oversight Members, an Assistant Treasurer, Co-Clerks and Members of Ecological Concerns Network, a Development Committee Clerk and one Member, Faith and Practice Committee Clerk and one Member, and one Member for Outreach Committee.

A Friend expressed that there has been a tension concerning AFSC Representatives over the years, in that although there can be up to five representatives, there are two problems: 1) having Friends interested in serving 2) the cost associated with each additional representative. Lucy Duncan said that AFSC is prepared to provide funding for representatives beyond the funding provided by the Yearly Meeting.

Friends interested in filling positions or serving as a representative should speak with a Nominating Committee member.

43-48: Outreach Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Hank Fay, Co-Clerk, reported that the Committee has united on a two-year action plan which includes contacting all SAYMA meetings and worship groups, working to identify common needs, and perhaps looking for ways to highlight Outreach at the 2015 yearly Meeting.

43-49: Website Committee [Attachment D, Committee Reports]

Steve Livingston reported that the Committee has concerns. They are seeking input, advice, and feedback from Friends to help create an attractive, inviting, and useful web presence. They are just beginning and look forward to a fulfilling and fruitful process.

43-50: Web Manager Report [Attachment N, Web Manager's Report]

R.D. Flowers, Web Manager, reported that the web and email has been successfully moved to new servers, which have added capabilities.

43-51: Reading of Epistles [Attachment O: Epistles]

Junior Yearly Meeting

Jennifer Dickey and some of the children reported on JYM. They took long walks and practiced listening. They used *The Quiltmaker's Gift* to ponder this year's Yearly Meeting theme. Jennifer and Michael thanked all the volunteers who helped this year.

The clerk thanked Jennifer and Michael for their dedication and work with JYM, our future!

43-52: During a review of the minutes corrections were made to the minutes to reflect more accurately what Friends shared with us so that our minutes might provide a truer representation of our minds and hearts in regards to our relationship with AFSC. In relation to that, one Friend expressed a concern that any proposed action on the part of SAYMA related to our relationship with AFSC be brought back to Yearly Meeting.

43- 53: Reading of Epistles [Attachment O, Epistles]

The epistle was read and approved as attached.

Carol Nickle thanked the Epistle Committee for their hard work and an excellent Epistle. The Epistle will be distributed to Friends worldwide.

43-54: YM Registrar's Report

Carol Ciscel presented the registrar's report:
This year at SAYMA, we were attended by:

175 Adults
18 Children
52 SAYF
14 YAF

Our attendance seems to reflect the changes in the economy. Additionally, this yearly meeting we nearly doubled the number of scholarships provided.

43-55: Site Selection 2014, 2015

Liz Perch reported that Warren Wilson College will be shortening its conference season in the coming years to accommodate campus maintenance. Final decisions about how to accommodate both college and outside groups are still being made; we will be offered dates when our college liaison knows what is available.

*43-56-01: Minute of Thanks

- Thank you to Tim Lamm as he completes his terms as Clerk and Assistant Clerk, to Adrienne Weir as she completes her term as Recording Clerk, and to all outgoing officers, committee members and representatives who have completed their terms of service.
- Thank you to Carol Ciscel, Clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, and the Members of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee for their excellent work on this year's Yearly Meeting.
- Thank you to Liz Brace and the Warren Wilson staff for their care of us this Yearly Meeting session.
- Thank you to the meetings who provided Chat and Chew this year. They were really wonderful.

43-57: Closing Worship

We closed our time together with worship, some silent, some bringing spoken messages, and some bringing messages of song.

Carol Nickle, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Adrienne Weir, Recording Clerk

Attachments

A: Attendance List (Print copies only)
B: Administrative Assistant's Report
C: 2012 SAYMA Census
D: Committee Reports
E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports
F: State of the Meeting Reports
G: Minute from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting

H: Traveling Minute for John Meyer, FGC
I: Nominating Committee Report
J: Proposed FY 2014 Budget
K: Treasurer's Report
L: SAYF Reports
M: Transcript from AFSC Threshing Session
N: Web Manager's Report
O: Epistles

Attachment A: Attendance

Attachment B: Administrative Assistant's Report

1. Directory

A draft of the 2013-2014 directory will be available near the registration table/reading table in lower Gladfelter. Please check your entries and make corrections as needed. A final draft for each meeting will be sent in a week, and the directory will be ready to publish in early July. As always, opportunities request paper copies, CD copies, and digital copies will be widely publicized.

2. Banking

As the treasurer is also reporting, payments, donations, assessments, and other deposits should be sent to the SAYMA office, PO Box 5848, Savannah, GA 31414. Deposits are generally made within 2 business days. Electronic records (scans) are sent to the treasurer. A retention policy is being developed and new files are being created.

3. Child Safety

Considerable time has been spent setting up procedures for implementing the child protection policy. It remains to be seen how much time this will involve going forward.

4. Other duties

A complete a possible census is attached to this report.

I have been working with Ministry and Nurture to identify meetings that are not fully participating in the life of SAYMA.

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.

In service,

Liz Perch

Attachment C: 2012 SAYMA Census

	Asheville	Athens ¹	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Foxfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville	
1.a. Recorded members																						
Adults	29	28	171	42	9	0	6	46	24	33	15	5	6	7	8	6	41	44	10	50	67	
under 18	3	4		3	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	3	1	
Subtotal: Members	32	32	171	45	10	0	6	50	24	34	15	5	6	7	8	6	47	45	10	53	68	
1.b. Attenders																						
Members of another SAYMA meeting	1	1	0	0		2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Members in another Yearly Meeting	3	0	0	0		0	0	7	2	1	1	0	3	3	0	3	1	1	0	15	0	
Not members of RSOF	19	0	124	24	14	1	0	31		11	30	5	3	12	6	17	21	47	3	27	16	
under 18	14	0	52	21	1	0	0	8	0	3	9	0	0	0	5	5	13	25	0	5	5	
Subtotal: Attenders	37	1	176	45	15	3	0	46	3	15	40	5	6	15	13	25	35	74	3	47	21	
TOTAL: Individuals to report to SAYMA	69	33	347	90	25	3	6	96	27	49	55	10	12	22	21	31	82	119	13	100	89	129
Adults considered inactive	4		35	17	1	0	2	12		14	5	0	2	2	4	4	20	4	6	14	39	18
Report to FWCC (Includes PM/WG attenders; NOT members of other YM's)	65	32	347	90	25	1	6	89	24	48	54	10	9	19	19	28	81	117	13	85	89	125
Reported to FWCC last year	53	32	329	84	32	1	17	77	19	55	45	13	9	19	13	28	69	129	18	76	97	121
Change	12	0	18	6	-7	0	-11	12	5	-7	9	-3	0	0	6	0	12	-12	-5	9	-8	3
Members who																						
Attend your meeting	29		d/c	23	7		5	27	17	19	8	5	4		3	2	21	38	4	32	21	
Attend Worship Group under the care of your meeting	0	na	d/c	0	2		0	0	7	1	2	0	0	n/a	0	0	na		0		0	
Attend another SAYMA Worship Group	0	na	d/c	0	0		1	0		0	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	dk		0	0	2	
Attend another SAYMA Meeting	0	na	d/c	0	0		0	0		3	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	dk		0	0	1	
Attend in another Yearly Meeting	0	na	d/c	4	1		0	1		0	1	0	0	n/a	1	2	dk	2	0	2	na	
Attend in another religious tradition	0	na	d/c	0	0		0	5		0	1	0	0	n/a	0	0	2		0	2	na	
Attend rarely/not at all/don't know	4	19	d/c	18	6		0	17		10	3	0	0	3	1	4	14	4	6	28	43	

NOTE: Light grey shaded meeting did not provide new data; 2011 data was used. Foxfire Meeting has not provided new data for several years. Last available data was used.

	Asheville	Athens	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Foxfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville	
2. Count of Events																						
a. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders under care of meeting	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	1	1	1	0			0
b. Marriage/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders NOT under care of meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	n/a	0	0	n/a	1	0	1	1	0			d/c
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	0	0	0	0	0			0
d. births/adoptions	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	1	5	0				0
e. Deaths	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	n/a	1	0	n/a	2	1	1	1	0			0
f. transfers in	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	2	0				1
g. transfers out/withdrawals	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0				1
h. new members	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	2			0
i. new attenders	14	2	d/c	d/c		0	2	6	2	1	7	0	0	5	6	11	7	0	8			5
j stopped attending	dc	2	d/c	0	2	d/k	2	3	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	5	6	1				2

Meeting does not distinguish between members and attenders

Attachment D: Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
- Handbook Committee
- Ministry and Nurture Committee
- Outreach Committee
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Southern Appalachian Friend
- Web Committee

Finance Committee

The most important thing is to acknowledge the great work that Charles Schade has done in stepping into the role of Treasurer this spring. He has had to figure out the system and accomplish a great deal in a short amount of time. Thanks to him for all his work!

Several things to keep in mind about the budget: The budget for the next fiscal year will be approved at the September Representative Meeting. We have spent down the excess funds that we had in the past. Our reserve now is about where we want it - at about one half of the expenses of SAYMA other than those for our yearly meeting gathering. (About half of our budget is made up of the in and out income and expenses for our annual sessions.)

The budget we are presenting now includes an increase in salary for our administrative assistant and cost of living increases for both staff.

We are presenting a balanced budget BUT it provides almost no contributions for wider Quaker organizations or for additions to SAYMA funds. As a committee, we are not clear on how decisions should be made about how much wider Quaker organizations should receive. There are several solutions to finding funds to contribute to wider Quaker organizations: We could decrease other expenses (but it is not easy to see how this could be done), we could increase assessments, we could cut into our reserves or we could increase other contributions to yearly meeting. As a committee, we are not clear about how to proceed.

There are several issues that Finance Committee has been asked to consider or that we have realized that we need to consider. We have not forgotten these issues; we have not yet found the time to consider them adequately.

Handbook Committee

The 2013 "draft" of the Handbook is now available in a few paper copies.

We want to acknowledge the people who have worked on this handbook over the years. Especially Bettina Wolff who cared deeply for the History of SAYMA and developed the first Handbook for us.

The Handbook has always been considered to be in "Draft" form, it was expected that various aspects of the Yearly Meeting's operational functions would change based on the needs of committee(s) and individuals to accomplish their assigned functions. Some sections of the original 1995 publication have been removed as they were no longer needed as a result both of

our maturing as a Yearly Meeting and the efficient operation of the Office. We have retained a copy of this original and the 1996, 2003 and 2007 revisions for historical reference. Included in the new revision are copies of the Handbook/Guides for the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends)

During the process of the revision, we reviewed Faith and Practice as well as all available Minutes. We chose to not repeat what was in Faith and Practice but expand on various charges as currently in operation.

We wanted to share several observations noted during our research.

1. Minutes from the mid 1980 are not available in our archive.
2. Some of the Representative meetings in the mid 90's cannot be accessed on our current web site.
3. Reports from committees and programs during Yearly Meeting were not routinely included in the recorded minutes during our early years. Thus we have lost some significant history.
4. Memorial of Friends were included in earlier Minutes.
5. We often do not follow up with actions based on Minutes testifying to our Faith and concerns.
6. There is no history of the establishment of SAYF, a significant program of SAYMA.
7. There is currently no description of the function of the Web manager or a charge for the Web support committee. There is a Web site policy.
8. The Ad hoc development committee has a very vague charge and has not met as of this review.

The copies that are now available will be distributed to the Clerk, SAYMA office, Nominating Committee, Ministry and Nurture and Treasurer. Within several weeks a disc will be available from the Office and when appropriate put on the SAYMA web site. All people with positions of responsibility will have access to the disc and/or web site.

Recommendations:

1. Friends involved with SAYF be approached to write a history of SAYF.
2. Keeping the Handbook current: Hopefully there will not be significant changes in our policies and practices over the next few years, but to insure that we capture any changes we recommend:
 - a. That the ad hoc committee continues with two people plus the archivist.
 - b. At least once a year, each committee and officer review Faith and Practice and the Handbook asking the following questions:
 1. Is the current operational description of your work up-to-date and accurate, as you understand it?
 2. What is outdated? Is there missing information?
 3. Do changes or recommendations need to be brought to Yearly Meeting?
 - c. The Handbook Committee will remind each person/committee of this review and be prepared to help in developing corrected or new information to be included in the Handbook.
 - d. The additions or corrections will be made, as appropriate, in the SAYMA Office copy of the Handbook and on the SAYMA web site.
 - e. If the changes will affect our Faith and Practice, a note will be kept in a

Faith and Practice file in the SAYMA office for reference when and if a Faith and Practice examining committee is appointed.

AD Hoc Committee:
Sharon Annis
Missy Ivie

Ministry and Nurture Committee

A report was presented March 9, 2013 to the spring Representative Meeting. This report looks at subsequent and ongoing activities of the committee.

The committee met at Crossville April 27 and prepared a State of the Yearly Meeting Report. We ask that two copies of it be sent to each meeting and worship group to promote awareness of the yearly meeting.

Following a M&N committee member's visit to Big Stone Gap worship group which asked to become part of SAYMA, and that committee member finding the worship group in good order, with 10 in attendance, two of whom have membership in Quaker meetings, three meetings—Celo, Asheville and West Knoxville—are considering taking the worship group under their care.

A Ministry and Nurture committee member and his daughter, accompanied by SAYMA's clerk, visited Boone Monthly Meeting, where three, other than our visitors, sat in worship, and participated in a two hour session of brainstorming and suggestions on outreach.

Issues were presented to the Committee by the treasurer and administrative assistant where monthly meetings have not responded to requests for state of the meeting reports, census reports, directory updates, and assessments, nor sent anyone to representative meeting for two years or longer. The committee felt it violated the truth testimony to list such meetings, when we cannot ascertain whether they are still meeting or are meeting at the listed time and place. We agreed that in such cases when meetings do not respond to yearly meeting communications the M&N committee should visit those meetings. Following a two year period of no responses, SAYMA should change our directories to read "Not available."

The committee approved \$750 from the released friend fund for a Celo member to attend a Burundi workcamp.

The committee recommends that when a worship group does not want to be or remain under the care of a monthly meeting, it should be removed from our listings. This resulted from a discussion between Sevierville WG and West Knoxville Meeting but might affect other groups.

The committee requests a new line item \$1000 budget allocation so it can meet at smaller meetings which are unable to provide hospitality for the committee. This would not be used when hosted by a larger meeting. We ask that our budget be increased from \$500 to \$750 to support planned activity including workshops, new models in communication and spiritual ministry between monthly meetings, travel teams doing intervisitation and special projects involving Friends not on the committee.

M&N committee members have observed in visits to monthly meetings that many members and attenders have little or no knowledge about the Yearly Meeting. We have observed in several meetings that the SAYMA newsletter is not visible or is hidden in a corner. We have asked members if they have seen the newsletter and received a negative reply. In order to promote

awareness of the yearly meeting we recommend that the Southern Appalachian Friend be mailed for a two year period to all members and active attenders to their home addresses, giving individual choice of print or email versions.

We ask Monthly Meetings to find Friends with M&N committee leadings and appoint them to SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee. The YM Clerk requests that Friends sit in the designated area to hold clerk and yearly meeting in the light during business sessions at yearly meeting. This visual reminder will be helpful to her. Friends may still participate in discussions

Outreach Committee

Outreach Committee has united on a two-year action plan.

First, all Meetings and Worship groups in SAYMA will be personally contacted, and attempts made to find those interested in Outreach. The contacts will be asked to provide information on Outreach activities, challenges and successes in their Meetings. This information will be disseminated to Meetings.

Second, based on information gathered from Meetings, Outreach Committee will work to identify common needs, and to generate approaches to meeting those needs.

Third, if the desire for Outreach is present and growing, Outreach Committee will look for ways to highlight Outreach at the 2015 Yearly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Fay, Co-Clerk

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Work on Yearly Meeting Report-

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice

Agenda Item-Response to the Kabarak Call from monthly meetings.

Committee is aware of 9 meetings that have responded to the Call;, or given notice as to why they have not. These are Asheville, Atlanta, Birmingham, Celso, Charleston, Chattanooga, Memphis, Royal WG, Swannanoa, and most recently from Berea.

The Kabarak Call has elicited a series of queries from responders. Most importantly, How do we affect the change? An updated summary of queries will be available at YM, and will be submitted to SA Friend.

As you know, representatives from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network (ECN) brought the Call forward for discernment to the yearly meeting.

We have been gratified by the effort expended by the MMs to bring the Call forward to their worshippers, and appreciate the problem faced by small meetings. We are also very appreciative of the queries and comments offered by many individuals within SAYMA

An open meeting of Peace and Social Concerns will be held during yearly meeting on Saturday during lunch. All are welcome to attend.

FWCC has created a follow up pamphlet that discusses its ongoing work as a follow up to the Call named Living Waters.

Mission of P&SC: As we move into the next year we will work on issues in addition to the Kabarak Call. One area of concern that has been raised by the Swannanoa Meeting is the plight of the Palestinians within the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. A minute has been offered to Committee, and this will be an action item at YM, as to how to proceed.

Miscellaneous - How will we meet? Because of the great distances between us we will have limited face to face time to conduct our work. We will try to use electronic means of communication that will allow us to do our work across the distance. Email, conference calls and Skype were discussed. Roy has experience with Skype and will review how this free service can be used. We will work on this, because we are unable to meet as an entire committee, one or another being unable to attend, which we feel we can overcome with innovation.

Convener: It was determined that instead of having a clerk in such a small group that we would have the role of convener bestowed on the member that would be responsible to call us together but wouldn't be restricted in a narrow definition of clerk. Mary Morgan was affirmed for this position for the committee. Jere will offer all needed assistance

New Business: It is expected that new business will arise at the open meeting to be held on the Warren Wilson campus.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met by conference call on 31 March.

The job descriptions for both Yearly Meeting employees (YM Administrative Assistant and SAYF Administrative Assistant) have been revised within the past 18 months. The committee approved the new job descriptions and passed them on to Sharon Annis for the Handbook.

Yearly Meeting Clerk Carol Nickle completed the annual evaluation of Liz Perch, the YM Administrative Assistant, giving Liz high praise for her work. In view of this and the fact that Liz will have added duties related to implementing the new YM child protection policy, the committee recommends a salary increase for Liz. We have passed this recommendation to the budget committee for inclusion in the FY2014 budget.

The SAYF steering committee plans to complete their annual evaluation of Jonah McDonald, SAYF Administrative Assistant, prior to yearly meeting. The personnel committee recommends a Cost of Living Adjustment for Jonah and has passed this recommendation to the budget committee also.

---submitted by Tim Lamm
Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk & Clerk of Personnel

Southern Appalachian Friend

I assembled 4 editions of the SAF in the 12 months between yearly meeting sessions. In most cases, adequate copy to fill a six page publication appeared after only a few reminders or cajoling requests on my part. My 2-year term is up as of this yearly meeting. I have enjoyed the job, but would be happy to relinquish it to another person if there is someone who would like to take it on.

Last fall I queried the representative meeting body about the continuing viability of the SAF. Its quarterly (more-or-less) production schedule in the face of instant internet communications is somewhat archaic after all. Friends responded that they most definitely DID want the SAF to continue, and several even contributed articles.

In keeping with the challenge the Kabarak Call laid before us at last year's yearly meeting, I have tried to include queries and responses from individuals and monthly meetings in each newsletter this past year. Errol Hess continues to assemble news of meetings and I know he would greatly appreciate your meeting adding his contact information to your newsletter or distribution list for monthly meeting minutes.

Errol Hess
errol@kitenet.net,
355 Mt. Lebanon Rd,
Donalds, SC 29638

In the most recent publication, Errol initiated a new project, which is soliciting articles from monthly meetings describing issues surrounding the acquisition of a meetinghouse. I hope that some of your meetings will contribute to this ongoing collection of essays. Tell us about your process: why did your meeting feel the need for a meeting house? How did you go about raising funds to secure a building? What factors influenced your thinking throughout the process, and how has the process affected your meeting? Some of you may have decided NOT to acquire a meeting house, and a description of the thinking process that lead to that decision would also be welcomed.

I am glad that articles continue to flow in, but I continue to ponder what exactly the mission of this publication should be, given its slow form in our age of fast communications. So I ask again: What exactly is YOUR vision for this publication? How can the SAF best continue to serve this far-flung yearly meeting?

Respectfully submitted
Beth Ensign
Atlanta Monthly Meeting

Web Committee

Web Committee met during chat n chew on Friday evening. Present were committee members Hank Fay and Steve Livingston, and Web Manager R.D. Flowers (ex officio). We discussed concerns that have been raised and shared about our web presence and usage, and sought way forward.

Primary among the concerns we discussed was the perception that no progress has been made in the effort to implement a new, more inviting website for the Yearly Meeting. We hope Friends can understand that it was more prudent to migrate our existing website to our new server before undertaking a new design rather than concurrent with or after the fact. As our Web Manager has

reported, this work is now essentially completed, and we are prepared to embark on this next vital task.

We acknowledge that there have been some glitches in the functionality of email lists that are associated with SAYMA. We hope Friends can understand that these email lists are not associated with the new server. As our Web Manager has reported, the existing SAYMA discussion lists (e.g., announce at sayma dot org) still reside on the kitenet server and can continue to reside there. We want Friends to know that email lists can be created for the use of SAYMA committees on the new server if needed or desirable, but that other options are available that are not under the jurisdiction of the Web Committee. You can contact one of us after Yearly Meeting to find out more about these options.

We have heard some concerns about the amount of time it takes to get documents posted on the SAYMA Website. We hope that Friends have noticed some recent improvement in this area. We hope that Friends will bear with us as we work toward implementing a new user-managed website that will enable persons in positions of responsibility to post their own documents rather than having one person – i.e, the Web Manager – responsible for posting for everyone.

There are other issues that were raised at our committee meeting that we felt called for further seasoning before we are ready to make any recommendations, or even to report. The committee will be working together - via email, conference calls, and face-to-face – to address these issues.

As we move toward a user-managed website, we will be seeking input, advice, and feedback from any and all interested Friends to help us create an attractive, inviting, and useful presence that will serve as a viable outreach tool as well as a repository for our documents. Perhaps there will be other useful functions it will serve; we seek input and advice on this as well. We ask interested Friends to contact us if you want to be part of this process. Within the next month we intend to have several designs posted in our domain for Friends to look at style, color, content, and some initially rudimentary functionality. This process will take time, as Quaker process typically does. We are at the beginning, and we look forward to a fulfilling and fruitful process.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Livingston
for the Web Committee

Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

- American Friends Service Committee
- AFSC-South Region
- Friends Committee for National Legislation
- Friends General Conference
- Friends World Committee for Consultation—Section of the Americas
- Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Quaker House
- Right Sharing of World Resources
- William Penn House

American Friends Service Committee

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) meeting held in Philadelphia, PA on March 1-2, 2013, was attended by members from almost all the Yearly Meetings in the USA. AFSC was created in 1917 to provide alternative service for Quaker men who would not fight in World War One due to their religious convictions. Today AFSC has offices around the world and staff who work to help create that conditions that will help to avoid the occasion for war.

AFSC has reorganized from 9 regional offices down to 4 offices in the USA. See AFSC USA map at: <http://afsc.org/afsc-structure> . The Southern Region has its main office in Atlanta, GA and has programs in only three of the states where SAYMA is located: West Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. The Regional Executive Director, Bonnie Horton, will be attending SAYMA's Yearly Meeting in June, and will be meeting with Friends to let them know of the work of AFSC in our region and how Friends can be part of that work.

The National Office has 2 Friends Relations staff whose job it is to answer questions, to provide materials and to serve as the first point of contact for Friends and their Meetings. The Friends Relations staff can be reached at friends@afsc.org . AFSC is currently looking to partner with all the Monthly Meetings in the USA and has created the "AFSC Quaker Meeting/Church Liaison Program to carry out their intent. Each Meeting Liaison will help AFSC and their Quaker Meeting to work together for peace and justice. One of the staff, Lucy Duncan, will be attending SAYMA's Yearly Meeting this June to meet Friends and to answer questions about this work as well as other questions about AFSC.

The Corporation approved the newly nominated At Large AFSC Corporation Members and also approved those corporation members who would serve on the Board of Directors. A new job description for Corporation Members was approved. The Corporation members also approved a change in the bylaws allowing each of the 4 USA regional Executive Committee Clerks or one of the co-clerks to serve as "ex-officio" members of the Board of Directors. There is also one "Regional Clerk" that represents all the International Programs that also serves on the Board of Directors. Since we can have regional clerks who are not Quakers, the bylaws were changed to allow up to 5 (of the 25) Board Members to not be members of the Religious Society of Friends. This was an increase of 3 from the previous bylaw. At this time, only Quakers are serving as clerks or co-clerks of all the regions.

The corporation members also approved the Board's decision to create a 'Working Group on the AFSC By-Laws'. This group will be reporting back to the 2014 Corporation Meeting, on ways that the bylaws can be simplified to allow AFSC to meet its mandate in the 21st century.

There were presentations by staff of their programs. One on the work AFSC is doing with people who are incarcerated was very powerful. That presentation's first slide stated: "There are 2.3 million people in prison in the USA." When the staff asked, "How can we live with that fact?"; tears were shed. Other presentations focused on Immigration reform; on "If I had a Trillion Dollars: How would I change the USA's budget priorities"; on Divestment of stock of companies that are helping those who use force in Palestine; and on the Truth and Reconciliation programs in Maine and Burundi. The AFSC website has much more details about all its programs at: www.afsc.org/our-work

We met with Friends from the Southern Region, which now includes Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, as well as the old SERO region and former Mid-Atlantic Region states (less Pennsylvania and New Jersey).

We met with Friends from SAYMA: Hannah MacNorlan, who is a member at large and Susan Cozzens who is Clerk of the Southern Region Executive Committee and is also serving on the AFSC Board of Directors. It was made clear that Yearly Meetings are no longer to appoint people to Regional Executive Committees.

There were also meetings to allow Corporation members to share their thoughts on several concerns:

1. Indicators of AFSC as a Quaker Organization: The strategic goal is stated as: "AFSC will strengthen relationships with Quakers from the broader community, allowing Quakers to more effectively engage, inform, contribute to and support the work carried out by the AFSC."
2. Common Ground Gathering: Review of ways that Corporation members could have "more substantive engagement in a spirit of mutual respect".

Model 1: For member to focus on a specific area so as to deepen their engagement in one area of concern. This work would be focused on the existing programs of AFSC.

Model 2: To strengthen the skills, capacity, and strategies of Quaker and AFSC to work together towards common goals and to create strong networks and relationships to achieve those goals. Explicit training in organizing would be provided in this model. This would allow Quakers and AFSC to have a deeper impact in a number of areas while "Building a Culture of Peace".

3. Inclusion and Diversity at AFSC, Review of AFSC's Affirmative Action Plan to determine how it relates to Quaker Testimonies.

The Financial Report was made and it was reported that AFSC has been able to add to the "Rainy Day Fund". (Which some still call "surplus") in large part due to a change in the pension plan and due to a comeback in the value of the investments owned by AFSC. The goal is to have enough in the Fund to be able to pay for 6 months of expenses. Total revenues for the fiscal year ending Sept 30th, 2012 were almost \$34 Million, an increase of \$3 million over the year before. Note that Contributions and Bequests were down, but Planned Giving and Endowment Funds were up significantly. There is a focus on grants being a way for new programs to start and may also be a way for monthly or yearly meetings to persuade AFSC to create a new program that Friends want to see implemented. Bonnie Horton, the Southern Region Executive Director has experience with the grant writing process and is available to speak to those who are led to move in this direction.

ALL MATERIALS AFSC provided to Corporation members can be found in the [Corporation Room](https://www.starcafe.org/governance/corp/) of the Star Café. You can download them by visiting: <https://www.starcafe.org/governance/corp/> There were two Meetings for Worship: One was Unprogrammed and the other was “Semi-Programmed”.

The food was simple and tasty and there was plenty of coffee and tea, too. Lee Ann Swarm and Free Polazzo appreciate the Yearly Meeting allowing us to attend the AFSC Corporation as its representatives. Meeting with other Corporation members as well as AFSC staff was the highlight of the meeting.

Submitted by: Lee Ann Swarm and Free Polazzo;
SAYMA Representatives to the AFSC Corporation

AFSC-South Region

The South Region Executive Committee is limited to 15 members. Although Yearly Meetings can nominate people to be on the Committee they have to be approved by the current Executive Committee and by the AFSC main office. Currently there are no vacancies on the Committee. Susan Cozzens is the Clerk of the Committee and she is a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Yearly Meetings represented on the Committee are SAYMA, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative.

Executive Committee Members Carried forward from SERO

Susan Cozzens – Atlanta, GA; Peter Furst - Birmingham, AL; Juan Gomez – Miami, FL; Pamela Palmer – Jamestown, NC; Damekia Morgan – New Orleans, LA

Executive Committee Members Carried forward from MAR

Laurie Polly Riddims Bezold – Baltimore, MD; Miriam Jolee Robinson - Silver Spring, MD; Catherine Felter - Baltimore, MD; Helen Tasker - Hagerstown, MD; Mindy Reiser - Washington D.C.

New Executive Committee Members

Danielle Ashby - Kenner, LA; Kenneth Morrison - Baltimore, MD; Nell Warnes – Houston, TX; Nikki Vangsnes – Durham, NC; Desmond Meade – Miami, FL

Currently there are 10 programs in the South Region – 2 in West Virginia, 1 in Washington D.C., 2 in Baltimore, 2 in North Carolina, 1 in Atlanta, 1 in Florida, and 1 in Louisiana.

AFSC South Region does not have programs in the following states that are within the region, Texas, Oklahoma, Virginia, Delaware, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi. However the Maryland Friend of a Friend Program is expanding into a federal prison in Virginia.

North Carolina: *North Carolina Immigrants Rights Program (NCIRP)* - NCIRP works to empower immigrants through Know Your Rights and other relevant workshops and also through digital story telling projects, works to educate and mobilize Quakers and other non-immigrants to support immigrant-led actions, and works to promote pro-immigrant policies and oppose anti-immigrant policies at the local, state and national levels.

NC Peace & Economic Justice Program (NCPEJP) - NCPEJP advocates for investing our tax dollars in sustainable and peaceful communities. We host peace tables and conduct non-violence workshops in local schools and communities and promote non-violence and conflict resolution. We promote anti-bullying policies in schools through workshops and one-on-one conversations. We

also work with the most vulnerable groups of people in North Carolina to build their capacity to address their critical issues and needs. Occupy Greensboro as it continues to have a growing presence will be a collaborative partner in trainings and education efforts. Our constituency base also includes refugees, immigrants, African Americans and the working poor. Internships and volunteer opportunities are made available for students from local colleges and universities. Guilford College, a local Quaker institution partner with AFSC. We will continue to work with local communities to better to address religious diversity specifically islamophobia.

Florida: *American Friends Immigrants Services (AFIS)* - AFIS seeks to aid immigrant/worker population in South Florida via two outlets: legal immigration representation and advocacy/activism networks. AFIS legal angle provides resources for under represented immigrants/workers vis-à-vis the representation, preparation, and filing their legal cases before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR). AFIS activism/advocacy angle seeks to education, inform, train, and organize immigrants/workers vis-à-vis their inalienable human and civil rights in an effort to create a more informed and engaged population. Both angles are intrinsically interrelated and together function in the pursuit of its overarching goal, that is to promote positive immigrant/worker empowerment and sustainability.

Louisiana: *Peace & Conflict Transformation Project* - This New Orleans program is recreating itself, taking a comprehensive approach to intervening in the cycle of violence and incarceration and recidivism in the African American Community. From the very beginning of the program the focus has been on youth and the phenomenon known as the School to Prison Pipeline. Through attrition and the laying down of program features that did not bear fruit the program has lost the area coordinator position and the second organizer position that had been part of the original program proposal. FY13 will see the program re-staffed to full capacity. The Area Coordinator will bring experience working with issues of recidivism by developing a re-entry program for adjudicated youth, while the current program aimed at preventing violence through transformational projects using the arts as a vehicle will continue. The new youth organizer will focus on incarcerated youth, using AVP/HIPP methods, and violence reduction training to arm youth within the system and those preparing to leave it with skills they can use to change their behaviour toward each other and those they will encounter once they are released.

Georgia: *Georgia Peace and Conflict Resolution Program* - This program will be working with a broad cross section of Georgians who have been affected by exploitative economic policy. Focusing on the economic cost of multiple wars, a bloated military budget, corporate greed and irresponsible banking practices provides a rather large umbrella. Work closely with the Occupy movement to funnel new activist energy into practical, creative projects that have the potential to give social justice movements clear cut wins and inspire underserved communities, particularly communities of color, to resist and organize against systems of violence and oppression. We draw the connections between anti-immigration legislation, education budget cuts, military recruitment, unemployment, homelessness, and foreclosures/evictions. The approach is to use a community issue (like a home on the verge of eviction or a corporation on the verge of mass lay-offs) as an opportunity to organize a victory(saving a home, small business, Church, Direct services, or Jobs) for the community and build a culture of activism, resistance to injustice, and peace. We use our human and economic resources to bring community together, and address the issues they identify as problems in their communities. We foster leadership in underserved communities and draw connections between the larger systems of violence that control our minds, bodies, and communities.

Maryland: *Friend of a Friend Program* - Friend of a Friend is a conflict resolution program inside Maryland prisons and in Baltimore City. The goal is to reduce violence by providing tools that build healthy relationships, create support structures, and develop effective communication skills. The

program provides mentoring and training within the prison system and a support network for previously incarcerated persons as they confront tensions at home or in seeking employment.

Baltimore Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution Program - The Baltimore Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution program is part of the proposed AFSC Youth Civic Engagement initiative – working cross-regionally to support young people being engaged with each other and in their communities. Other participants include: LA Peace Education Program; Chicago Truth in Recruitment Program; Pennsylvania State Program; DC Peace and Economic Justice; Appalachian Centre for Equality; Palestinian Youth Program; St. Louis Youth Program and; Indonesia Youth for Peace. This program is also working collaboratively with the Friend of a Friend program in Baltimore on the Eddie Conway Freedom School. This is an after school initiative engaging middle and high school students in issues of peace, social justice and human rights learning from a culturally relevant perspective. Both programs have come together to develop lesson plans, recruit volunteers, promote and facilitate workshops. The Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution program works with young people in Baltimore to find peaceful resolutions to conflict in their lives using tools from the Help Increase the Peace Program and other social change curricula. Working in under-resourced schools and neighbourhoods, the program helps young people deal with violent and impoverished communities, learn about conflict resolution and human rights, and get the support they need to become educated and engaged citizens.

Washington DC: D.C. Peace and Economic Justice Program - The DC program is part of the proposed AFSC Youth Civic Engagement initiative – working cross-regionally to support young people being engaged with each other and in their communities. Other participants include: LA Peace Education Program; Chicago Truth in Recruitment Program; Pennsylvania State Program; Baltimore Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution; Appalachian Centre for Equality; Palestinian Youth Program; St. Louis Youth Program and; Indonesia Youth for Peace. Human rights remain lofty ideals for D.C. community members, as they don't see peace and justice materialized. More than sixty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the concept of human rights is not familiar to students in Washington, D.C. The Declaration urges member nations to promote human, civil, economic and social rights – asserting these rights are part of the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The DC Peace and Economic Justice Program has two projects: 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: Appalachian Centre for Equality program (ACEP) -ACEP is part of the proposed AFSC Youth Civic Engagement initiative – working cross-regionally to support young people being engaged with each other and in their communities. Other participants include: LA Peace Education Program; Chicago Truth in Recruitment Program; Pennsylvania State Program; Baltimore Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution; DC Peace and Economic Justice; Palestinian Youth Program; St. Louis Youth Program and; Indonesia Youth for Peace. According to the United Nations Development Program, “Women’s empowerment helps raise economic productivity (and) increases the chances of education for the next generation.” ACEP works with high school girls (particularly African American girls) in southern West Virginia encouraging them to explore their potential; learn personal and interpersonal skills; participate in community projects as change agents; and gain tools to advance to higher education.

West Virginia Economic Justice Program (WVEJ) - In efforts to influence public policy, WVEJ engages with individuals and groups including labor unions, African American organizations, religious congregations, advocacy groups, policy makers and the state media. In outreach efforts,

WVEJ partners with allied organizations to assist low and moderate income taxpayers eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit; families with children under 300 percent of the federal poverty level; and persons likely to be impacted by health care reform, including adults earning under 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

WVEJ works state-wide 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. The overall goal is to promote economic security and broadly shared prosperity.

Contact Information: Bonnie Horton, Regional Director, AFSC South Regional Office, 60 Walton St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30303 Phone: 404-586-0460 Fax: 404-586-0465

Respectfully submitted:
Peter Furst, SAYMA Representative to the AFSC South Region.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Submitted by Charlie Wilton (Berea Friends Meeting) and Jane Hiles (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

As your SAYMA Representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation – the lobbying organization that represents American Quakers on Capitol Hill – we attended the FCNL annual meeting in Washington, DC, November 16-18, 2012. This meeting was coupled for the first time with a three-day Public Policy Institute culminating in a day of lobbying in Congressional offices. (You can find more details at <http://tinyurl.com/FCNL2012>.) In addition, Jane has been serving on the FCNL Field Committee for the past two years and will continue through 2014.

There are several items we'd like to report:

FCNL dinner table on Friday

We have reserved a private dining room for the evening meal on Friday. Anyone who's interested in finding out about FCNL, please join us!

Public Policy Institute and Take a Friend to Lobby

Friends are encouraged to attend this year's Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day on November 14th. It isn't necessary to be a policy expert to do this work, and your visit to a congressional office can be remarkably effective, whether you visit a Washington office or a local one. You can even get a member of the Field Committee to go with you. The Public Policy Institute will prepare you with information on the issue of your choice, and additional resources are available at FCNL.org. Our senators and representatives need to hear our voices. Join us! (Of course your emails, letters and telephone calls are always important and appreciated.)

Help cut \$1,000,000,000,000 from the Pentagon budget

For the past 3 years, FCNL has been lobbying to cut the Pentagon budget by one trillion dollars over the next decade. Now that this cut has been mandated by law, weapons contractors and their lobbyists are pushing back to lessen these cuts at the expense of needed social programs. Over the summer, members of Congress will be making choices that could impact federal spending over the next ten years. We need to make sure that congressional offices receive a steady stream of messages arguing that the Pentagon budget has to be cut by at least \$1 trillion over the next ten years in order to protect other core budget priorities. Please write your senators today and then

encourage three other people to write their senators as well. Take action now at: <http://tinyurl.com/FCNLaction>.

Help raise \$15,000,000 for FCNL

FCNL is embarking on a five-year, \$15 million Capital Campaign, which will be used to bolster endowments and develop a new property which FCNL has recently acquired. Please consider how you can support FCNL. This is in addition to the annual fund, which is projected to remain on a path of steady growth. More details will be forthcoming as the campaign progresses.

We're making a difference

It's all too easy to become discouraged over the political process when change is slow and there is so much work that needs to be done, but there are reasons to rejoice. This is just some of the progress that FCNL has made since last June:

1. **Native American Advocacy:** After years of lobbying by FCNL and its allies, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act became law in late February—and included new provisions to help tribal law enforcement respond more effectively to violence against women on Native American reservations.
2. **Fewer nukes:** FCNL's Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Program was critical in the termination of funding last September for a proposed new nuclear bomb plant in Los Alamos, New Mexico.
3. **Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict:** A key FCNL priority is to strengthen civilian capacities to prevent violent conflict before the killing starts. FCNL lobbying has been critical to creating and maintaining funding for the Complex Crises Fund and the Conflict Stabilization Operations Bureau in the State Department in the face of extreme budget pressures.
4. **Preventing Atrocities and Genocide:** A working group that FCNL coordinates played a key role in President Obama's decision to announce a comprehensive strategy to prevent genocide and mass atrocities and to convene a high-level interagency panel to coordinate this work. This is the result of more than a decade of work, including work to pass a genocide prevention resolution in 2010, building support for the creation of the interagency panel in 2011, and supporting the bipartisan group of senators who are calling on U.S. leadership to prevent mass atrocities.

We hope that SAYMA Friends will be led to join this work with their letters, telephone calls, emails and lobby visits to legislators. Please help us continue this progress.

Policy Statement

Thanks to SAYMA Friends for their participation in the FCNL Policy Statement revision. The standing Policy Committee is laboring over the recommendations of Friends and completing the revision of the Policy Statement for presentation at the November meeting.

Help us stay connected

We are hoping to develop stronger lines of communication among FCNL Contacts in SAYMA's constituent meetings. In the next few months, Jane or Charlie will be in touch with each Contact or meeting clerk about strengthening the Contacts network. If you would like to help us get a jump on updating our Contacts list, please correct your meeting's contact information at the FCNL table this weekend, or be in touch with either Jane (njhiles@samford.edu) or Charlie (cwilton@gmail.com) and let us know who you are. If your monthly meeting doesn't have an FCNL contact, please ask whether anyone in your meeting is led to do this work.

Friends General Conference

We can talk about Friends General Conference as an umbrella organization of which SAYMA is an affiliate....but that really doesn't begin to break the surface of what FGC is. It is an affiliation of yearly meetings, fellowships and independent meetings throughout the US and Canada (and even a bit of Mexico), but it is also a *ministry* and a wonderful *resource* for Friends everywhere. Just to mention a few of the services offered by FGC, there is:

- The Annual Gathering of Friends (this year in Greely, Colorado)
- Quaker Books
- Quaker Press
- Traveling Ministries Program
- Ministry on Racism
- Religious Education Curricula and Support
- Couple Enrichment for Friends
- Directory for Traveling Friends
- Quaker Finder
- *Quaker Cloud Services
- *New Meetings Project
- Faith and Play
- Stewardship Services
- *Quaker Quest
- Representation at The World Council of Churches (assembling October, 2013 in Korea)

Want to know more? Well there is an excellent, newly revised website www.fgcquaker.org. There you might see one of the new developments we are all excited about - **the Quaker Cloud**. It will be able to provide a website for your meeting that is easy to build and maintain, a minute manager that will help you archive and search minutes, and a meeting directory where members maintain their own information. Join the over 30 meetings currently using the cloud, including Quarterly and Yearly meetings! The Quaker Cloud is now available to any interested meeting. If you would like to learn more about the Quaker Cloud, visit quakercloud.org. Knoxville Monthly Meeting has just committed to setting their website up with FGC's Cloud, we look forward to seeing their results.

The New Meetings Project, led by Brent Bill is a three-year program to identify and nurture new meetings and worship groups. The project has been creating materials and designing workshops that will ground and prepare Friends called to anchor new meetings and to help them deepen their spiritual practices. On the FGC website this program provides a "New Meeting Toolbox" that may be helpful to all of our meetings as we seek ways to be more visible, more welcoming and more articulate about what Friends have to offer their communities.

Quaker Quest continues as a vital resource for meetings, with activities for enriching inreach and for planning outreach. Quaker schools have requested that some of the learnings of Quaker Quest be available for their communities. A pilot program will start this fall.

Check the FGC website for a link to a "Toolbox" of all sorts of downloadable resources for meetings to use, particularly for outreach (including those used in Quaker Quest workshops.) They also make great "second hour" discussion topics. Five new welcome cards are also available for download for your Meeting to insert its own name and information into. New titles include "You are Welcome Here," "Quakers and Prayer," "How Quaker Meetings Work," and "Quaker Testimonies. Need curricula for the youngest Friends First Day School. "Sparkling Still" is an updated religious education resource for Meetings hungry for ideas for their childrens' program.

FGC and Quaker Voluntary Service (Atlanta) are jointly supporting a full time intern for the coming year. It is hoped that the work will help expand the Ministry on Racism.

The Gathering is a high spot for many Friends from our region. It is an opportunity every year to gather with over a thousand Quakers for fellowship, interesting speakers and workshops, and plenty of time to catch-up on friendships. For some Friends Gathering *is* FGC . But as you can see, there is that - and so much more!

These are just a few program highlights. SAYMA is well represented in the work of FGC. Stoph Hallward is the current treasurer of FGC. 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. Mark Wutka is also on the Committee on Nurturing Ministries, along with Gita Larson who is active in Quaker Quest. Liz Perch is on the Nominating Committee for Central Committee. Christina Van Regenmorter is the Assistant Recording Clerk. Sharon Annis is involved with development work.

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.

Representatives Stoph Hallward, Kristi Estes, and Gita Larson

We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends—a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world.

Through Friends General Conference, we see Quakers led by the Spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends, meetings, and seekers explore, deepen, connect, serve and witness within the context of our living faith.

(FGC's Vision Statement)

Friends World Committee for Consultation—Section of the Americas

I attended the representative meeting near Indianapolis, IN along with Sallie Prugh, Tim Lamm, both co-opted committee members, Michael Galovic, Swannanoa Valley Meeting, and Matt Riley, a young adult from Celo Meeting. We joined Friends from many countries in Latin America, as well as Friends from all four branches of Quakerism in listening, worshiping, and playing together.

We experienced together FWCC's triple mission of Integration – Crossing Cultures, Kinship – Making Connections, and Faithfulness – Changing Lives. There were daily worship and worship sharing, a too short visioning process, and opportunities to explore our future together using the Kabarak Call as a tool. The Committee of Latin American Friends is doing a good job of supporting Friends in the South, promoting integration. They are now embarking on translating some of Hispanic Friends' writings into English.

In our business sessions, we learned that FWCC is financially stable, but not healthy, drawing down funds previously donated to make up for lack of enough current donations. **Please encourage your meetings and individuals in your meetings who care about our corporate body of Friends to donate.**

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will occur in 2014 in the Andes, hosted by Bolivian and Peruvian Friends – thirty students, 10 from Europe/Middle East, 10 from US, and 10 from Latin America.

Please encourage young Friends to apply. Someone will be talking to our young Friends in their business meeting.

There is a new pattern of meetings: first a quadrennial FWCC World Representative meeting every four years, the next one in 2016 in Arequipa, Peru, with only a few open places. SAYMA is asked to send five representatives. FWCC-Section of the Americas meetings will take place every two years, next 2015. In 2014, a new program of four regional consultations will commence –two in North America, one in Central America, and one in South America; most participants will be from the region with some inter-visitation encouraged. Possible locations – Greensboro (tentatively April 2014), West USA, El Salvador.

The consultations will be residential weekends involving multiple yearly meetings and ranges of Friends, affirming our Quaker identity. Each will have a keynote speaker and a series of workshops, skill sessions on growing meetings, and opportunity to consider the future of Friends into the next century. We are seeking donors to help promote these meetings and wide participation outside of representatives is encouraged. These will not be business sessions. Possible workshop topics include: theological reflection on visitation; practical skills for intercultural communication; dismantling racism; care for the environment; how to support ministers—including those that are bi-vocational (religious and secular); future of denominational structures; what we can learn from Quaker history; and practical skills for conflict resolution, violence and trauma healing. Meetings and yearly meetings are invited to suggest workshop leaders.

FWCC - Section of the Americas activities offer a profound opportunity to enrich SAYMA Friends and grow our spiritual lives. **We propose SAYMA return to our previous practice of appointing three reps to FWCC and suggest that all three go to the regional consultations in 2014.** We will work to identify younger and Spanish-speaking Friends and to help find adequate travel funding.

Respectfully submitted,
Geeta Jyothi McGahey, FWCC Representative

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Great things are happening with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and SAYMA has a role in how the organization is moving forward. Roy Taylor, SAYMA's representative to QEW will take on the role as Clerk of the organization in October. David Ciscel, of Memphis Friends, already holds the officer position as Treasurer. Judy Lumb remains active on several committees, Bob and Geeta McGahey join us on a recurring basis and Alice Wald still has us in her heart although time and distance have kept her away for a while.

This past year we have received the ECOSOC accreditation at the United Nations that will allow direct participation at the level of our concerns. We have been working toward this for over ten years and it is quite an accomplishment. Our mini-grant program continues to expand helping organizations implement sustainable projects in locations across the Country and now in various parts of the world.

Our flagship publication, Befriending Creation, continues to bring information and resources to meetings and individuals around the country. We have hired a new Publications Coordinator that is assisting us as we redesign our website with features that will assist us in the work that we are doing. Please visit us at quakerearthcare.org and see the new look. We have also added social media to our mix of how to reach a new and wider audience with Facebook and Twitter. One of our focuses is supporting young adult friend leaders. QEW's own Emily Higgs is the creator and

one of the main organizers for the Pendle Hill program "Continuing Rev_l_tion," that will be held from June 14-19, 2013 and will focus on the Simplicity testimony. www.pendlehill.org/yald.

Quaker House

Quaker House is a manifestation of the Friends' Peace Testimony based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg. Quaker House provides counseling and support to our military service members and their families and advocates for a more peaceful world.

Since becoming the co-directors in December, we set out to establish our presence in the military and civilian community. One goal is to present the house as a warm and welcoming place for people to visit and ask for help and support. The *Fayetteville Observer* started things out for us wonderfully with an article headlined "A Place of Peace." We host house concerts, community groups and forums with a mixture of people attending from both the civilian and military communities. The Wounded Warriors began a women soldiers' support group here in July. Our regular classes on Mindfulness attract military personnel.

The GI Rights Hotline offers free, accurate, non-directive information about issues of conscience, discharge, medical, psychological and other regulations. Steve began training as a GI Rights Hotline counselor and we have been referring the calls and emails to our counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger. They report an upsurge in calls, especially ones that deal with service members being discharged for "misconduct" when they actually suffer from PTSD or other brain injury. We are aware that our help may prevent soldier suicides.

We held public forums on drones and human trafficking and organized a vigil at the gates of Ft. Bragg to protest the use of militarized drones. These activities drew good publicity.

We continue to visit Monthly and Yearly Meetings and attend conferences in order to introduce ourselves and present the work that Quaker House is doing.

We received an anonymous donation for \$15,000 to begin a domestic violence victims' support program. With this donation, we hired a therapist who does support groups and individual counseling and works with military and civilian organizations. She has been asked by a chaplain to help counsel couples with whom domestic violence is a threat. We have announcements of our domestic violence support program in the newspaper and many other publications. We were asked to attend a Sexual Assault Prevention training conducted by a Special Operations Brigade at Ft. Bragg in order to assist in the training. We were able to present our GI Rights Hotline information at the same time.

We are updating and redesigning the Sgt. Abe "Truth in Recruiting" materials in order to put them into a booklet form that can be distributed to high schools.

We updated the webpage and keep an active presence on Facebook. Our Facebook page readership increased considerably and continues to grow.

A group of students from Ohio Wesleyan University visited us for their Spring Break tour. They worked a day on the yard and house and they continue to be in touch. Five Rivers Friends Meeting, South Carolina, also had a work day at Quaker House on June 22nd, helping with yard work, painting and organizing the office.

In September, the Baptist Peace Fellowship will be coming to us for a “Friendship Tour,” a 3 day tour of our house and Ft. Bragg with guest speakers on issues such as soldier suicides, domestic violence, the use of drones and torture, etc.

We distributed postcards asking the President and in NC, Senator Burr, to seek accountability for torture. We have also distributed postcards asking for the release of John Kiriakou and another asking for a ban on the use of militarized drones.

Lynn has met and talked with Ft. Bragg military mental health professionals about how Quaker House can help, particularly with domestic violence. She was asked to attend a “Spiritual Resiliency” group of the chaplains of Ft. Bragg and they commended us for the work that Quaker House has done and is doing, especially with Conscientious Objection. They agreed with me that Jesus was a pacifist as Quakers are. They plan to meet at Quaker House in the near future.

Right Sharing of World Resources

In our time where the distribution of wealth world-wide is unequal with large imbalances of wealth and power nestled against extreme poverty and powerlessness, Right Sharing of World Resources works for redistribution of wealth plus power sharing which translates into local leadership for small community –based, income-producing projects run by women in three areas of the world: Sierra Leone, south India and Kenya. Betty Tonsing has been General Secretary for a little over a year. She has visited most of the projects and is also scheduled to visit SAYMA to describe her work and lead a workshop. In December she wrote from northwestern Kenya, near the Sudanese border, where she was visiting with some women’s groups who had applied to RSWR for help finding markets for their hand-woven baskets and also for increasing their fish production. She writes, *“I am at the ends of the earth...or at least one of them. Yet community and humanity are present. I see off this side of the road goal posts without a net which tells me that children play soccer. And off on the other side are yet more children playing with a stick and ball...cricket, perhaps? The fenced homesteads tell me that people are clear about their property rights and privacy. The small town bustles with shops I have seen throughout the western province that sell goods and services. The town also smells like fish; this town sits next to a salt-water lake that is able to survive this hostile environment, and it produces food and also a desired export product the rest of Kenya demands.”*

In another group of women, Betty interviewed one of the new “entrepreneurs” whose business is making shoes and school uniforms and who eloquently described the growth of her business and the ability to share the money earned with the local school for supplies and with the rest of her group of 30 women, all engaged in their own businesses, thanks to RSWR. The woman also speaks with excitement about her new ideas regarding climate change. Watch this short video blog on the RSWR website. <http://www.rswr.org/2012/12/kenya-2012-womens-friends-group/>

During the spring, RSWR sponsored the visit of Samson Ababu, RSWR Field Representative from Kenya, who shared stories with Quakers around the country about the women-run micro-businesses. With each group Samson enjoyed hospitality like he experiences at home in Kenya, but he also saw the great wealth of the US and wondered how many people know that just a small loan can bring about so much change in his country. This is what Right Sharing can do with SAYMA’s and our individual contributions- advance micro loans to women’s groups to help start a business and provide training as necessary for setting up and running it. In Samson’s words, *“I have seen incredible change in these women. They become powerful and community leaders and gain respect everywhere in their village and homes.”*

RSWR has an exciting website with blogs, educational resources for children and adults, project descriptions from the 3 sites world-wide, history of the organization and newsletters.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Morris

William Penn House

by Jane Hiles (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

The focus of William Penn House is to advance the Quaker way of life by offering young friends (of high school or college age) an experience of Quaker values at work. The organization has many opportunities for Quaker youth. They have opened positions on their Board to youth. Young Friends can participate in work camps in various locations, including Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and Washington, D. C. In Washington, the Capitol Hill Village Project rebuilds housing for senior citizens. There are also workshops on radical hospitality and inner-city projects that provide sandwiches to homeless people.

William Penn House offers 1-year internships. Currently there are three interns, and the hope is that they will return to their homes at the end of their year with William Penn House and set up inner-city work groups in their home towns.

The focus of the National Committee on Consultation is intended to be oversight of work camps and outreach. Rather than sending representatives of yearly meetings to the annual board meeting in Washington, it would be a better support of the organization for yearly meetings to sponsor a Young Friend to attend a work camp and then return to SAYMA the next year to lead a workshop on the experience. The cost of such a sponsorship would be about \$1,500. This would be an excellent opportunity for a Young Friend to experience a different culture and advance Quaker values.

This is a compelling proposal, and it would seem to be much more supportive of William Penn House than casual attendance at annual board meetings. However, in doing this, SAYMA would not realize the anticipated trade-off of representative expenses against sponsorship costs, because representatives attending the board meeting are generally in Washington on other Quaker business as well. Thus there was no expense to SAYMA to send a representative to the William Penn House board meeting in 2012. Still, the value of introducing a young Friend to Lakota culture or helping her or him to develop a deep understanding of inner-city mission work is extraordinary.

For more information about programs, visit <http://williampennhouse.org>.

Attachment F: State of the Meeting Reports

- Asheville Friends Meeting
- Athens 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
- Greenville Friends Meeting
- Memphis Friends Meeting
- Nashville Friends Meeting
- Oxford Friends Meeting
- Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
- West Knoxville Friends Meeting

State of the Yearly Meeting Report

There are 21 monthly meetings in Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting.

Unity in Diversity

How can a yearly meeting so diverse, geographically, in meeting size and in belief be unified? Meetings from Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi testify to:

--“a deep spiritual reservoir from which all members and attenders refresh themselves and renew their spiritual essence.”

--vocal ministry which deepens worship

--reaching out to the larger community with peacemaking activities, supporting those in need, working on environmental issues, ecumenical activities, prison ministries, food banks, and a wide variety of local endeavors

--connecting with regional Friends from other yearly meetings through statewide gatherings

--pastoral care and visitation to infirm members, including meeting with homebound Friends or those in assisted living centers

--building community using electronic media

--engaging young friends in First Day school and regional retreats for older youth with the SAYF program

--Bible study and religious education for adults and youth

--creative problem solving

--providing space for outside community groups ranging from the occupy movement to a pastoral Friends Church

--taking worship groups under the meeting's care

--addressing the Kabarak Call for Ecojustice

--giving significant financial support to overseas projects promoting self-sufficiency

--deepening community with meeting retreats and sharing spiritual journeys

--becoming involved with wider Quaker organizations

--becoming more comfortable being a supportive community to each other

--growing more deeply in our inward Spiritual lives gives us strength to move outwardly in our communities

--supporting marriage equality

Challenges

--Aging. One meeting writes that “nearly half our regular attenders are octogenarians.” Other meetings no longer have first day school because all their children are grown.

--Death and illness. Unexpected death and illness have affected both monthly meetings and the yearly meeting.

--Finding new members. Several meetings are struggling with small numbers at worship, in some cases only two or three persons. As a yearly meeting we are challenged to meet the needs of our small, struggling meetings. Seventy percent of Yearly Meeting attendance is from our six largest meetings. Three meetings and six worship groups had no one at 2012 Yearly Meeting.

--Even in our largest meetings, Friends are stretched too thin and have insufficient numbers of volunteers to do weekly tasks and long-term obligations.

Blessings

--One meeting, whose treasurer withdrew a large amount of money without the meeting's consent, received a ten thousand dollar anonymous donation to establish a fund to help those who need material assistance. In a short time an additional thousand dollars was contributed to the fund. The former treasurer is repaying the meeting and is still active in it.

--Southern Appalachian Young Friends Program engages 35-40 youth in frequent retreats throughout the year, in addition to its program at yearly meeting. These young Friends are learning Quaker process and values in a safe environment, supervised by adult volunteers. They are, in part, our future.

--One monthly meeting reported 5 new babies in 2012.

Concern for Our Future

One meeting spoke for many, describing itself as:

"...a meeting in flux. We must be flexible and strong. Engaged, yet maintaining the cool minds required to be tapped into Spirit's guidance...We know that Friends can contribute to society significantly despite our small numbers...we grieve the impacts of evil and moral decay besetting our world. The evidence of greed and its destructiveness are abhorrent to us and the politics of fear with its chilling effects is very real.

"How do we sing and rejoice, as Children of the Day and of the Light...in this thick night of darkness, given that we see the hand of God at work, and know that we can be instruments, albeit small and imperfect? How do we bear each other up through all these challenges to our humanity, our courage, our dignity and continue to bear witness to a Spirit that delights to do no evil, but delights in good? How do we practice the Presence in all situations, answering that of God in all we meet?..."

Asheville Friends Meeting

This past year Asheville Friends have experienced a deepening worship in both silence and vocal ministry.

Our Meeting has experienced modest growth in numbers, with average attendance each First Day increasing from around 29 to 31. We have welcomed a new member, Pat Johnson, and two babies, Eden Mae Ward and Alice Eleanor Lane. We have also seen a noticeable increase in attendance by "youngish Friends", singles and couples with young children. Our library now serves a dual purpose; with the addition of a colorful rug and special shelving for toys, it is also our nursery (thanks to the Ad Hoc Library/Nursery Committee).

Religious Education Friends have been busy with our annual Secret Pal gift exchange and a Monty Python and the Holy Grail party (comparing the search for the Grail with George Fox's search for the Divine). We continue to enjoy our annual intergenerational Youth Celebration cookout.

Early in 2012 our Meeting had a threshing session to discuss our Meeting House and whether to try to sell it and move to a newer building. There was a strong sense that Friends wished to remain on our property and continue to use the building, with perhaps an addition of a separate meeting room at some point. House and Grounds, with able leadership, has greatly improved the appearance of our Meetinghouse by building lovely arches which will soon be entwined with flowering vines – all this to shield our windows from too much sunlight. The grounds have been beautified by Nicholas Wells, who grassed in many bare spots in our lawn and constructed a sturdy picnic table, for his Eagle Scout project. We have been fortunate that many local groups have rented space in our building, and thus contributed to our yearly budget. Our heating system efficiency was greatly improved by the discovery and removal of a plastic Easter egg from the intake pipe.

Ministry and Counsel meets monthly and is confident that our Meeting continues to be strong and Spirit-filled. We have placed a basket of queries in the foyer for Friends to look over as they settle into worship. We do wonder if our lives are becoming too busy, as shown by our not having had any kind of residential retreat in the last few years.

Peace and Earth has sponsored letter-writing opportunities at the rise of Meeting, participated in the International Day of Peace, and led us in writing a letter opposing North Carolina Amendment One, enshrining anti-gay discrimination in the State Constitution. In addition, Peace and Earth contributed to many worthwhile Friends' organizations and to local groups that express our beliefs. They sponsored two food drives this year, with contributions from our Meeting going to the Manna food Bank. Some friends visited Senator Kay Hagan's office to lobby for reduced Pentagon spending and presented them with a fruit pie to illustrate our talking points as suggested by FCNL. With the help of others in our Meeting, Peace and Earth has continued to contribute on a quarterly basis to the Sunday morning breakfast at Pritchard Park for Asheville's hungry population.

Our Meeting has sponsoring activities of one of our members, Stephanie Gossett, who is teaching English for the Peace Corps in Swaziland. Stephanie co-wrote a grant to lead a workshop called GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) and also wrote a grant to reform a local preschool, to both of which the Meeting made a substantial contribution.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee, in keeping with its stated mission, nourished adult spiritual sharing and growth in our meeting. They have sponsored second hour discussions on Quakerism, as seen through the pages of the new Guide to Our Faith and Practice. Intergenerational activities included baking Christmas cookies for isolated Friends we seldom see.

We are looking forward to 2013; with the many contributions of members and attenders we expect to continue our growth in Spirit and in numbers.

Respectfully submitted by Kitti Reynolds, Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting

Athens Friends Meeting

Athens Friends Meeting is a relatively small group with a strong core of regular members who are active and engaged. We feel that our group has the heart of a larger meeting, but sometimes suffers from the limited people power of a small meeting. We often discuss whether to, and ways to, grow our Meeting numbers. One potential for growth is to become more visible in the community; we are exploring possible outreach activities in the wider community.

Some activities we took on as a Meeting last year includes projects such as road-cleanups and volunteering at a local festival (LatinoFest). Although the Meeting does not often have the resources to fully participate in as many events as we would like, individual members are active in the community. Individuals greatly appreciate the support from other members of the Meeting; Meeting support provides us energy and gives us strength for our individual efforts.

One of our Meeting's strengths is challenging one another and sharing ideas. We benefit from vibrant spiritual discussions among Friends with very diverse (and sometimes contrasting) theological views. For example, our discussions this year about theism/non-theism and Quaker process were very engaging and helped us grow as a Meeting.

Earlier in the year, the Meeting went through a period of struggle and stagnancy. Two challenges during that time were finances and Quaker process. Decreases in attendance and donations resulted in some financial insecurity and a general decrease in energy and individual activity. Although this period was discouraging and involved a few contentious discussions, Friends were able to apply their strengths as patient, open-minded listeners and problem-solvers. Coming to a sense of the Meeting about process, and a burst of individual investment into the Meeting replenished our overall energy and got us back on track with our active, engaged core group. Additionally, our Meeting continues to share space with Casa de Amistad; working with them we were able to improve our financial situation.

We have enjoyed our interactions with visitors from other Meetings and with Quakers in North Georgia that are looking to have more contact with other Friends. We also enjoyed "retreats" at Ferguson Cabin (Atlanta Meeting's mountain getaway). These interactions helped us bond as Friends.

Atlanta Friends Meeting

Spirituality/Faith/Worship

The quality and nature of our worship and our vocal ministry continue to be evidence of Atlanta Friends Meeting's spiritual state. The Meeting's spiritual growth is nurtured by our religious education programs and through our community involvement, as well as by the presence of weighty friends who anchor our worship. The Meeting is a place of solace and worship and our striving to become a more welcoming multicultural community remains an important spiritual objective. As one Friend noted, "In a world where believers are sometimes roundly condemned...it is a relief to be in the presence of people who quietly accept God without feeling they must be all-knowing experts on all aspects of God in order to accept that God exists."

Religious Ed

First Day School was enriched by visits from Green Friends and members of the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). Green Friends worked with the students to further develop their appreciation for the earth and its inhabitants by providing lessons about the natural world. These lessons spoke to the children's innate sense of wonder, and allowed the children to see, touch, and learn about things from places they may not have visited. Members of CURAFM and Social Concerns spoke with the young Friends about issues related to equality.

Once a month, Friends continued to share their spiritual journey with the Meeting during Adult First Day school. Their journeys are recorded and serve as a record of our collective and individual spiritual paths. Members of CURAFM coordinated with Adult First Day School to increase awareness of African-American Friends/friends of Quakers by selecting readings from *Black Fire: African American Quakers and Spirituality and Human Rights*. Members of Ministry and Worship,

the Adult First Day School, and CURAFM worked together to organize a forum on the writings of Howard Thurman with a noted Thurman scholar as a guest speaker.

Social Concerns

Members from AFM joined with others from the Atlanta community in a prison concerns group that meets quarterly. In addition, Meeting members worked on voter registration projects which were of particular concern during this election year.

Green Friends continue their work with respect to informing Friends about issues related to and possible solutions for current climate change challenges. For example, Judy Lumb reported on the progress of sustainability efforts in Africa and other nations, while Green Friends active support of the Citizen's Climate Lobby is seen as a way to join with other area groups to effectively work toward legislative changes related to climate change.

Long-standing members of Green Friends report that the challenges to sustainability and climate change efforts over the years can result in frustration, sometimes depression, especially for those who have worked over many years to address the impact of over development on the global climate. Green Friends, as a group of supportive, like-minded people who continue to try to address global warming and its effects, has lifted spirits and renewed faith.

Building Community

Welcoming New Young Friends: We were inspired by the tradition of Friends in our community from Burundi when they asked for a special meeting to welcome newborns and infants. Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship collaborated to hold a special meeting for welcoming all AFM children for this year, with the intention in future years of welcoming new babies/children. We hope that the certificates signed for the children by those present at this welcoming will be meaningful to families and children for years to come.

A Greater Sense of Meeting: Community grew around individuals facing various medical and personal challenges. This sense of community was exemplified by our supporting the long-term hospitalization of a meeting preschooler and her family through a coordinated effort of other children and adults and the committees of Care and Counsel and Social Concerns.

Quaker Quest: Based on extensive groundwork done in 2011, AFM approved in February 2012 the holding of a series of eight Quaker Quest public sessions during autumn 2012. In all, at least 25 Quakers planned, participated or offered presentations during the public sessions. Many hands and minds contributed to the development of the outreach and awareness campaign, with a special concern for reaching as diverse an audience as possible. Quaker Quest brought in 41 relative newcomers to the afternoon sessions, at least four of whom now attend meeting regularly. The impact of Quaker Quest has been much larger than recruiting new members. The presentations were transformative. Each set of speakers prompted individuals in attendance to think and feel more deeply about faith as both an individual and as a corporate experience. There seems to be general agreement that continuing the momentum from Quaker Quest would contribute to the further spiritual growth of the Meeting.

Community Nurture: Wedding celebrations, long and short-term health concerns, and memorials have also brought us together. We find that concerns about our abilities to address these concerns have been met in each instance with the meeting community coming together. The members of the Care and Counsel Committee have worked hard over this year in coordinating these connections. However, concern continues to be felt that members and a continual recruitment effort are important to the ability of Care and Counsel to address the many needs of

the Meeting. Friends also joyfully came together to furnish the Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) house in anticipation of the first volunteers.

Community is also continually built through the smaller gatherings of Friends through informal gatherings, clearness committees, committee meetings, potlucks, and welcoming dinners with their opportunities for one-on-one conversations.

Landmarks

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS): 2012 brought to Atlanta Friends Meeting the inaugural group of Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) volunteers. This group of seven volunteers added depth to the meeting as they engaged with and got to know people in the Meeting. Our new Friend in Residence Erica Schoon came in 2012 and has as her primary ministry the promotion of the spiritual and “Quakerly” development of these (and future) QVS volunteers.

Infrastructure: The Meeting’s recognition that the building and grounds were in need of renovation led to the development of an ambitious plan to improve the building site, which was initiated in conjunction with a long-term maintenance plan and forecast. These plans will lead to better usage and a re-design of the outdoor spaces. The master plan carries its own lessons of waiting with expectation for the future. Lessons of cooperation with the City of Decatur as well as our local neighborhood were seen as opportunities for growth.

Births: The Meeting was enriched by one birth this year: Nahayo Eddy Dieudonne (1/6).

Marriages: The Meeting was enriched by three marriages taken under its care this year, together with three joyous Meetings for Worship with attention to Marriage held under the care of AFM.

Sally McEwen and Aaron Ruscetta (3/11)

Lissa Place and Glen Satell (5/12)

Christina Repoley and Dean Leeper (10/6)

Transitions: We were also deeply touched by the deaths of four people – two very active members and three others connected in a variety of ways to the AFM community. The Meeting hosted or participated in memorial meetings for each of them, celebrating their lives and marking their passing.

Deaths and Memorial Services: Sally McEwen (March 15th)

John Morris (memorial – March 24th)

Nancy Smith (January 27th)

Don Bayliss (August 5th)

Janet Ferguson (October 1st)

Membership transfers out: Mark Wutka (3rd Month)

Challenges / Opportunities

Strengthening Worship: We continue to be challenged on how to best support and nurture deep, centered worship notwithstanding the many possible disruptions to worship (e.g., greeting room noise, late arrivals, the presence of disruptive visitors).

Inclusive Worship: Members of both Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel continue to work to find ways to incorporate Young Friends in the life of the meeting, and to help them feel part of the Meeting’s decision-making. Our K-12 religious education program continues to struggle with a need for volunteers and finding ways to involve Friends who are not parents with our youth continues to be both a short- and long-term goal. Such involvement offers the opportunity for

Friends to better understand youth program structures and to better identify the skills and gifts that young Friends have to offer.

Work of the Meeting: Friends have expressed the feeling that they are stretched very thin, and as a result, there are insufficient members to fill many vacant committee positions. Additionally there are insufficient numbers of volunteers to help with weekly tasks, religious education, and hospitality. While we are interested in sustaining and expanding our community's benefits from Quaker Quest, we are left with questions about what form that should take and in what time frame. The Meeting may need to thoughtfully consider the long term sustainability of the many obligations that have been undertaken. There is a sense that because there is so much going on simultaneously that our busyness reduces our spiritual center and reduces our genuine connections, particularly with newcomers.

Conclusion

This year 2012 was marked by broader cooperation within AFM on both internal and external goals related to becoming a more welcoming spiritual home for all and there is a deep desire to faithfully discern a spirit-led path toward making this an ever increasing reality.

Approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting on March 17, 2013.

Berea Friends Meeting

Berea Friends Meeting continues to be a spiritually healthy and dynamic community of seekers. We regularly welcome between five and seven children, between five and nine teenagers, and between fifteen and twenty adults at Meeting for Worship. 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. In the fall, five regular attenders requested membership in the Meeting, three who had not previously been members of a Quaker Meeting, one whose membership in another Meeting was laid down during an earlier phase of her life, and one who requested that her membership in the Portland Maine Meeting be transferred to Berea Friends Meeting.

While our spiritual focus continues to be primarily inward, we have begun to take more outward steps. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee attended an FCNL lobbying training hosted by Cincinnati Friends. They organize letter writing at our monthly potlucks, and are experiencing success building relationships with our local, state, and national elected officials. Our Outreach Committee arranged an all-day Quaker Quest workshop last spring as a way to enable us to speak about our experience of Quakerism to the others. This spring they are considering ways to engage our broader community around the issues of fairness and diversity. One possibility being considered is using the Listening Project.

While our budget has stabilized, we continue to struggle to realize a budget that can support wider Quaker organizations. While these are temporal matters, they impact our spiritual lives and continue to present spiritual challenges for us. We have finally made significant headway on our large projects by replacing our bridge, installing an assistive listening system, and initiating work to replace our HVAC system.

We continue to value many long-cherished aspects of our meeting: the opportunity to worship regularly in a space where mind and body can be still, a home where we can experience our Quaker identity, a safe and welcoming community committed to listening, discerning, and seeking

unity, and our vibrant youth program which models problem solving and respect for self and others. We actively nurture a community that provides gentle correction and guidance.

We walk together on a journey illumined by The Light, striving to support and nurture each other on that path. We work to share the value of spiritual listening with those both inside and outside the community, and to serve as examples of what we believe by living what we believe.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Saderholm
Clerk, Berea Friends Meeting

Birmingham Friends Meeting

While we welcomed one new member, and several new regular attenders we also lost some who either moved or who no longer attend on a regular basis.

We continue to hold in the light those in the meeting who are dealing with health issues and those who have lost family members in the past year.

Our Meeting continued our summer Friendly Film series, showing films about Howard Zinn and Oscar Romero, among others. We continue to have our Simple Suppers each month which bring our Quaker community closer together. This year we started a book discussion group which meets on a monthly basis.

We changed the way we use e-mail to communicate within our Quaker community. A Yahoo Group was created to facilitate our group communications. Anyone can join the group or remove themselves from the Group. Any member of the group can send an e-mail to BFM@yahogroups.com which will go to everyone in the group. This eliminates the need for someone to keep a separate e-mail list.

BFM welcomed students from the Arthur Morgan School who spent two nights at our Meeting House.

In support of our Testimonies, our meeting belongs to or supports various organizations that work on issues of poverty and economic justice. Several of our member and attenders are active in organizations that work on issues such as predatory lending, unfair taxation, opposition to the death penalty, health care for the poor, immigration, and public transportation among others.

After the shooting at the Sikh Temple in Wisconsin, several of our member/attenders, along with people from other faith communities, visited the local Sikh Temple one Sunday morning to show support for them after this tragic event.

There is a Quaker group being formed in Montgomery and we help publicize their meetings by posting information on our web site. (<http://birmingham.quaker.org>)

Our second hour discussions continue to be well attended, where healthy dialogues about various topics occur on a regular basis. We have several new attenders so some of our 2nd Hour topics are around Quaker history and Quaker practice, which are not only informative for our new attenders but also for those who have been around for awhile. Some of our 2nd Hour topics have been Immigration, Homelessness, History of Queries, Testimonies, Kabarak Call to Peace and Justice, FCNL Priorities, Confident Quakerism – Ben Pink Dandelion, James Nayler's "Speaking",

articles from the "Friends Journal" and various Pendle Hill Pamphlets such as Four Doors to Meeting for Worship.

While small in numbers, Birmingham Friends work to make their presence felt within the Birmingham community. Our property tax equivalent to the neighborhood Avondale School PTA. BFM supports the wider Quaker organizations such as AFSC, FCNL, Friends Journal, with financial contributions from the Meeting and from individuals.

Respectfully submitted;
Peter Furst, Clerk of Ministry and Nurture Committee

Brevard Friends Meeting

Members: 6

Regular Attenders: 6

Average Attendance: 9

As in years past we meet every first day at College Walk Retirement Center. Various Friends continue with long-term activities in community organizations such as Koinonia, Children's Center, Rise and Shine Freedom School, and Bread of Life. Other Friends are active in organizations seeking to provide security and justice for Hispanic immigrants. One salient fact about our status is that nearly half of our regular attenders are octogenarians, which means that while we still have the same commitment to social justice, we don't have the energy we used to have and so must ration that energy out more carefully than in past years. Our senior member just celebrated her 104th birthday.

Adult Forum continues as an important spiritual and intellectual focus for some in our Meeting. We continue to use the free-form format for our discussions, where those attending bring in issues and readings for general discussion. We have adopted a system of rotating forum clerkship.

A very useful and satisfying Friendly Eights was spent listening to Todd Neal, a nurse-practitioner, discuss end-of-life issues. That presentation was well attended. Afterward, many questions were asked of Todd, and much discussion back and forth took place.

We continue to enjoy our extraordinarily interesting newsletter, thanks to its superlative editor and many contributors.

An important aspect of our Meeting has always been and continues to be pastoral care. Members and attenders are conscious of each other's needs and offer assistance when appropriate. As an example of this, one long-time attender was judged to be suffering cognitive decline (of which she was unaware), so two other members and attenders, both long-time friends of hers, stepped in. They assisted her in locating a safe haven in a retirement center in Maryland, drove her there to inspect it, helped her dismantle a household of years and years at the same location, assisted her with packing, and drove her to her new home. This example of pastoral care was singular, exceptional, and in the best tradition of Quaker practice.

This past year we experienced no weddings, no births, and no deaths, but the health of some attenders has been iffy. Our Meeting was enhanced by the transfer in of two Quakers from another Meeting; we welcomed them joyously.

In summary, our Meeting continues to be a deep spiritual reservoir from which all members and attenders refresh themselves and renew their spiritual essence.

Celo Monthly Meeting

We are blessed in Celo Meeting to have attenders from babies to those in their nineties. We are particularly heartened at the number of young adults who regularly come to worship with us and participate in workdays, even a special young adult workday to tear down our old meetinghouse. We gave one young man a scholarship to SAYMA who in return prepared a meal and facilitated a worship sharing using the Yearly Meeting Queries. Our young adults also facilitated an all-day meeting for worship, including two silent meals, which was so successful we are going to make an extended meeting a quarterly event.

A quickening of the corporate spiritual life of our meeting grew from the attendance of one of our members at the World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April as a SAYMA rep. Her volunteer work for 10 weeks among the Samburu Masai led to the meeting creating an education project, "Nurturing Knowledge." This project works at three levels: to educate high school girls, to support adult women's literacy in the village, and to provide elementary education at a "shepherds' school" for young girls and boys who have had to miss school to attend animals. The meeting teamed up with Arthur Morgan School in a fundraiser which contributed over 1000 towards the 6000 raised for this project. The total represents 50% more than our annual budget, a big effort which Friends embraced lovingly.

Our representative also brought home the prophetic Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, which has led to deepening work around climate awareness and activism as well as education about global change. We had a called meeting for business to respond to the Kabarak Call which gathered in silence after the rise of Meeting for Worship. Our shared thoughts included study groups, ways to cut down on car and plane trips, and working with other area churches. A retreat, "Ecology as Spiritual Practice," emerged as a leading out of this process, which in turn led to two members of that retreat going to Washington DC under the auspices of Interfaith Moral Action on Climate to work with the President and Congress to take Climate Change seriously. Some of them will joined many Friends at the national demonstration on climate at the Mall in Washington February 17.

A member attended the "Beyond Quakerism 101: Deepening the Roots of New Friends" workshop and was led to initiate several adult education opportunities. A study of the book of Mark's social gospel grew out a response to the Kabarak call. Adult education is overseeing a process to study Friends' Testimonies through a panel presentation and discussion as well as ongoing worship sharing.

After many years seeking unity, we are delighted that neighboring Arthur Morgan School is formally applying to join the ranks of Friends Schools. We are happy to have several members serving on the oversight committee for this process. Meanwhile, there are signs of rising teen interest in involvement with the SAYF program.

We have enjoyed that of God in our younger Friends through their play The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, which raised money for Baptist Men in Mission to help rebuild a home in NJ damaged by Hurricane Sandy. During the summer, children studied earthcare with the help of QEW's Earthcare for Children. The children of the meeting also prepared a benefit meal whose proceeds went to the Heifer Project.

Celo Friends have worked in many ways to support an elderly member couple with major health and mobility needs. The meeting held a workday building a ramp in another Friend's home to facilitate visits. Transportation to meeting, doctors' appointments, and to a nursing home has been taken on by the meeting. A major undertaking has been the overseeing of the renovation of this

couple's home so that it will better serve their needs when they return from nursing care. Many from the meeting aided in the task of clearing out the house to ready it for remodeling. A couple in our meeting has assumed responsibility for this project with much spiritual and physical support from the meeting. Along with other churches in the area, we Celo Friends continue contributing to the Feed-A-Child program. We donate a healthful food item once a week for 300 children.

Though our finances are sound, with a larger meetinghouse and an aging fellowship/caretaker house, our maintenance expenses have increased. We are now sorting out priorities to budget for these maintenance items and capital expenses over the next several years.

We were saddened by the deaths of two Friends with long associations with our Meeting, Carol Henry and Jim Lenhart. We hosted a lively memorial service for Carol, which provided an occasion to use every bit of the additional space provided by our new meetinghouse.

Charleston Friends Meeting

How has the Meeting supported "that of God" in each other over the course of the year?

Reaching that of God in each other begins with Meeting for Worship. Spoken messages at Meeting often help us to consider ways to look for that of God in others. Other corporate activities including worship sharing, discussions, adult religious education, and meeting for business provide other opportunities. One Friend summarized Charleston Friends' ongoing growth in this area succinctly:

I believe we are becoming more comfortable being a supportive community to each other.

Charleston held worship sharing instead of silent worship on four occasions in 2012. We considered SAYMA's 2012 worship sharing queries as well as queries related to ourselves as a community. Sessions are well attended with deep and sincere sharing of personal experience.

Meeting for Business, held in the second hour as a continuation of worship, has been especially meaningful to some Friends this year as we have struggled with how best to use our financial resources to advance Divine work. One Friend wrote of Meeting's response to a personal leading:

For us, the Meeting is receptive when our personal leaning toward an issue causes us to bring it to Meeting. For example, our request for support for the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund was done as a personal leading to our friends in and out of Meeting, but Meeting responded as a whole, which enabled us to surpass the goal we had set for ourselves.

Early in 2012, Charleston Friends learned of the death of Betty Burford, who was one of our earliest and most committed members. In recent years, Betty had lived in Lewisburg, WV, where she helped establish the Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group (now under our care). Since it was Betty who welcomed some of us into meeting years ago, her memorial service was the completion of one circle and the beginning of another.

Aside from Meeting for Worship, the most frequent common activity engaging Charleston Friends has been Bible Study, occurring twice a month in midweek. After a period of socialization, we center in silence before reading multiple translations of the same passage in the Bible. This feeds fruitful discussion of what the passage meant in its time and how we can apply it to our lives. This year we completed study of the book of Matthew, the letter of St Paul to the Galatians, and have started reading Ecclesiastes.

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

For its size, Charleston is remarkable in the extent and variety of its work with the Quaker community. This past year, we increased our presence at SAYMA. According to a Friend who had not previously attended,

We greatly benefitted from SAYMA's annual Gathering, both spiritually and personally from the sessions and the opportunity to spend time with like-minded people. We realized that many Quaker meetings face the same issues of trying to grow in numbers...

Charleston is blessed to have the Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group under its care. We visited them twice and hosted them for a discussion of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) programs. Many Charleston Friends attended the West Virginia Friends Gathering, an annual event held in the autumn for worship, discussion, and fellowship. West Virginia monthly meetings may be affiliated with three different yearly meetings (SAYMA, Lake Erie YM, Baltimore YM); this event provides an opportunity for fellowship and worship across yearly meeting boundaries.

Charleston sent three Friends to a Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbying weekend in Washington, DC to work for reduced military spending. We have long comprised the nucleus of the local program committee supporting the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) West Virginia Economic Justice Project; members also volunteered to serve AFSC's regional and national governance.

One measure of our support for wider Quaker organizations (WQOs) is our budget. This year, about 2/3 of Charleston's expenditures were for donations, and almost half of that went to WQOs, including SAYMA. At the end of 2012, we were beginning to discern how best to use an endowment we have accumulated through the years. Increasing support to WQOs is central among options Charleston is considering.

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

Charleston Friends Meeting has continued its tradition of preparing dinner for a local men's shelter early in the year and hosting a Christmas breakfast at a women's shelter. Our experience with both has been so positive that we wrote a letter to the editor of our local newspaper encouraging other small denominations to participate.

We make our presence in the wider community known through a notice in Friends Journal, a Web page, a telephone listing, and signs posted during Meeting times. We attract occasional visitors. Some are simply exploring, such as students who visit from religious studies classes. Others are seeking a religious home. During the past year, two visitors have expressed interest in being a part of our community. Each new person who finds us enriches our life.

Compared with previous years, Charleston's outreach to the wider community is less active on the corporate level, though possibly more active individually. Individuals in the meeting participate in community activity such as the annual Martin Luther King celebration, benefits held by organizations such as the Religious Coalition for Community Restoration (in whose offices we hold Meeting for Worship), and public interfaith forums held from time to time.

Individual outreach to the broader community includes our book club. It gives us a chance to mingle over a pot luck dinner, then discuss a variety of books suggested by participants. Several people who regularly attend book club do not attend Friends' Meeting.

We remain mindful of opportunities to express our faith through seasoning concerns that originate in SAYMA. This year we had a productive discussion of the Kabarak Call, which was brought to SAYMA's annual session last year. We share the values of peace, environmental stewardship, and economic justice expressed in the Call. Charleston Meeting works locally on these issues.

Summary

Charleston Friends Meeting is a small community of older Friends. As we age we are becoming more internally and locally focused in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

Approved at Meeting for Business
March 3, 2013

Chattanooga Monthly Meeting

The Chattanooga Meeting faced many challenges in 2012 that tested our hearts and strengthened our community.

Cindy McAfee, a stalwart member, died suddenly in October at the relatively young age of 54. Her passing left a large void in our meeting's life since she had served as the First Day School teacher for many years, the meeting clerk, and was the presiding clerk of Ministry and Oversight. The process of supporting her family and collaborating with them to oversee the memorial service involved many of us, including our young friends, who did an outstanding job supporting 18-year old Caty McAfee. The meeting had not been called upon to provide this type of care in many years. Cindy's ashes were placed in our memorial garden.

We rebounded from the embezzlement of \$33,000 in 2011. The Finance Committee normalized financial procedures and demonstrated its ability to plan for current and future needs. Friends responded with increased contributions and our budget grew by 13% for the current year. Recognizing an opportunity to care for those within our group, we offered material support to two people with financial needs. We wrestled with how to be caring and fair, how to foster self-sufficiency, and how to hold people accountable; it is not easy. Our efforts led to different results in different circumstances.

Many aspects of meeting life are unchanged. The meeting has not grown in numbers this past year, with 12 to 20 Friends attending worship weekly. In a discouraging sign, our First Day School has just about disappeared as students have graduated from high school and left for college. We have a smaller number who attend SAYF.

Late in the year, a Second Hour series on Quaker testimonies proved especially helpful and popular. Our weekly meetings for worship seldom pass entirely in silence; the messages usually serve to lift the spirits of those attending. Many Friends articulate their genuine gratitude for their time spent within a caring community that is committed to finding ways to follow God's light.

The Property-Oversight Committee has diligently taken care of our eighty-year-old building and the surrounding property. In 2012, prominent projects included remodeling a bathroom, tree removals, and the addition of a front door awning. We hold two well-attended workdays a year.

At year-end, we received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to establish a fund to help those who need material assistance. The donor hoped that others might add to it; already an additional \$1,000 has come in. In 2013, the Chattanooga Meeting will explore how to steward this gift. This

task will certainly lead us to face and address the material and spiritual challenges in our community.

Approved, 10 February 2013, by Chattanooga Monthly Meeting

Columbia Monthly Meeting

Having completed a full calendar year in the first Friends Meeting House in South Carolina since 1861, our Meeting is growing and changing in many ways. Weekly attendance and financial support are increasing. New faces grace our worship and two long time attendees were received as members of Columbia Friends Meeting in 2012. Friends testify to a sense of greater unity, mutual support and shared spiritual awareness.

Our Building Committee Clerk and other valued Friends continue to make improvements in the Meeting House and grounds, including landscaping, the creation of a playground, community garden and an outdoor labyrinth, thanks in part to a \$350 grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness for soil amendments and other sustainable improvements. At the suggestion of a Friend, we used the opportunity occasioned by the replacement of all windows in the Meeting House to return the stained glass windows in the worship space to the families of those members of Pisgah United Methodist Church in whose memory they had been donated. This seemed a fitting way to acknowledge the spirit in which they had been given while improving the energy efficiency of the building and being more consistent with our Friends tradition of simplicity in all things. Our relationship with Fairlawn United Methodist Church continues as we gratefully accept their help with renovations and improvements – and cooperate with families of the interred on maintenance of the cemetery. We continue to consider how we can make greater and more effective use of the space with which we have been blessed, beyond our First Day Worship and other programs.

Fourth Month

A Friend attended the World Conference of Friends 2012 at Kabarak University, Nairobi, Kenya. Upon her return, she presented a Second Hour program on the highlights of the gathering. She expressed surprise at the great diversity in expressions of faith that characterize Friends around the globe. Thanks to her, we are aware of the need to hold Friends worldwide in the Light as they cope with the various conflicts that arise in their communities. The same Friend is now serving as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Tanzania. We trust that the Spirit will comfort, encourage and guide her during her absence from our Meeting.

Sixth Month

We formally celebrated our newly renovated Meeting House with a First Day afternoon open house. Members of Fairlawn United Methodist Church; representatives of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, the former owner of the property; and former members of Pisgah United Methodist Church, whose home our Meeting House had originally been, attended; as well as present and former members and attendees of Columbia Friends Meeting. Also in attendance were members of the Aiken Worship Group; Charlotte, NC, Friends Meeting; and other area Friends. Friends provided tours of the meeting house and grounds to visitors, all shared food and fellowship, and we worshipped briefly in the traditional Friends' unprogrammed way. It was a beautiful and enriching experience.

Friends attended SAYMA's Yearly Meeting at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC, two with financial assistance from our Ministry and Nurture Committee. We extended the invitation to Young Adult Friends to hold one of their conferences in our meeting house. At present, nothing is scheduled. Not having achieved unity concerning the wording of the Kabarak Call for Peace and

Eco-justice, it is hoped our meeting will continue in openness to the leading of the Spirit in this and all matters.

Eighth Month

CFM sponsored the annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial vigil on the University of South Carolina campus. Participants came from various faith communities.

Ninth Month

Following a summer hiatus, we began a monthly cycle of programs that ensure consistency and variety for young Friends, as well as distributing work and responsibility among four adult Friends. The programs include exposure to the Bible, in keeping with Friends' Christian roots; encouragement of social and moral development through non-sectarian children's literature; instruction in peacemaking; and community service by preparing food for the undernourished of Columbia. Every Fifth Sunday, which occurred in the First, Fourth, Seventh, Ninth and Twelfth Months of 2012, young Friends participated in a shortened First Hour worship followed by a special activity designed to foster interaction and cooperation among young and adult Friends. As in years past, young Friends took an active role in the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign. Though attendance at First Day School ranges widely from none to as many as ten young Friends aged 2 to 14 years, the Committee on Ministry and Nurture hopes that, in the coming year, young Friends will come to see themselves and be accepted by us all as completely integral to the life of the Meeting.

Also, Friends from CFM joined the Aiken Worship Group (AWG) in a craft fair at Aiken Mall. CFM contributed pickles and other food items from our garden; also sold wooden bowls which a Friend had made. This was a joint fund raiser for the AWG and CFM, also designed to raise awareness in the Aiken community, of the presence of Friends in South Carolina and in Aiken which, we are pleased to report, has grown to as many as ten Friends in attendance at First Day worship. Members of the AWG continue to visit CFM and participate in some of our special programs.

Tenth Month

Our Nominating Committee completed its work and all vital positions are filled. Currently three standing committees, Ministry & Nurture, Finance, and Building & Grounds, meet regularly. Other committees meet on an *ad hoc* basis and individual Friends assume responsibilities as the Spirit leads. For instance, one Friend joined Interfaith Power and Light and attended one of their South Carolina events. She has encouraged us to pursue membership as a Meeting.

Other Matters

We have Second Hour programs presented by Friends on various topics of interest. One Friend presented reviews of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and Fiona Templeton's *Cells of Release*. Another has led a monthly series of discussions of *Conversation with Christ: Quaker Meditations on the Gospel of John* by Doug Gwyn.

Among other ministries of the meeting, three Friends continue to visit the federal prison in Edgefield, SC. A Friend who, with her family, has been at CFM since 2002, is now pursuing a ministry in K-8 education as Head of School at Charlotte, NC, Friends School. We also support Harvest Hope Food Bank with donations of 80 to 90 lbs. of food monthly – about 40 lbs. from our garden alone – and one Friend volunteers her time and talents during the week. High school aged and young adult Friends provide child-care services during our Second Hour programs and special events. Furthermore, young Friends prepare food monthly for Food Not Bombs with the help of an adult Friend. We have yet to fulfill our commitment of \$750 directed giving in the community; we expect to correct this oversight in the very near future.

Cookville Friends Meeting

We all feel a bit battered and bruised from this past year. We lost our dear member Deanna to illness and we sorely miss her physical presence. Four of our members have been hospitalized, a few more than once. Since we are only about eight to ten people gathered on any given First Day, these losses and diminishment are deeply felt.

Despite the lows of the year, we have many joys to report also. We had a table at Cookeville's first annual Pride event and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We welcomed the transfer of Ed Stapler's membership from Nashville Monthly Meeting to Cookeville. Deanna hosted a delightful ceremony for our second annual Peace Essay Contest winners from the local area high schools. We had a wonderful visit with Nashville Meeting. With the help of the FGC traveling ministries program, we were blessed with leadership from two wonderful SAYMA friends, Mark Wutka and Kristi Estes at our annual retreat. We began an evening spiritual discussion group that has so far focused on the spiritual journey questions suggested by Mary Ann Downey of Atlanta Meeting. These discussions have been recorded and will be available as an audio spiritual history of our members and attenders. One of our members plans to bequeath his house to the Meeting and we are anticipating many changes as we eventually have our own permanent home for the first time. We continue to support one member's prison ministry and the local high school witness for alternatives to the military.

The past year's events have changed our worship together as some Friends struggle to find and feel God's presence again, some feel an even deeper connection and centeredness, some leave most first Days feeling calmer, and some look forward to the time we share together each Sunday and feel that it feeds their spirit for the coming week. We continue to struggle with the world and each other, laugh together, build community, and hold all in the Light. We are grateful to still be here trying to share our Light with the world as best we know how.

Crossville Friends Meeting

Crossville Friends Meeting is a meeting in flux. We must be flexible and strong. Engaged, yet maintaining the cool minds required to be tapped deeply into Spirit's guidance. We have a wonderful religious tradition and philosophy which informs us richly. We stand on the shoulders of Friends past and present and contemplate the breathtaking changes occurring in our country and in the world, in the blessed and fractured human family, and the broad challenges to our earthly home itself. We each meet many others with whom we share great commonalities of spirit, and we know that Friends can contribute to society significantly despite our small numbers...We consider the broad arc of history and are humbled and frustrated by the briefness of our lives, and sometimes despair of being able to have an influence in any significant ways. It's almost too much to bear at times, and we grieve the impacts of evil and moral decay besetting our world. The evidence of greed and its destructiveness are abhorrent to us and the politics of fear with its chilling effects is very real.

How do we sing and rejoice, as Children of the Day and of the Light...in this thick night of darkness, given that we see the hand of God at work, and know that we can be instruments, albeit small and imperfect? How do we bear each other up through all these challenges to our humanity, our courage, our dignity and continue to bear witness to a Spirit that delights to do no evil, but delights in good? How do we practice the Presence in all situations, answering that of God in all we meet? This is our individual and our corporate mission and challenge. We are living in the midst of civil society increasingly under siege by a market-driven, theologically justified mentality that scorns "the commons", that scorns the concepts of accountability and giving back, that devours and destroys for short-term gain and that has no use for the sacredness of life and

creation. This is antithetical to all we believe. While cycles of evil can be seen in human history, this is our watch, and we can draw on the experience of Friends and others who've had to deal with it in the past, as we make our way now. How do we engage with evil and stand it down, disempower it? Our ongoing reference and inspiration from the life and teachings and mystery of Jesus are at the core of our faith journey, as we beseech Spirit to guide us, asking WWJD? What would Jesus do? The awareness made possible through ever-expanded communications technology allows humanity as never before to have global awareness while at the same time those who would enslave the world put that technology to work to keep humanity in the dark, confused and misled. Discernment is serious work and we each engage as best we can, and share the journey with each other in this small meeting.

We consider the limitations of our *corporate* witness--made exceedingly difficult, given our small numbers, distances most of us live from each other, numerous health/medical challenges that have beset many of us, demands of our personal lives and careers, and the financial challenges that such small numbers present to us individually and as a meeting. The loss of our eldest members to death in recent years and now illness requiring moving to other parts of the country for care by younger families members has left those of us who remain committed to seeing the meeting continue. Gladys Draudt, our long-time clerk, has moved to be with her daughter JoAnne and several grandchildren in Jeffersonville, New York. Our annual weekend gathering at a cabin in Cumberland Mountain State Park at Easter remains a beloved tradition that continues to cement our bonds. We delight at new and returning Friends whenever that happens and our presence and survival as a meeting matters to many individuals and families with history and ties to this meeting. We reluctantly trim our budget as we need, increase our contributions as we can, maintain our connections to the wider Religious Society of Friends, and endeavor to hold each other up in prayer, friendship, concern and encouragement. Each of us, individually strive to live out our faith and convictions, trying to discern the right decisions as we consider the ever-changing challenges and opportunities which life presents. All around us is change, uncertainty, and threats of many kinds. The solidarity and tender friendship we extend and receive from one another, and the commonality of spirit, core beliefs and faith-based and informed perspectives of each of us we all value and appreciate. We realize that we are exceedingly fortunate to have a meetinghouse, and the care and upkeep, while not great, is there. Events that bring in the wider community do happen, and we are able to host and offer hospitality to individuals and committees within the yearly meeting and beyond.

We work well together as a worshipping collective, pooling our knowledge, perspectives, and skills to meet each challenge. We genuinely enjoy each other and the study, conversation, and delightful humor sprinkled through our fellowship makes our time together and connections warm and satisfying. And so we journey on.

Greenville Friends Meeting

The past year has been an encouraging one for our small meeting. We have attracted several new attenders and one new member, who brought Quaker experience with them. We are happy to have incorporated members of the Clemson Worship Group into our meeting.

As is the case with all meetings, some of our regular attenders drive long distances to worship together. The deep silence of our worship speaks to all who seek the Spirit.

Without an official Clerk, the person who clerks the Meeting for Worship encourages others of us to take turns opening and closing the meeting and leading the ensuing friendly discussions that usually take place. The discussions are opportunities for fellowship and sharing interests. Our meeting has a particular love for birds and animals.

Each of us also feels the need to participate in community activities that express our care for our environments and the people in them. Two of us have placed their country properties into conservation agreement with Upstate Forever. Some of us minister to those who cannot attend meetings for reasons of health and age, as well as visiting with others who seem to need a listening ear.

Our monthly Meetings for Business are usually conducted by the Treasurer, and this year, we chose a seasoned Quaker who came from elsewhere as our Recording Clerk, having gone for some time without one. We do contribute to local and wider Quaker organizations, and receive regular donations to the treasury. We designate part of our Treasury as a building fund, but we are very satisfied with the well-appointed facilities in which we meet. We have a worship and business meeting room, a fully- equipped kitchen, and a large activity room for First Day School and the Pot Luck meals that follow the meeting monthly. And we enjoy a good relationship with our hosts, the Chaplain's Office of the Furman University Chapel. The lovely Georgian building shares its architectural style with other buildings on the recently-built campus.

Attracting university students and employees is one of the benefits of the meeting's location, and we welcome many interesting visitors, from both nearby and far away. Those attenders who are professors are always subject to moving away, as one family did this year. One highlight of the year was attendance by two young New Orleans Jazz musicians who treated us to an impromptu concert in the parking lot.

A regular feature of our meeting is our fellowship with the children, of whom there are now four. We adults ask them to share their lessons with us after their First Day School. Luckily, we have two families of very committed and involved parents who plan excellent lessons for the children. Last summer, one family searched for examples of behaviors that illustrated one of the testimonies. The children kept journals that they shared with the Meeting at the end of the summer.

With regular attendance of between four and eight adults, we have no standing committees. However, we recently decided to plan and offer monthly programs beginning in 2013, with rotating responsibilities for presenting or arranging for a speaker.

In considering how to attract local attendance, we have a free listing in a local newspaper.

One of our members, who is a Furman professor, was the featured speaker for the annual Furman community event entitled, "What Really Matters" sponsored by the Chaplain's Office. In it he shared his experiences discovering the universality of all people's search for love and acceptance. Our meeting supported him by our attendance and a group dinner.

Some of us participated in an ecumenical event sponsored by the Interfaith Forum this year, a film about the movement of the Spirit among thirteen grandmothers from around the world. We also attended a Moravian love feast together.

We celebrate the member who was attending Earlham Theological Seminary in Indiana as he transferred his membership to another Yearly Meeting that meets his needs more closely.

Joining with other Friends at our regional Palmetto Friends Gathering and at our Yearly Meeting are ways we also support Friends.

E-mailing has made it simpler to share thoughts and articles with each other, and we hope to improve our communication as we up-date our Directory and expand our mailing list.

Memphis Friends Meeting

Many of us find our meeting house and its silence to be an oasis of contemplative worship that can be life changing, and there is a gathered sense that together we are building a community that can amplify light within our larger community and in our own lives.

So much of our spiritual growth this year has involved our physical meeting house which we've enjoyed for four years now. We seem to have found a use for every space. Even the empty room between the meeting room and the first day school area is now being used regularly – as a collection spot for canned goods and sweatshirts for Manna House and the Methodist Neighborhood Center. Three regulars with our meeting who spend much of their time in other cities have been with us through significant parts of this year and have been a vibrant part in the life of the meeting inside and outside of worship. One sojourner has been staying in our guest room while here in Memphis to be close to his sister in her final months. Another sojourner celebrated her marriage to a member of our meeting in the first wedding ever held in our meeting house. Benches were pushed back to make room for a boisterous contra dance by the wedding party and the music of our very own contra dance band, the EarthQuakers. Sunday mornings are not so boisterous, and our worship circle regularly expands to welcome newcomers and visitors. This fall we were blessed by a new family with six children who have added to the natural noise and commotion and opened adult eyes and brought smiles to our faces. One morning in April following their own leadings and with support of FAPs (Friendly Adult Presence), our children transformed the meeting house for a pancake breakfast fundraiser that made generous assistance for Manna House, Mid-South Spay and Neuter and the Humane Society.

This year has been one of flux – even a jumble, but a creative jumble. We are changing the way we share responsibility for the work that keeps the meeting and the meeting house going. A year ago we began a concerted effort to develop the clerk within each of us. During our experimental year with an interim clerk, several new faces were seen at the clerking table of our business meeting. We began to refer to our committee conveners as committee clerks, and we sought to see all committee work as worship. Within committees we are trying new formats and topics. For example, our Education and Events Committee and First Day Committee collaborated to introduce adults to the Faith and Play curriculum during our annual retreat. We have a new standing Nominations Committee that will work year round to support Friends in recognizing and nurturing their leadings within the meeting and its committees. For the coming year, committees are embracing the following query: “How do we interface with the outside world – both when it remains outside (we go to it) and when it arrives on our doorstep (as visitors)?” To help us in communicating this emerging hospitality, we have formed a new ad-hoc Communications Committee. We want to share the hospitality we ourselves experience in our meeting house with others.

For many within our meeting, this year has been a personally challenging one. There have been deaths and illnesses within meeting families, relocations, and tensions for which way has not yet opened. One resource for those within meeting is the clearness committee process. The Ministry and Nurture Committee manages this process and now provides explicit, consistent instruction to committees. Those experiencing clearness committees are finding them a rich personal resource.

This year Memphis Friends Meeting has sent Friends to Yearly Meeting, Pendle Hill, and various SAYMA retreats. The Kabarak Call has been on our radar since summer. On Saturday, March 23, FWCC will offer a Living Waters workshop in Memphis. We have invited Friends from Tennessee,

Arkansas, Mississippi, and even Florida to join us. We are enjoying the present, and we are looking forward to changes and further growth ahead.

Nashville Friends Meeting

The Spirit has continued to prosper with Nashville Friends Meeting in the past year. We have welcomed several new members - Todd Hughes, Annie Livingston, Shawna Marion, as well as a transfer or membership (Mark Wutka from Atlanta Friends Meeting), and a joint membership (Jan Stansel, with Alexandria Va. Friends Meeting). We are experiencing a baby boom, welcoming five babies into our community this year – Rowan, the son of Daniel and Keely Showalter, Gibran, the son of Joseph and Deena Niemat, Evelyn (Evie), the daughter of Jess and Christina VanRegenmorter, Josie Basil, the daughter of Rosemary and Clay Brunton, and Maddox, the son of Amanda Lasley and Dan Johnson. In Fifth Month we joyfully witnessed the union of longtime member Mary Linda McKinney and Mark Wutka, and in Tenth Month we participated in the vow renewal of Brian and Kate Wingate. We mourned the passing of two Friends, Karolyn Huffman and former member Deanna Nipp-Kientz of Cookeville Friends Meeting.

It has been a busy year for us. This past winter we held a Couples Enrichment Retreat led by Merry Stanford and Peter Wood of Red Cedar Friends Meeting, and then a Regional Gathering focusing on Clearness Committees, and then a Clerking Workshop led by Arthur Larrabee which included Friends from Memphis, West Knoxville, Huntville, Cookeville, and Chattanooga. About sixty Friends attended our fall retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park, where we had a blessed time of work, play, and worship. Our Adult Religious Education committee has introduced a "Reading the Bible Without Baggage" series to our second hour program, and we held a discussion group on Marcus Borg's book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time". Our Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) group continues to meet and explore ways to serve the community. We also have a group centered around aging gracefully.

Many of our members and attenders are actively engaged with the wider Quaker community, with several serving on various committees within SAYMA, and two Nashville Friends serving on the Friends General Conference Central Committee. Mary Linda McKinney is currently attending the School of the Spirit program, and Carol Ann DiMilo attended a workshop on religious education. Camille Platt, a young adult Friend, was one of the keynote speakers at the 2012 SAYMA sessions, speaking about her experiences at the Relebohile Day Care Center near Parys, South Africa. Another young Friend, Jacob Myers, designed the cover for the 2012 SAYMA program. While our SAYF contingent continues to be smaller than it has been in the past, we had three young Friends attending SAYF activities this year. Two of them will graduate in the next year, and another young Friend will be eligible.

We have a vibrant community of young Friends and very dedicated people leading First Day school. During the fall retreat we held a threshing session about the First Day school program, and following that, an active curriculum was designed that has been appreciated by the young Friends and the adults. For Christmas the young Friends performed a play telling the story of St. Nicholas from a Quaker perspective.

We continue to be engaged with our local Nashville community as well. Early in the year we provided space for the local Occupy movement. We have a number of groups using our space during the week as well. We continue to work with our neighborhood through Quaker Cottage (a home across the street from the meeting owned by members of the meeting) and food pantry. Kandance Martin, our Friend-in-residence at Quaker Cottage has done tremendous work in reaching out to our neighbors. After several years of inactivity, our Social Ministries committee has begun meeting regularly again, and although its main project of 2012, working with Nashville's

Homeless Commission to mentor formerly homeless neighbors, did not work out, the committee is still pursuing actions related to serving the homeless community.

We have also had some discussions about how to support farm workers, and in November seven Friends joined with Nashville Fair Food in marching in front of a local Publix store and meeting with the store manager and Publix regional manager, expressing our concern over treatment of farm workers in southern Florida and the resistance of Publix to take simple steps to relieve their condition.

We have noticed that our Meeting for Worship has been quieter than in former years with less vocal ministry. We note that many longtime members who were very active in the meeting are no longer with us, or are less involved, and that our thriving young Friends program has benefitted greatly from the presence of several of our seasoned members who are not able to sit in worship with us every week. Although we laid down our mid-week worship, we continue to have a quarterly Meeting for Healing, and Music City Friends Church, a small pastoral meeting under the care of Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Ohio), holds weekly worship in our space on First Day evenings. We also have a small spiritual formation group that continues to meet regularly.

We spend a considerable amount of our energy in caring for one another during the week, through care committees, support committees, visits, rides, babysitting, and many other forms of assistance. We find great joy and blessing in the number of people in our meeting who are active in caring for our meeting community.

We continue to hold the business meeting during the regular time for worship on the third first day of the month and the business meeting continues to be very well attended. We have nearly the same attendance at meeting for business as we do for meeting for worship the rest of the month. The spirit of worship that we find in our regularly scheduled business meetings has also carried into the various called meetings that we have held. We also find an increased level of the quality of the business meeting – less cross-talk, more openness towards one another. We have started limiting the influx of people to particular time intervals once business meeting has started to try to minimize the interruptions and, it seems to be working well.

Our clerk instituted a consent agenda (introduced to us by Arthur Larrabee's workshop) to facilitate the flow of the business meeting. He also includes an expected time for each item on the agenda. Our meeting and committee clerks have worked with mixed success to improve the timeliness of the distribution of the agenda and associated materials so that we may come better prepared for the business meeting. While we continue to benefit from the participation of long-time, experienced members, we are happy to see a growing number of Friends taking on roles of responsibility.

Our grounds continue to see improvements and investments. First, we have come to unity about purchasing Quaker Cottage and are now discerning how that will proceed. We are also pleased that our kitchen renovations were almost complete by the end of the year. Finally, we have spent some time investigating hearing assistance systems and sound baffling. This is an ongoing concern since we have many members with hearing difficulties and a large meeting room that makes it difficult for sound to carry.

In the coming year we hope to deepen our Meeting for Worship, strengthen our community, and particularly to find a good solution for audio improvements.

Oxford Friends Meeting

This year has been one of stasis for the Oxford Friends Meeting. Attendance has fluctuated, but a number of those who attended in 2011 and one who attended faithfully during the early fall of 2012 are no longer attending. Average attendance has dropped. No one has joined the meeting during the year, and no one has died. The meeting wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the Powerhouse for allowing us to meet there weekly without rent.

Leadership. During 2011 there were two officers: a clerk and a treasurer. Although the meeting has only these two formal offices, we have an appointed SAYMA representative and SAYMA Ministry & Nurture representative, and an Interfaith Compassion Ministry (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 since it conflicts with her duties as our clerk.

Participation in the community. We have remained active in ICM, with two volunteers, one of them a member of the ICM board of directors. The board member has been a particularly active volunteer, writing and helping document several grants. A number 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

Submitted by Pam Coe, clerk
February 17, 2013

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting

Prologue: Meeting for worship continues to find a deep long silence, sometimes for the whole hour. Verbal ministry carries the silence into articulateness; if several messages are offered, often they interweave. Business Meeting is deepening as we learn how to attend to business as a way of worship. New people continue to join our Meeting, both new to Quakerism and seasoned Friends.

After earlier experiences, we are finding that conflict, although painful, offers opportunities to listen more deeply to one another and see more clearly where we are being led. In the fall, we talked, listened and prayed our way through a difficult conflict on a property issue that involved about a dozen of our members that was further complicated by our human frailties and fuzziness about Quaker procedures. Two things helped us get through and ultimately learn from this difficult period. First, our Ministry and Counsel committee undertook a ministry of listening to Friends on all sides of the conflict; second, one Friend at the center of the conflict provided the spiritual leadership needed to bring us to unity on the issue. Having learned from this difficult period and from several

others, we feel better able to address future conflicts as a normal part of life. We have gained confidence that we can use Quaker process to resolve our disputes, realizing we belong to one another in community.

InReach: The Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting has always budgeted for “outreach,” providing funds and other forms of help to people outside the Meeting. We recognize that it is also appropriate to budget for “inreach,” allocating funds and other resources to help ourselves to grow, learn, gather, nurture, and care for each other.

- For the first time the Meeting offered a retreat from Friday supper through Saturday evening near but not in our Meetinghouse. The organizers ensured that time and resources were well invested, answering an expressed hunger for spiritual nurture and deeper relationships. Many appreciated the facilitation and teaching about discernment provided by a visiting Friend. The experience we shared that weekend made us eager for more opportunities to get to know each other on a deeper level.
- As there are a number of new people in the Meeting and several older friends that were unfamiliar with Quakerism we held a four session “Introduction to Quakerism.” Topics included convincement, several testimonies, Meetings for Worship and Business, becoming a Quaker, and Friends in the greater world.
- Ministry and Counsel compiled a handbook for members and attenders including the following topics: A Short History of SVFM; Membership; Officers, Committees, and Positions; Ways to Meet with Others in Groups; the Wider Quaker World, and Quaker Expressions.
- When two Friends announced that their physical condition no longer made it possible to regularly attend Meeting, we expanded our Transportation and Visitation work attempting to ensure that they and others will be visited more frequently by Friends.
- Several Friends began a mid-week worship at the meetinghouse. Later it was decided to hold one mid-week worship per month at a local retirement community where several members and attenders reside.
- The Building Committee addressed the physical needs of our meetinghouse by replacing the carpet, painting the main meeting room, replacing kitchen appliances, and completing many smaller important jobs involving maintenance, repair, and reorganization. We increasingly recognize our physical surroundings contribute to our spiritual growth.
- The Grounds Committee changed the Memory Garden from its initial, rustic stage to a well-defined, user-friendly space by creating an accessible, stone-lined pathway. They are also beginning a safety review.
- In addition to spending much time prayerfully discerning gifts within the Meeting, the Nominating Committee worked with all committees to establish terms of office.
- The Adult Education and Nurture Committee arranged weekly one-hour forums after Sunday morning worship. Many were facilitated by members and attenders speaking on their areas of expertise and interest.
- Along with re-shelving books, the Library Committee purchased some books, established a “New Book” shelf, created a shelf of publications by members, sorted through innumerable boxes of donated books selecting those appropriate for our Meeting library, and reorganized the library room to make it more usable.
- Children were provided regular care, nurture, and education. They report their work at the close of each Meeting for Worship. Friends have expressed interest in more inter-generational activities providing more opportunities to bring young and old together.
- This year, Friends redistributed Spiritual Friendship Circle participants into new groups in order to create fresh opportunities for deepening relationships and exploring Quakerism in the context of personal sharing and fellowship. A women’s reading group also began meeting.

- A small group of Friends continued to meet bi-weekly to explore “Experiment with Light,” a guided Quaker meditation illuminating aspects of our lives.

OutReach: We support, financially and in other ways, Quaker and non-Quaker organizations, and we donate funds and other forms of help to people outside the Meeting.

- The Meeting witnessed in a published Minute our opposition to North Carolina’s “Amendment One,” which limits state recognized marriages to one man and one woman.
- Community outreach efforts were aimed at helping the poor and underserved in the Swannanoa Valley by participating in food drives, contributing to the annual Walk for Hunger Relief, reaching out to our neighbors in an assisted living center, and responding to some of the emergency needs of people in the valley. Peace efforts focused on preparing a response to the Kabarak call for Peace and Ecojustice that was endorsed by SAYMA and supporting a boycott of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank. Many Friends continue giving of themselves to causes for to which they feel led. These activities inform and energize our Meeting.

West Knoxville Friends Meeting

This year our meeting has had a number of opportunities for growth in a material/physical sense. We put a new metal roof on the meeting house, continued to garden in our field and add dogwood and bulbs to the landscaping, replaced all the carpet in the meeting house (the old carpet was ruined as result of a plumbing malfunction) and we are participating in the Adopt A Road program by keeping Meeting House Road clean. All of these activities took a lot of work on the part of members and attenders and we were able to accomplish them all in a way that felt spirit led as well as expeditious.

Our meeting continues to be small, so many of us are on multiple committees and sometimes struggle to stay on top of all our responsibilities. We have been blessed with a number of young adult F/friends who wish to be active in the meeting and who have helped with the children, in the garden and in the general care of our Meeting House. They have reserved the meeting house for making music on Saturday afternoons and have enriched our meeting in many ways. Unfortunately many of these young adults have erratic schedules and many are only in the area for a short time. We welcome them for however long they are with us and are glad for the opportunity to share our faith and fellowship with them. Several of our members and long time attenders have been unable to attend regularly because of work or ill health and we miss their presence. We have had many visitors over the year and regularly have one or two visitors in our meeting for worship.

As a meeting we have met thoughtfully over the Kubarak Call for Ecojustice and our desire to have a minute welcoming friends of diverse sexual/gender orientations. We anticipate minutes on both of these issues. As we seek an easy and clear way to schedule second hours and to encourage greater attendance at meeting for business we have moved scheduling of second hours to business meeting every month and have moved worship sharing and life of the meeting to before meeting for worship on the days of business meetings. We are still waiting to see if this is working in the ways we hope. A discussion group on Quaker Theology has been meeting regularly and and we do our best to offer regular second hours on religious education. We have further strengthened our ties to Compassionate Ministries Uganda with a visit from three of our members to Uganda in November and feel clear about our sponsorship of this organization. We have had second hours on the use and function of clearness committees and encourage F/friends to take advantage of this process of discernment.

One of the highlights of our year was an invitation to visit Fourth United Presbyterian Church and share our faith with the members of that church. We spent an evening with them and shared silent worship and had a discussion on differences and similarities in our faith. Two members attended a local college welcoming event for students in September and were able to make our presence known to young people in the area. We have hopes for continued interfaith connections.

As we move into 2013 we continue to seek ways in which to deepen our relationships with each other and make connections with wider community. We have further work to do to maintain our meeting house and need more discernment in how to fairly distribute the work of our meeting among members and attenders. We have challenges ahead of us but are joyful in anticipation of the opportunities that await us.

Attachment G: Minute from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting

MINUTE approved at Swannanoa Valley Meeting for Business, 4/7/13

Brought by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee, duly seasoned.

As Quakers we endeavor to listen deeply to the concerns of everyone involved in a conflict in the belief that no lasting solution to conflict can come unless the just claims of all can be respectfully heard and their just claims can in some measure be satisfied. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which so sorely torments the international community generally and the peoples of the Middle East in particular, Israel's just claim for security is fully heard and supported by our government, and we join with the great majority of Americans who support Israel's claim for a secure existence.

The just claims of the Palestinians, on the other hand, are not widely recognized nor discussed in this country. Further, they receive little support from our government. Several from our Meeting have had direct experience with the on-the-ground realities in Israel/Palestine and others in the Meeting have undertaken a journey to educate themselves, through reading, conversations and forums about the claims of each side. We believe that three Palestinian claims deserve our support.

1) The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention, to which Israel is a signatory. Article 49 of that Convention specifically prohibits an occupying power from transferring members of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies. Thus the steady acquisition of Palestinian land for Israeli settlement development and the expropriation of natural resources such as water are illegal and are eroding the Palestinian's right to a viable homeland.

2) The Israeli domination of Palestinian land denies the Palestinians right to personal freedom, national sovereignty and self-determination. This domination through continued expansion of exclusively Jewish towns and highways is preventing substantive peace negotiations from taking place.

3) The Palestinians also claim that those who support these illegal Israeli settlements by buying products produced there are contributing to the perpetuation of a grave injustice against the Palestinian people. People may be unaware of the origin of these products, but once they are made aware that they are illegally produced on The West Bank, they have the responsibility not to be complicit in a continuing injustice.

In support of Palestinian justice, as well as in support of a peaceful and lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we encourage our members and all citizens not to buy products (eg., Soda Stream, Ahava cosmetics, etc) made in the West Bank settlements.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends who believe that all women and men are our sisters and brothers we are led to respond to the cries of suffering of the Palestinian people by supporting the boycott campaign until the Occupation has ended and the basic human rights of those living under the intolerable conditions of this Occupation, which we regard as both illegal and immoral, are secured.

Attachment H: Traveling Minute for John Meyer, FGC Visitor



1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107
office 215.561.1700 | bookstore 800.966.4556
www.fgcquaker.org | www.QuakerBooks.org

5/01/2013

Loving greetings to Friends at Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association from Friends General Conference! We commend to your loving care Friend John Meyer, who is attending your annual sessions as the Yearly Meeting Visitor for FGC.

John Meyer is a long-time attender of Friends Meeting of Washington DC, Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He has served two years on FGC's Central Committee. He currently serves as a member of FGC's Nominating Committee and Committee for Nurturing Ministries.

John has previously served as the Recording Clerk for Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) and as a member of FLGBTQC's Nominating and Ministry and Counsel Committees. He has also been a past clerk of the American Friends Service Nobel Peace Prize Nominating Committee. John Meyer lives and works at Pendle Hill, serving as the Coordinator of Short-Term Education Programs.

As a visitor to your annual sessions, John will be attending your business meetings and other yearly meeting community events and will be looking for opportunities to worship, listen and share with you. He will share his experiences at yearly meeting with FGC in the form of a written report. Reports from all yearly meeting visitors will be reviewed and summarized by the YMVP Committee and distributed at Central Committee at its fall annual meeting.

We hold you and John Meyer in the Light of God's love and trust that your time together will be richly blessed.

On behalf of the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee of FGC,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Evans".

Eric Evans, FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee:

Janice Domanik, ILYM (Clerk); Jan Blodgett, NCYM (C); John Meyer, BYM
Eric Evans, Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Attachment I: Nominating Committee Report

Nominations 2013-14

New appointees in 2013 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	Carol Nickle	12-14	West Knoxville
ASSISTANT CLERK	Susan Stark	13-14	Crossville (TN)
RECORDING CLERK	Susan Phelan	13-14	Huntsville (AL)
TREASURER	Charles Schade	12-14	Charleston (WV)
ASST. TREASURER			

Standing Committees

Ministry & Nurture Committee

CLERK	Errol Hess	13-15	
MEMBER	Thais Carr	12-14	Nashville
MEMBER	Sharon Annis	13-15	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Wood Bouldin	13-15	Charleston
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mary Kedl		West Knoxville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kristi Estes		Oxford
MEETING APPOINTEE	Jere Licciardello		Chattanooga
MEETING APPOINTEE	Jane Goldthwait		Celo
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kim Saderholm		Berea
MEETING APPOINTEE	Edie Patrick		Asheville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Bryan Marshall		Birmingham (AL)
MEETING APPOINTEE			

Finance Committee

CLERK	LeeAnn Swarm	11-14	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Linda Trask	11-14	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	11-14	W. Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Wood Bouldin	12-14	Greenbrier WG (WV)
MEMBER	David Ciscel	11-14	Memphis (TN)
Ex officio	Charles Schade – Treasurer		Charleston

Personnel Committee

CLERK	Susan Stark	13-14	Crossville (TN)
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	13-15	West Knxville (TN)
MEMBER	Bob McGahey	12-14	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Kathleen Hardie	12-14	Nashville (TN)
SUPERVISOR OF Adm. Asst.	Carol Nickle		West Knoxville (TN)
SUPERVIOSR SAYF Adm. Asst.	Mark Wutka/Aaron Ruscetta		Nashville (TN)

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

CONVENER	Jere Licciardello	12-14	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Mary B. Morgan	13-15	Birmingham (AL)
MEMBER	Roy H. Taylor	13-15	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Bob Welsh	12-14	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	RD Flowers	12-14	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Pat Williams	13-15	Atlanta (GA)

SAYF STEERING COMMITTEE

CO-CLERK	Mark Wutka	12-14	Nashville (TN)
CO-CLERK	Aaron Ruscetta	12-14	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Mary Linda McKinney	13-15	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Chuck Jones	13-15	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Kathleen Mavornin	13-15	West Knxville (TN)
MEMBER	Wren Hendrikson	12-14	Chapel Hill (NC)
MEMBER	Jonathan Schinhofen		Lexington (KY)
MEMBER		12-14	
ex officio	Jonah McDonald		Atlanta (GA)

JYM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

CONVENER	Beth Myers	12-14	Berea (KY)
MEMBER	Jane Goldthwait	12-14	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Charlie Wilton	12-14	Berea (KY)
JYM Coordinators	Michael Kramer & Jennifer Dickie	12-15	Atlanta (GA)

YEARLY MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

CLERK	Carol Ciscel	13-14	Memphis (TN)
ADULT PROGRAMS	Hank Fay	13-14	Berea (KY)
WORKSHOPS	Judy Guerry*	13-14	Huntsville (AL)
CO-REGISTRAR	Laura Seeger	13-14	Chattanooga (TN)
CO-REGISTRAR	Annie Black	13-14	Cookville (TN)
RECORDING REGISTRAR	Chris Berg	13-14	Greenville (SC)
BOOKSTORE	Chris Berg	13-14	Greenville (SC)
ASST. BOOKSTORE	Pam Beziat	13-14	Nashville (TN)
LOCAL ARRANGMNT	Bob Welsh	13-14	Swannanoa (NC)
JYM COORDINATOR	Michael Kramer & Jennifer Dickie		Atlanta
YAF REPS	Samuel Leeman Munk/Bethany Childers	13-14	Chapel Hill (NC)/Memphis
WORSHIP CO-ORD.	John Potter	13-14	Nashville (TN)
LAYOUT EDITOR	Carol Ciscel	13-14	Memphis
SAYF Coordinator	Wren Hendrickson	12-14	Chapel Hill (NC)

*Not approved at YM

Young Adult Friends

CLERK	Samuel Leeman-Munk		Chapel Hill (NC)
-------	--------------------	--	------------------

Nominating Committee (named by the Naming Committee at SAYMA YM)

Co-CLERK	David Ciscel	12-14	Memphis (NC)
Co-CLERK	Barbara Esther	12-14	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Kathleen Hardie	13-15	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Jane Goldthwait	13-15	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Laura Maynard Lane	11-13	Asheville
YAF MEMBERS	Judy Scoville/Bethany Childers	12-14	Nashville/Memphis

Ecological Concerns Network

CO-CLERK			
CO-CLERK			

Southern Appalachian Friend

EDITOR	Beth Ensign	13-14	Atlanta (GA)
--------	-------------	-------	--------------

Web Support

WEB COORDINATOR	Charlie Wilton	13-15	Berea (KY)
Web Manager	R.D Flowers	12-14	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Steve Livingston	12-14	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Hank Fay	12-14	Berea (KY)

Archivist

Archivist	Missy Ivie	12-14	West Knoxville (TN)
-----------	------------	-------	---------------------

Outreach

CLERK	Hank Fay	12-14	Berea (KY)
MEMBER	Mike Mykel	13-15	Athens (GA)
MEMBER	Sandy Tracy	12-14	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Roger Wise	12-14	Charleston (WV)
YAF MEMBER	Bethany Childers	12-14	Memphis (TN)

Ad Hoc Committees

Faith & Practice Revision

CLERK			
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	Began 01	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Wood Bouldin	Began 12	Greenbrier WG
MEMBER	Edie Patrick	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER	Thais Carr	Began 12	Nashville

Handbook

CLERK	Sharon Annis	Began 06	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	Began 02	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Carol Ciscel	Began 13	Memphis (TN)

Site Selection

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

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	Free Palazzo	12-15	Atlanta (GA)
	Lee Ann Swarm	12-15	West Knoxville (TN)
	Arnold Karr	13-16	Columbia (SC)
FCNL	Charlie Wilton	12-15	Berea (KY)
	Jane Hiles	13-16	Birmingham (AL)
FGC	Gita Larson	13-16	Asheville
	Christina Van Regenmorte	13-16	Nashville (TN)
	Stoph Hallward	11-14	Atlanta (GA)
FLGBTQC	Susan Phelan	13-16	Huntsville (AL)
FWCC	Geeta McGahey	12-15	Celo (NC)
	Michael Galovic	13-16	Swannanoa Valley
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	Adrienne Weir	12-15	Asheville (NC)
QEW	Lisa Rose	13-16	Swannanoa (NC)
QUAKER HOUSE	Arnold Karr	13-16	Columbia (SC)
RSWR	Karen Morris	12-15	Atlanta (GA)
WM. PENN HOUSE	Jane Hiles	13-16	Birmingham (AL)

Attachment J: Proposed FY 2014 Budget

SAYMA FY 2014 Proposed Budget

Categories	FY 2012		FY 2013		FY 2014
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual to date	Budget
INCOME	73,800	78,616	76,475	38,465	76,950
Assessments	39,000	37,239	42,900	30,228	40,000
Bank Interest	500	184	500	220	250
Contributions	1,200	288	1,200	200	500
F&P Sales	1,500	3,451	275	176	200
SAYF Receipts		0	0	0	
YM Total Receipts	31,600	37,454	31,600	7,642	36,000
YM Receipts	28,600	34,760	28,600	7,542	33,000
YM Scholarship Donations	1,000	1,117	1,000	100	1,000
YM Bookstore Sales Income	2,000	1,578	2,000	0	2,000
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	69,429	68,476	69,373	23,001	73,496
Yearly Meeting	31,600	34,769	31,600	2,134	36,000
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	24,000	24,607	24,000	250	25,000
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	1,500	3,785	1,500	407	4,000
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	3,100	3,230	3,100	0	4,000
Coordinator	1,800	2,800	1,800	0	
Ass't Coordinator	1,000	0	1,000	0	
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	300	430	300	0	
Scholarship WQO Reps	1,000	616	1,000	0	1,000
YM Bookstore	2,000	2,531	2,000	1,477	2,000
SAYF Operational Transfers	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Delegate Expenses	5,000	2,343	5,000	2,000	3,600
Rep Mtgs	100	0	100	53	100
Del to WQOs	4,900	2,343	4,900	1,947	3,500
Committees	2,150	648	2,150	18	1,000
Ministry and Nurture Committee	750	200	500	18	1,000
Ecological Concerns Committee	50	0	50	0	
Faith and Practice Revision Committee	750	424	500	0	
Finance Committee	50	24	50	0	
Nominating Committee	50	0	50	0	
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	500	0		0	
Outreach Committee		0	500	0	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	700	523	1,225	1,316	1,400
SAYMA Personnel	22,779	23,514	23,348	14,926	25,546
SAYMA Staff Training	0	0	0	0	
SAYMA Office Administration	2,000	1,300	2,350	2,109	2,500
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		360		270	
Postage		159		151	
Duplication		0		63	
Misc. Office		781		1,626	
SAYMA Newsletter	1,000	170	750	497	750
SAYMA Directory	150	158	150	0	150
SAYMA Treasurer	550	216	550	0	200
SAYMA F&P	1,500	2,716	250	0	200
SAYMA Website Hosting Service		119	0	0	120
SAYMA Other Expenses	0	0	0	0	

SAYMA FY 2014 Proposed Budget

Categories	FY 2012		FY 2013		FY 2014
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual to date	Budget
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS	8,371	5,240	12,515	12,415	800
Transfers To Funds	2,240	2,240	2,915	2,915	0
Spiritual Development Fund	300	300	300	300	
Released Friend Fund	300	300	300	300	
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	650	650	1,325	1,325	
FWCC World Conference Fund	700	700	700	700	
Youth Enrichment Fund	250	250	250	250	
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	40	40	40	40	
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	6,000	3,000	9,600	9,500	800
AFSC	700	350	1,050	1,050	
FCNL	700	350	1,050	1,050	
FGC	700	350	1,050	1,050	
FWCC	700	350	1,050	1,050	
Right Sharing of World Resources	700	350	1,050	1,050	
Quaker House	700	350	1,050	1,050	
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	200	100	300	200	
Quaker Earthcare Witness	700	350	1,050	1,050	800
Friends Peace Teams	200	100	900	900	
Wm Penn House	200	100	300	300	
Friends Journal	200	100	300	300	
Guilford College Archiving	100	50	150	150	
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	200	100	300	300	
Other	131	0	0	0	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	77,800	73,716	81,888	35,416	74,296
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(4,000)	4,900	(5,413)	3,049	2,654

Attachment K: Treasurer's Report

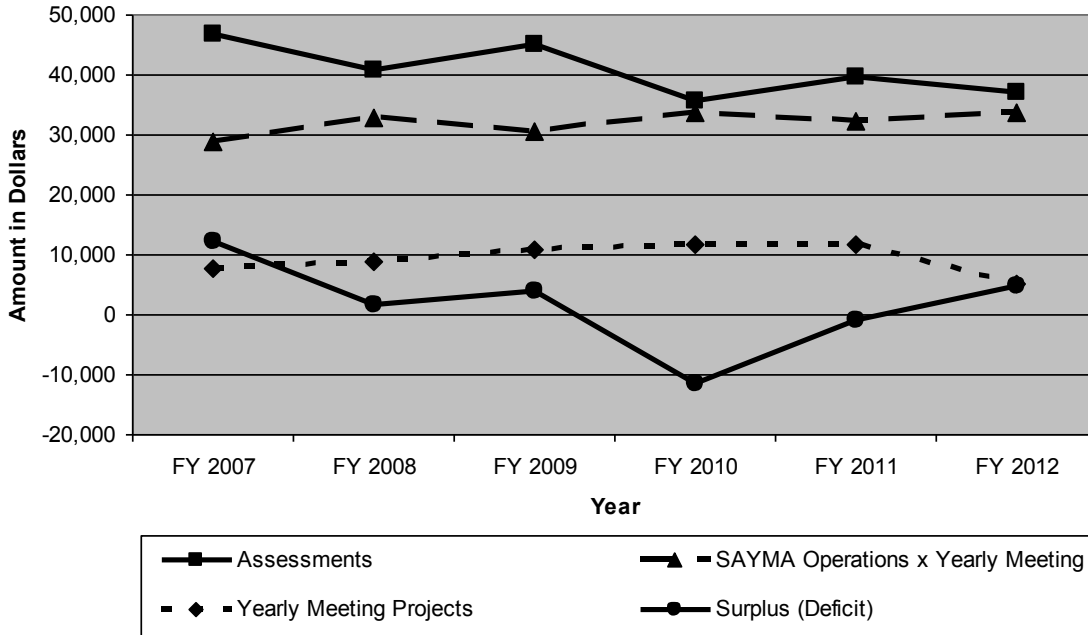
Treasurer's 2013 Yearly Meeting Report
Prepared May 16, 2013

This report consists of a summary of income and expenses to date for our current fiscal year, as well as some observations on historical financial patterns and trends. Our 2013 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

1. The Budget vs. Actual report is Attachment 1. It shows SAYMA's budget as approved at Representative Meeting, with expenditures to date. Note that the surplus/deficit line is misleading, because we have received over \$10,000 for yearly meeting, but spent only \$2,000.
2. Receipts from assessments are approximately as budgeted given that slightly over 3 months remain in the fiscal year. Details of assessments are shown in Attachment 2. Other receipts are as expected.
3. Yearly meeting project expenses have been completely paid. Note that Wider Quaker Organization and other contributions are 50% greater than originally budgeted. This does *not* represent a permanent increase, but accounts for late payment of FY 2012 amounts in these categories. Committees are spending very little, raising the question of whether it is due to frugality or inactivity. Delegate expenses are lower than expected. It's not clear whether fewer delegates actually attended national meetings this year, or more delegates absorbed the costs personally.
4. SAYF expenses for the fiscal year to date were reported to be \$4,156, with the bulk used for retreats (\$3,196) and the balance mostly used for communication (copying and postage). SAYF's retreat and activity fees and donations have exceeded its expenditures by \$1,528, in due to generous contributions and conservatively-set fees. SAYF has not yet requested funding from SAYMA other than staff salary. SAYF currently has about \$2,000 in cash, enabling it to cover up front costs for retreats.
5. SAYMA's current balance sheet is Attachment 3. The overall total line, less receipts for Yearly Meeting that will ultimately be paid for accommodations and program would represent net worth of approximately \$42,000. This figure is more than half our current operating budget of \$76,000. We have almost \$20,000 in liabilities, consisting of set-aside funds.
6. Past year activity in the set-aside funds is Attachment 4. There has been little activity in the funds, with inflows exceeding outflows. The balances increased by \$1,491 since October 1, 2012.
7. Historical revenues and expenses are shown in Figure 1. SAYMA's assessment revenues have declined by almost \$10,000 since 2007 and appear to be on a downward trend of \$1,757 per year. Operational expenses exclusive of yearly meeting have trended upward about \$722 per year and may exceed assessments in the near future. This is not sustainable. Yearly meeting projects and surplus/deficit have fluctuated widely.

Figure 1

SAYMA Historic Revenues and Expenses



Treasurer contact information and financial procedures

Accounts payable

Individual Friends, meetings, and committees with requests for payment for budgeted expenses should send the request with appropriate documentation to Charles Schade (c.vmbra@frontier.com; Treasurer@SAYMA.org). E-mail is preferred with documentation in electronic form. Friends may also submit expenses via postal mail to 4100 Virginia Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304.

Accounts receivable

Meetings should send assessment payments to SAYMA's administrative assistant Liz Perch at PO Box 5848, Savannah, GA 31414. Other payments to SAYMA should be sent to Liz for deposit to SAYMA's account..

Attachment K: Treasurer's Report: Attachment 1
SAYMA Budget vs. Actual Report 10/1/2012 through 5/16/2013

Budget Item	Budget FY 2013	Actual FY 2013	Percent of Budget
INCOME	\$76,475.00	\$42,017.70	54.9%
Assessments	\$42,900.00	\$30,452.50	71.0%
Bank Interest	\$500.00	\$219.82	44.0%
Contributions	\$1,200.00	\$200.00	16.7%
F&P Sales	\$275.00	\$176.00	64.0%
SAYF Receipts		\$-	
YM Total Receipts	\$31,600.00	\$10,969.38	34.7%
YM Receipts	\$28,600.00	\$10,869.38	38.0%
YM Scholarship Donations	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	10.0%
YM Bookstore Sales Income	\$2,000.00	\$-	0.0%
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$69,373.48	\$24,647.78	35.5%
Yearly Meeting	\$31,600.00	\$2,134.41	6.8%
Yrly Meeting – Facilities	\$24,000.00	\$250.00	1.0%
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$1,500.00	\$407.24	27.1%
Junior Yearly Meeting – JYM	\$3,100.00	\$-	0.0%
Coordinator	\$1,800.00	\$-	0.0%
Ass't Coordinator	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.0%
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	\$300.00	\$-	0.0%
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.0%
YM Bookstore	\$2,000.00	\$1,477.17	73.9%
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$2,000.00	\$-	0.0%
Delegate Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.32	40.0%
Rep Mtgs	\$100.00	\$53.16	53.2%
Del to WQOs	\$4,900.00	\$1,947.16	39.7%
Committees	\$2,150.00	\$18.00	0.8%
Ministry and Nurture Committee	\$500.00	\$18.00	3.6%
Ecological Concerns Committee	\$50.00	\$-	0.0%
Faith and Practice Revision Committee	\$500.00	\$-	0.0%
Finance Committee	\$50.00	\$-	0.0%
Nominating Committee	\$50.00	\$-	0.0%
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	\$500.00	\$-	0.0%
Outreach Committee	\$500.00	\$-	0.0%
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$1,225.00	\$1,316.00	107.4%
SAYMA Personnel	\$23,348.48	\$16,530.95	70.8%
SAYMA Staff Training	\$-	\$-	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$2,350.00	\$2,151.08	91.5%
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$311.71	
Postage		\$150.89	
Duplication		\$62.91	
Misc. Office		\$1,625.57	
SAYMA Newsletter	\$750.00	\$497.02	66.3%
SAYMA Directory	\$150.00	\$-	0.0%
SAYMA Treasurer	\$550.00	\$-	0.0%

SAYMA F&P	\$250.00	\$-	0.0%
SAYMA Website Hosting Service	\$-	\$-	
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$-	\$-	
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS			
	\$12,515.00	\$12,415.00	99.2%
Transfers To Funds	\$2,915.00	\$2,915.00	100.0%
Spiritual Development Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.0%
Released Friend Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.0%
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	\$1,325.00	\$1,325.00	100.0%
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$700.00	\$700.00	100.0%
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$250.00	\$250.00	100.0%
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$40.00	\$40.00	100.0%
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$9,600.00	\$9,500.00	99.0%
AFSC	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
FCNL	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
FGC	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
FWCC	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
Quaker House	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$300.00	\$200.00	66.7%
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	100.0%
Friends Peace Teams	\$900.00	\$900.00	100.0%
Wm Penn House	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.0%
Friends Journal	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.0%
Guilford College Archiving	\$150.00	\$150.00	100.0%
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.0%
Other			
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$81,888.48	\$37,062.78	45.3%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			
	\$(5,413.48)	\$4,954.92	

Attachment K: Treasurer's Report: Attachment 2

SAYMA-Assessments Received Current Year – YTD

10/1/2012 through 5/17/2013 Using SAYMA-FiscalYear

Assessments	Amount
Asheville	2,860.00
Athens	-
Atlanta	7,650.00
Berea	1,935.00
Birmingham	450.00
Boone	-
Brevard	497.50
Celo	2,115.00
Charleston	1,200.00
Chattanooga	-
Columbia	875.00
Cookeville	-
Crossville	-
Foxfire	-
Greenville	540.00
Huntsville	450.00
Memphis	1,080.00
Nashville	5,800.00
Oxford	-
Swannanoa Valley	3,300.00
West Knoxville	1,700.00
TOTAL Assessments	30,452.50

Attachment K: Treasurer's Report: Attachment 3

SAYMA Balance Sheet - As of 5/17/2013

As of 5/17/2013

5/17/2013

Page 1

Account	5/17/2013 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking	29,506.84
Self-Help CD	17,314.73
Self-Help Money Market	23,796.94
TOTAL Bank Accounts	70,618.51
Liability Accounts	
FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	-1,975.00
FWCC World Conference Fund	-2,002.00
Released Friend Fund	-8,700.00
Spiritual Development Fund	-3,277.00
Young Adult Friends Scholarships Fund	-1,389.00
Youth Enrichment Fund	-2,196.00
TOTAL Liability Accounts	-19,539.00
OVERALL TOTAL	51,079.51

Attachment K: Treasurer's Report: Attachment 4

SAYMA Multi-Year Funds Spending FY - YTD

10/1/2012 through 5/17/2013

Date	Account	Description	Memo	Amount
BALANCE 9/30/2012				18,048.00
10/1/12	FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 129	1,325.00
10/1/12	FWCC World Conference Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 129	700.00
10/1/12	Released Friend Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 129	300.00
5/7/13	Released Friend Fund	Friends Peace Teams	Support Judy Scheckel's workcamp participation in Burundi	(750.00)
10/1/12	Spiritual Development Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 129	300.00
1/31/13	Spiritual Development Fund	Kristi Estes	School of the Spirit	(300.00)
10/1/12	Young Adult Friends Scholarships Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 129	40.00
10/1/12	Youth Enrichment Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 129	250.00
5/17/13	Youth Enrichment Fund	Balance Adjustment	Miscalculation of end balance in FY 2010	(374.00)
BALANCE 5/17/2013				19,539.00
EXPENSES				(1,424.00)
CONTRIBUTIONS				2,915.00
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)				1,491.00

Attachment L: SAYF Reports

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) held 6 retreats during the past year. We have averaged 39 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 68 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all 6 retreats and others attended only one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. Most 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.

Though this year's numbers are not much higher than last year's, this has been a year of growth in many ways for SAYF. We have seen renewed and increased participation from Young Friends in Celo and Durham and significant growth in participation from Atlanta. The Nurturing Committee has also grown this year to include 23 Young Friends. We are seeking more adult participation in the program.

One major piece of business this year was working with the SAYMA clerk to review our policies and procedures and obtain a Sexual Abuse insurance policy. We will be adding an application process and background check requirement for all Friends who choose to serve as a FAP in SAYF programs. At Yearly Meeting, we will offer a FAPing workshop and at meals we will invite Friends to fill out our FAP application forms and join us in shepherding the SAYF program.

SAYF Retreats:

1. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat September 7-9, 2012

Theme: *Rapidly Building Community*

of YFs: 36

of full-time FAPs* 5

(*Friendly Adult Presence)

Activities included: community building games, white-water rafting, and blanket-fort building.

2. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat October 5-7, 2012

Theme: *Making Ourselves One with Arts & Crafts*

of YFs: 38

of full-time FAPs: 6

Activities included: a trip to the "Makers Faire" at Georgia Tech, arts & crafts, and a slippery sock contest.

3. Berea Meetinghouse Retreat November 16-18, 2012

Theme: *Changes: Finding the Good and Accepting the Bad*

of YFs: 32

of full-time FAPs: 6

Activities included: games about values and decision-making, business meeting, campfire and storytelling.

4. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat January 18-20, 2013

Theme: *Opportunities for Change: A Hobbit Adventure to Save the Panda Princess*

of YFs: 47

of FAPs: 8

SAYF Financial Report May 22, 2013

Submitted by Jonah McDonald, SAYF Administrative Assistant Profit & Loss Report and Balance Sheet are attached.

Summary: The SAYF calendar starts in August and therefore our financial accounting overlaps slightly with the SAYMA fiscal year. This financial report covers SAYF finances from August 1, 2013 to May 22, 2013. So far this year, without taking any allotment from SAYMA's FY2012- 13 budget, SAYF is showing a net income of just over \$1000. We have not yet received a reimbursement request for groceries at our March 2013 retreat, so this income does not reflect this expense. Also, there will be expenses but no income from our next two retreats (SAYMA in June and our Nurturing/Steering Committee retreat in August). Overall SAYF is in a very good position, financially.

Notes on Income:

- Activity fees: We went whitewater rafting at our September retreat and asked families to contribute extra toward that activity.
- Donations: One family and two Monthly Meetings have contributed toward SAYF programs.
- Retreat fees: Each family is asked to contribute \$30 toward each retreat. Scholarships are available to families in need. There is no fee for Nurturing Retreats (August and February).
- SAYMA Allotment: We received \$1,000 in September 2012 from SAYMA's FY2011-12 budget. We might request all or some of our FY2012-13 allotment later this year.

Notes on Expenses:

- 1st Aid Supplies: We update our first aid kit every year, replacing expired supplies. ·
- Copies: We send a pre- and post-retreat mailing each month that there is a retreat. ·
- Office & Mailing Supplies: These supplies include paper, envelopes, and stickers for our retreat mailings, as well as supplies for our worship journals. ·
- Postage: For retreat mailings. ·
- Retreat Expenses:
 - Activities: Most of this amount is for our whitewater rafting adventure in September 2012. We also provide honorariums to workshop leaders.
 - Facility Rental: This covers the fees for our April 2013 retreat location at Camp Wesley Woods in Townsend, TN.
 - Groceries: By far the most expensive part of running SAYF is feeding the teens!
 - Miscellaneous: Unfortunately these expenses covered damage to facilities caused by our retreats.
 - Treats: We treated the teens to ice cream at the August 2012 Nurturing Committee retreat.

SAYF
Balance Sheet Standard
As of May 22, 2013

	May 22, '13
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BOND Checking	2,117.69
BOND Savings	50.00
	2,167.69
Total Checking/Savings	2,167.69
Total Current Assets	2,167.69
TOTAL ASSETS	2,167.69
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	1,178.97
Retained Earnings	-539.19
Net Income	1,527.91
	2,167.69
Total Equity	2,167.69
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQ...	2,167.69

SAYF
Profit and Loss Standard
August 1, 2012 through May 22, 20...

	Aug 1, '12 – May 22, ...
Income	
Activity Fees	785.00
Donations	535.00
Retreat Fees	6,234.00
SAYMA Allotment	1,000.00
	8,554.00
Total Income	
Expense	
1st Aid Supplies	24.83
Copies	743.90
Mailing Supplies	37.78
Office Supplies	75.98
Postage	459.37
Retreat Expenses	
Activities	1,749.00
Facility Rental	900.00
Groceries	3,225.70
Miscellaneous	155.00
Treats	86.50
	6,116.20
Total Retreat Expen...	6,116.20
Total Expense	7,458.06
Net Income	1,095.94

Attachment M: Transcript (unedited) from AFSC Threshing Session

Ongoing relationship

appoint delegates

annual contribution (as do MM and individuals)

Charleston and Atlanta AFSC offices

Historically, concerns have come up periodically

3 areas of concern:

- 1) created as a way for Quakers to do volunteer service (workcamps), over the years the organization has developed more use of greater community
- 2) work with oppressed groups. some view this as good deeds and some find it difficult to see that as Quaker work
- 3) when AFSC has done work in communities in which MM are found, MM have felt left out

recently minuted request for number and percentage of staff who are Quakers.

Response of AFSC is that they did not feel that it was a good idea (see minute and response letter that was sent out in preparation for this threshing session)

Ad Hoc Committee to come up with queries:

- 1) what is SAYMA's response to letter?
- 2) what should be SAYMA's relationship to the AFSC?

The purpose of our coming together today is to let all perspectives be known in regards to these questions, not to come to a sense of the meeting, nor to find unity.

All levels of emotion and strength of opinions may be heard and are welcome here.

readi-speakers make way for others, the clerk may censure in order to give all a chance and prevent the threshing from being dominated by the most vocal.

From F & P:

Speak from personal experience

Speak directly to clerk

all ideas welcome for consideration

dicenting view holders need to make those views noted

not time to admonish

passion permitted

corporate decisions not made at a threshing

Larry: associated prior to 1992. was on corp when it decided that board could not ...? on Quakers

Richard Nixon was a Quaker all his life. never shied away from identifying himself as a Quaker. referred to himself

Afsc also has called it self such since 1917?

Time moved from being a Quaker org to include non-Quakers (specifically those who could speak moiré than one language)

My point: just calling one's self a Quaker does not mean that one is. There has to be something deeper there. I believe that the letter response avoided the question and tried to shift the response to us to ask ourselves certain questions. Our group (SAYMA) is authentically a Quaker group and should have the right to ask others who would represent us. Has a problem with an org who does not employ very many Quakers. Back in ... the associ secrteau was volunteer... today almost no volunteers.

Steve Oshefski: Swarthmore Friends Meeting and student at School of Religion at Earlham. Has watched the decline of Quaker influence at Swarthmore (noard of trustees, faculty, etc.) my perspective is that I've seen as have other seen Quaker institutions go this was... what I heard her (...afsc rep) say: 1) FGC has hired exec sec who is a Buddhist, 2) Quakers who come to afsc feel like they are getting released to work for pay when they come there to work

RD Flowers, Chattanooga: Catholic org who ran a hospital or Methodust who ran a bookstore interrogated their employees regarding their faith, beliefs or levels of commitment would not be good. Old line socialist org faught when theiur own employees wanted to organize. sometimes hard to see when shoe is on other foot. I do not think we should press afsc employees to disclose their religion or how they manifest Quaker values. AFSC, almost entirely supported by Friends... working for Quakers and following the guidelines of those values, irrelevant if that employee is Quaker or not. We should not mandate a bias towards only people who "believe correctly". Peripheral issue: has become too difficult to volunteer. If that's the truth, hope that comes out and becomes not difficult to volunteer. Activism cannot address people's needs without addressing the sources of those needs... embrace you with one hand and hold you back with the other... tough love from afsc reminding us of our own values and we should take it as such.

Bob Welsh: owe my life to the fact that afsc hires people who are not Quakers. 1964... Presbyterian just finished basic training... never learned from my church anything about being opposed to war... that summer afsc hiured me and my wife to do a service project on a project in

watts area of California... gave us a chance to hear how to dedicate to peace rather than war... became conscientious objector... saved my life...

Mary Ann Morgan, Birmingham: expectation as professional (retired health care) that it is the responsibility of the entity doing the hiring to make the appropriate search for the right person for the job. wouldn't expect that you would make a national search for a Med assistant but for a ceo of the hospital in a catholic HOSPITAL SHOULD BE catholic. maybe can't find a quaker with the experience and skill set to get the job done. should not be hired because candidate is a quaker or methodist or whatever. most people who work for quaker org should be able to publically support the gen principles that quakers support or at least be in a searching process about what that copuld mean. i was questioned about how i could work with catholics and still be working on leg regarding abortion pills. sisters from the hospiralt invited me over after retired and they let me know that some of them really strucggle with that issue too. We miss someone who could offer a lot and would do the searching if we limit who can work there.

Steve Livingston: One of 2 or 3 who stould aside from the decision to record the minute. appauled at the wording of the minute. flabbergasted that we as a body would ask another body to poll their employees (not what their religion is) as to whether or not they are active members of the religious society of Friends. at monthly meeting directory reflects members and attenders... we don't ask them if they are "active members". Who makes that judgment? We don't make that judgement of our own communities. Question of whether or not it is valuable for AFSC workers to be Quakers aside, the whole quesrion "Are you an active member of the religious society of friends?" amazed me. I feel comfortable asking friends at meeting what Quakerism means to them. If someone asked me to do the same in my own community I would answer similarly as has afsc... it was in good order. No doubt that this yearly meeting, we are all Quakers, we do our best with our best intentions. I hope that I have expressed... AFSC responded well... next step we shoud respond your right this is not the appropriate thing to ask your employees. There may be perceptions that lead us to think tjhat you're not quite Quaker as we'd want you to be but perhaps a dialog about that would addrss that concern.

Kathleen Mavournin, w knox: letter worded poorly. not true that afsc.... afsc is intirely quaker. afsc staff are on location making the decision about which programs shall be carried forward and how they should be carried forward. Defining characteristic of Quakers is willingness to put up with Quaker process...., easy to do when everyone is in agreement and very hard when not everyone is. If we want to say that AFSC reflects Quakers then it must be staffed by people who understand Quaker process. Cannot get that from a pamphlet. If we sat down to see how we wanted to word our concern tot them don't think that would be out of order.

Arnold Carr, Columbia: 2nd year... not know a lot about this. Not clear to me what SAYMA was asking of AFSC: either 1) whoare the qualers? 2) what percentage of your employees are quakers. In second case there are methods of anonymous;y poling their employers to find out % of which arer actually quakers. suspect that there has been a break down of mutual trust between sayma and afsc. -we do not trust afsc to represent quaker values and act upoin quaker principles and afsc does not trust sayma and other yearly meeting to allow them to do their job. Examine how and why that trust broke down and what can be done to restore it. -functions separate we still need to work toward common ends

Judy Scheckle, Celso: AFSC intern at trap rock peace center... catholic nun at the time... francis crow was my mentor. Intern because of vow of poverty and intern income was low. I think it's important for the integrity of the org to have governing board and leadership who are Friends and does a great service to invite other people to enter into that work. Representation necessary to teach others in the practices of non-violence and Quaker process.

Rebecca Sullivan, Atlanta: AFSC essential in providing an opportunity for service even for others who were not Quaker. Members from her meeting were inspiration - Direct supervisor looks to her at Quaker Voluntary Service "as the Quaker" to answer the questions as a Quaker, but she has been there as long as I have and she stands on the same feet and represents the same things that I would represent and there to learn just as I am. I struggle to say what it means to be a member of the relig society of friends... if that answer is kept as statistics in a book that would be everchanging... the work is to transform us through service. Do people understand that Quakers are active and alive and doing work in our world. That is the core for me. Sometimes struggle for being one of the few quakers in the offices in this org... not org fault,, could be the fault of quakers not applying or the fault of how the org is living. there are plenty of quakers in the org and in the governance that are working to keep quakerism central to the work we're doing. Lucy is working to ensure that the staff understands what quakerism is at a deeper level (not just a pamphlet)

Jeanine Bruton, Chattanooga - Jackson: I know no history with afsc. when I read the minute from two years ago, I was horrified and found it demeaning and found it shocking. active membership really did stick out to me... how do you decide who is an active member? money contributed, committees sat on, length of time to sit at biz meetings, how long name in directory. better response... I should only have that much dignity to respond that well. to be asked to poll their employees by region and create some kind of a caste system as to who is a quaker and who is not. What is SAYMA's next move: I think an apology and a question of where can we go from here? what if we try love? what would that look like? how can we heal? where do we build those volunteer relationships that we all seek?

Julia Ewing from Atlanta: SOUTHEAST regional; office conversations with gave reasons regarding dearth of quakers in active programs was afsc's major commitment to empowering an ethnically diverse staff. looking around here you'll see how we are almost all white. so if pulling from an ethnic pool to recruit minorities... should it be ethnic, racial. The other minority issue is that Quakers are a small minority... so that should be the minority hiring that it is focused on. A Presbyterian minister would want to hire a Presbyterian. Quaker leadings could be applied to other cultures, etc... Quaker holy calling or ministry that AFSC always skirts around and SAYMA is reluctant to address since we are concerned with racial equity. Betty Knockness and I talked about this at lunch to talk about personal views of ministry. No solution but developed respect and understanding for one another. Betty was exception from AFSC willing to discuss with me. Naturally AFSC working always and unavailable,e... made me feel stiff-arm far away from them. 30 minutes away from their office. doesn't take that much to connect with quakers to reassure us that there is Quakerism in what they do... quaker will show up at meeting... often afsc not in office... difficult to have a conversation to develop trust because we don't talk. We asked question and were stiffed to avoid the discussion. cglasd were talking about it.

Jim Hipkins, Asheville: 1950 just out of army, WWII, went immediately out of high school, out of junior year, came back broken and battered, didn't know what to do. Went to college and there was fortunate that someone at least listened, try to respond... decided by senior year that I would be a Methodist minister religion I grew up in. Boston College... first evening: who wants to go to Young Friends Meeting? magnificent discussion of issues of 1950s (time of McCarthy) at Quaker meetinghouse most fascinating discussion... a week later, want to go again? they were looking for somebody who wanted to work in works=camps... need someone to work with college kids... I could do that... next three years running work camps for people coming from all over New England... still a Methodist but adhered to Quaker practices, Quaker affirmations, why? I agreed. I had been in the war and was now a pacifist had been on one side and now was working on the other side. wanted to go to Mexico to lead work camps... George selected 2-3 hours convince to go back to where I came from.. he prevailed. Went to work in Borneo and then came back and was miserable... not Chinese, not a yellow face among them., called Philadelphia, a wreck, I have got to find some place to be employed and get me back into the states... executive director of the Ohio Michigan Indiana and Kentucky region. learned a lot: integrating the schools in Dayton. Detroit: between Jews and Arabs. Man just retired from head of fcnl worked for me as a peace worker in Michigan (Joe Volk) and Joe also Methodist background... we had a lot in common. I didn't think any more about it and worked with service committee for two more years and felt then I could take a church and get back to my old life... and did so... retired with heart trouble... moved to Tennessee, heart surgery, etc... 20+ years later finally related to a Quaker group in Asheville NC... took my wife and she could not find a place that she felt comfortable... and there at Asheville she and I have found our comfort there. I am sorry that I was not raised a Quaker, I apologize for my Methodist background and probably has been for I do not know how far back... Quaker principles are the center of my life. I feel the woman from AFSC looking over my shoulder saying Jim try it it will work. projects worked not because I was a Quaker not that staff was Quaker in fact no recollection of any birth right Quaker at all... the work we did was the best Quaker work that could be done. got Jews and Arabs to talk, to bring a presence of peace in the riots in Detroit. I want you to know that there are a lot of us. They had acceptance of us, did not try to make a Quaker out of us, affirmed who we were... isn't that what Quakers do?

Clerk: What should our relationship be with AFSC?

Wes ____, Atlanta: Why are there so few Friends in AFSC? My question back: What could AFSC do to invite more Friends to volunteer and work with them.

Mike Mykel: early 70s volunteered services at AFSC. bluntly and rudely informed that they did not want my service, didn't want to hear anything about the Atlanta meeting or have anything to do with us. I have not had anything to do with them since. maybe it was one individual... but the question is how effective is the AFSC? do we get much bang for our buck? Should we support them financially? should we support them morally and ethically?

Wood Bouldin, Greenbriar Valley: explore Quakerism without many friends around... probably belong in an early 20th century quietist meeting..., Hubert Humphrey quote from fundraising... "the US budget is so top-heavy with military spending... lasting peace.. realign our values" there is really good work done, but not QUAKERLY. Lasting peace only achieved by the presence of God in the heart. If you are a Quaker that the absence of war is the presence of lasting peace nor

that more money is true prosperity... statement by a good progressive hard working org, but does not make it quaker. I do not see although they are doing really good work... but not Quaker... getting revenge on coal owners not quakerly.... what would George fox say... spit on commission that would have got him out of jail... but when drunken irish soldier said he wanted to choip heads of quakers, geirge got up out of bed and tapped him on the shoulder and said, here I am the arch queaker start with me.

LeeAnn Swarm, ...: rep to afsc: corporation meeting... impressed by business meeting that the corporation (all quakers) went through. also a number of workshop s and plenary typr sessions presented by staff and uniformaly amazing and moving. my little slice and a fraction of the totality of afsc work... went curious and came away impressed and amazed.

Charles Schade, Charleston: have beenm as have many been involvewd with afsc... in college, in houstoin when there was the potential that I couldbe drafted. council and advice did help me through sifficult tomes... charlestoin is an exception as a tight relationship with afsc and afsc project... X prohect and also lohan project that we are trying to support. do not take a criticism, but take as my self as a numbers guy... not unreasonable to get numbersw, num,bers tell us information to let us know how we are doing and can alert us to problems that may be occurring. as a yM we struggle with our numbers every year. IMHO, AFSC is not a Quaker organization, we should get over it... as having served as.... governance is very complicated, mostly staff governed organization... not a criticism... just observation. if AFSC was a Quaker org, why would Lucy be here? Why were we asked a lot of artificial questions? Why did we get the response that we did? Awful fund-rasing? most is not from Quakers.... admirable organization... not arguing against: just describing what they are. If they were Quaker org why would they give booklet to each staff to understand what Quakers are about? Not rising in anger? Or in disappointment except that AFSC didn't give us our data that we asked? Just observing that it is not a Quaker organization and determine how much support we need to provide them?

Gita Larson, Asheville: disparate, but improitANT TO Me: 1) a lot of histporial pain mostly based with individual incidence with another person that has been alooeedd to take over our lives. recommend that we forgive and let go and allow ourselvws tro be thje person we are meant to be. pain is often what heps us to changes and let go. listen in tongues... away from the literalism of words on the paper to what the content of the heart is... stand in the place of anyone that is affiliated with afscd and see what we would feel inf one of the orgs that we use as a source of our work is so critical w/o any loive. cultural barnacles in the core of our heart. facts... if we had an attorney... what would that be... back some time there would not be a woman hired... remember that a lot of us w=ent to a lot of trouble to get us to where we are. if I worked at afsc question about my faith would consitute a hostile work environment.... star fish story... in this room we have a dozen or more people for whom their afscd experience mattered for them... how we are as quakers? how we respoid to crisis, confluct our own injured feelings as we interact with this organization to do the work....

Becky Ingle, Chat: do not believe that the letter's intent asking the nu,mbers to interrogate anyone... could have been a percentage. the reason we question quekaers presence in afsc is to be sure that afsc can continue to provide experiences that afsc has provided to people like those who have talked today about their influence. "character"... hbow are you going to ensure that

quaker values and testimonies are at the heart fo what afsc will do. Staff is face of AFSC TO wider community... person is clear on the values and practices of afsc.... a little more assurance than just their expectations... I would like a bit more than just that expectatation... do they ever measure ir go back and revisit that promiose.

Susan Stark, Crossville: We are asking afsc to be the interface that represents us to the workd. our positions our concerns . there has got to be some quantifyanle way to know if staff people are expressing values and pribiciples... evaluation or questionaeers... some way to measure someones performance of being an ambassador. Perhaps the question was not the right question. In other words, are the people involved in carrying out the work of afsc convicted in their hearts and spoirits. is theie a venn diagram of core motives and ways of conduycting themselves in the workd that they feel a commonality with Quakerism. What makes the use of the word Friends in AFriends Servcicxe committee distinct. Most of us knows what makes that distinct. Should never have an experience where gentleman was turned away and made to feel so debased. How do we ... quota... if that is a value that Friends have, we have been hoisted on our own petard... we are ... pretty European. I do not accept that we should get over it and that afsc is not quaker. Sloppy start and lots of potential for dialog with the service community. I have been restingon the laurels ... reality and my excuse oif a busy life... only support of afsc through prayer and speaking of them to others afsc will continue on and do fine without me... if that's the case, I don't; have much gorunf to stand on, but puts more onus on me to consider what I am doing personally to assist them.

The hope is that by taking the time to hear what everyone has to say that we will be more able to take up this question during business meeting tomorrow.

Attachment N: Web Manager's Report

The web and email has been successfully moved to new servers which have added capabilities. This also will be easier to manage. After an initial small wrinkle or two, things appear stable.

We have the same design and content as previously, and have not yet added the Content Management features (such as WordPress). These should be brought up alongside our existing content. Initially, visitors should reach the existing site, with an easily found link to the CMS or more graphic pages.

We now have plenty of space for everything we want to do (at least until we include a metric ton of sound or video, and likely even then).

The three existing sayma.org listserves (email mailing lists) remain at kitenet.net without change. If we wish any additional lists, they can be set up very easily in our new space (possibly committee mailing lists, etc.) without interfering with the existing kitenet setup. The new ones would be similar to foo-list@sayma.org, not something@kitenet.net.

The Web Committee has not been very active so far. This is good. Now that the technical touchiness of the move has been completed, we can consider design, and the goals we have for the site. As has been pointed out, our site remains useful to us mainly as a repository of documents, but is not very engaging and useful to those who are new to SAYMA. Now we can begin to make our site better for outreach, while keeping the value it already has for us.

No changes will be put into place without due thought and consultation.

Respectfully submitted,
In Light,
For Peace, Justice, and Earth,

R. D. Flowers

Attachment O: Epistles



Warren Wilson College

Swannanoa, NC

16 June 2013

We are too ready to retaliate rather than forgive....

And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us.

Let us then, try what love will do: for if men do once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us....

Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.

William Penn, Fruits of Solitude: Reflections and Maxims Relating to the Conduct of Human Life. I: 543-545, 548

To Friends Worldwide, Greeting:

Having concluded our 2013 Yearly Meeting on the theme, "Let Us See What Love Can Do," we are encouraged by the spirit whose presence indwelled and guided our proceedings, teaching us the many forms love takes when we answer its call:

Thursday 13 June

"If we are moved with compassion toward our fellow-men, let us cherish this sensation; it is a call from the God of Love."
Anthony Benezet

Following our afternoon opening worship, the Clerk began Meeting for Business with an excerpt from *Friends Journal* concerning Anthony Benezet and 18th century Friends' conviction that Christ's injunction, to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," amounted to a demand of "equal regard for all [humankind]" — a demand we must continually seek to meet.

Max Carter, director of Friends Center and campus ministry coordinator at Guilford College, Greensboro, NC, spoke to our first plenary session concerning the decades long quest in which he, his wife, Jane, and their family have engaged to understand, appreciate and bring together the varied narratives concerning Israel and Palestine.

Friday 14 June

Meeting for Business heard presentations from Right Sharing of World Resources General Secretary Betty Tonsing and Lucy Duncan, Friends Liaison for Communications, American Friends Service Committee, concerning the work of these wider Quaker organizations that, as the Goffs and

other Irish Friends during the Rebellion of 1798 did, model indiscriminate love toward even those who seek to harm us.

Worship Sharing addressed queries on encouraging love in our personal walks.

A Threshing Session concerning SAYMA's ongoing relationship with American Friends Service Committee included stories of affection for or disconnectedness from AFSC based on past personal associations with the AFSC. We searched for healing and renewal by listening without judging. While painful for some, the period of threshing exemplified our commitment to speak even unpleasant truth in a spirit of love.

Celo Meeting's Herb Walters, a founder of Rural Southern Voice for Peace, presented the Listening Project as a tool for active loving of others with conflicting or troubling narratives. Friends had the opportunity to practice engaged, non judgmental listening.

Saturday 15 June

"That which separates man from his brother is evil and must be resisted."

Bayard Rustin
relationship with AFSC.

SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee brought to Meeting for Business a minute, approved and duly seasoned by Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, recognizing the Israeli and Palestinian States' just claims for security and urging a boycott of products from illegal Israeli settlements. Meeting for Business referred the minute back to Peace and Social Concerns for shepherding through monthly meetings.

Meeting for Business also received a report from the Friday Meeting for Threshing and acknowledged that unity has not been achieved concerning SAYMA's future

Queries for Worship Sharing centered on acting out of love: in the Meeting, in actively promoting God's justice and speaking truth to power.

In addition to delving more deeply into what love can do through various workshops, we found occasion to celebrate our life in the Spirit through conversation, music, dancing and fellowship. Having ventured into ourselves and our common life, we now feel called back into the world as vessels of Love.

Carol Nickle
Clerk

"No plea...,
however urgent
or peculiar, can
avail to release
either individuals
or nations from
the paramount
allegiance which
they owe unto
God who hath
said "Love your
enemies."
London Yearly
Meeting, 1854

Young Adult Friends Epistle

Em

This year at SAYMA the YAFs had fun

C

Struttin' around, gettin' stuff done

G

Over in Sutton with the SSO

D

Fiercest group on campus. Oh!

Em

Business meetings began at ten

C

Reached consensus and strutted again

G

Resolved to use the SAYMA YAF Facebook group

D

To keep YAFs everywhere in the loop

Em

At future SAYMA's we'll have more

C

YAF-specific stuff in store

G

Opening circles, stuff like that

D

So no one's left out of the YAF chitchat

Em

C

This is the story of the Young Adult Friends

G

D

Carried through life's twists and bends

Em

C

Although we've gone our separate ways

G

D

We all know the best are the young adult days

Em

Hey wider community, we're gettin' to you

C

'Cause we want to connect with you too

G

I know we're sometimes segregated

D

But that's also something I've always hated

Em

I pose a motion to create

C

A YAF email address—that'd be great

G

Also a website on the SAYMA page

D

SAYF has one, and we're enraged!

Em
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee
C
We've got a rep comin' to your city!
G
He's gonna push for more YAF input
D
When planning your program book
Em
Make sure everyone knows what we YAFs be
C
Look at yourself—you might be one, maybe
G
Maybe some YAF-led workshops next year
D
Hey, we don't bite, ain't nothin' to fear!

Em C
This is the story of the Young Adult Friends
G D
Carried through life's twists and bends
Em C
Although we've gone our separate ways
G D
We all know the best are the young adult days
Em
With the younger folks we also engaged
C
'Cause we know SAYF is all the rage
G
Led trust lifts in a shady lawn
D
Elevated like Simba, to meet the new dawn
Em
An adult-teen dialogue—no, FISHBOWL
C
To help the teenagers guide their souls
G
And, as always, Wink was fun
D
Showin' those SAYFers how it's done

Em C
This is the story of the Young Adult Friends
G D
Carried through life's twists and bends
Em C
Although we've gone our separate ways
G D
We all know the best are the young adult days

SAYF Epistle

Delivered by Grace and Noah, Members of SAYF Nurturing Committee

Southern Appalachian Young Friends held six normal retreats and two nurturing retreats this school year. The number of SAYFers has not changed much since last year at a total of 68, but the new SAYFers we have welcomed into our community have to keep this an active organization. August: Nurturing held in Black Mountain. We revamped the guidelines that had not been changed since 1995. It was difficult but we were proud of ourselves when we were done. We also slept on the porch, got rained on and saw a black bear.

1. Asheville: Young Friends 36, FAPs: 5. At this retreat we focused on community building. Together we built blanket forts, shared warm fuzzy compliments, went white water rafting, and I (Grace) feel closeness helped foster a good religious atmosphere come Sunday morning. Several people fell off their rafts which provided funny memories.
2. This year's October retreat at Atlanta had the theme of making ourselves one with the arts and crafts. The attendance for this retreat was 36 SAYFers and 6 FAPs. the main activity for that retreat was going to the Makers Fair at Georgia Tech. We saw people's creations and inventions, which inspired us. For me (Noah), the most spiritual part of the retreat was morning Tai Chi, and the funniest part was the slippery sock competition.
3. In November, 32 SAYFers and 6 FAPs met at the Berea Meeting house. The theme was "Changes: Finding the good and accepting the bad". The main activity was a game about values and decisions. All of us were asked meaningful questions and we tried to discover where we stood. A community building and spiritual part of the retreat was taking a silent walk through the woods. Without being asked, we all held hands in a long line and had to work together to make it down the trail. Jonah McDonald told funny stories about the Devil and Jack the trickster around a bon fire. We ate S'mores.
4. We held the January retreat at the Atlanta Meeting house with the theme of Opportunities for Change: A Hobbit Adventure to Save the Panda Princess. At that retreat, 47 SAYFers and 8 FAPs attended. The main and most spiritual activity were the service projects. We each chose what community service project we wanted to do and then helped out and had a great time as we worked to make the world a better place. The Zumba dance activity was fun and funny and I (Noah) loved the pasta we had at the retreat.

February: Nurturing at Knoxville. We developed a phone tree that connects SAYFers in the event of an emergency, of which we've experienced our fair share. We also laid out our schedule for the 2013 – 2014 school year. This includes a Durham retreat in honor of our rising senior, Emma Stanion. Quaker process was definitely used effectively and lovingly. We overcame challenges with a lot of laughter.

5. Asheville: YFs: 42, FAPs: 7. This retreat's theme was "The Masks We Wear". We made masks to represent how we presented ourselves to the world. We had worship sharing and a hike to the lake. This retreat was very special to me (Grace) because my dad was a FAP and I got to share my haven with him. We were really able to open our hearts. And [we learned that] Lillian got into Warren Wilson!
6. Camp Wesley Woods: YFs: 42, FAPs: 9. Our theme was Nature. We did a lot of hiking, stood in a water fall, made a horror film, ate a TARTIS birthday cake, visited prairie

homesteads, found the trail that never was, and that Epistle Circle was one of the most worshipful I've had in a while.

This has been a fantastic year! Thanks to all of the monthly meetings and SAYMA for supporting us.

JYM Epistle

Jennifer Dickey and some of the children reported on Junior Yearly Meeting this year.

They went on some long walks and practiced listening, especially when crossing the highway. They used the picture book *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, written by Jeff Brumbeau and illustrated by Gail De Marcken, to ponder the theme of Yearly Meeting, "Let Us See What Love Can Do." Activities included:

- Building castles with cardboard and tape;
- Making art for the castles, accompanied by Richard Alan on the piano;
- Making a quilt (which they held up for all to see) consisting of pictures drawn by the children and related to the story;
- Playing cooperative games, such as "Sharks and Minnows."

The younger ones also enjoyed playing with model trains.

Jennifer thanked all the volunteers who helped with the program and noted that the eldest member of the JYM group is looking forward to moving up to SAYF next year. Michael and Jennifer had a great time as JYM coordinators.