

Southern Appalachian Friend

the Quarterly Newsletter of

SAYMA
Southern Appalachian
Yearly Meeting & Association

Summer
2008

Dennis Gregg, clerk
185 Hood Drive
Crossville, TN 38555

(931) 484-9033
clerk@sayma.org

Editor: Kathleen Mavournin

DEDICATION OF NEW MEETING HOUSE CELO FRIENDS MEETING

We began building our new meeting house in 2003 and in June 2008 we began meeting in our new building. We wish to thank all who have contributed money and labor for this. Errol Hess helped us lay the flooring. Friends from Boone and Swannanoa joined us on work days. Many friends and neighbors have contributed. One attender said recently that this has been a building built with love. **We invite you to attend the dedication Sunday, October 12, 2008. There will be Meeting for Worship at 3 pm, followed by a potluck supper.**

From Burnsville take Rt. 19E north for 4 miles; turn right on Rt. 80 South. After passing through Micaville, continue on 80 South for 7 miles; turn left at Seven Mile Ridge Road and go across bridge. Turn Right on Hannah Branch Road; turn left at first row of mailboxes on left; take middle road and park near playground. Look for a brown building with red doors.

SAYMA Office
c/o Liz Perch
330 Goebel Avenue, Savannah, GA 31404
adminasst@sayma.org
(215) 808 6537

YM Clerks, Administrative Assistants, and Standing Committee Clerks

Clerk

Dennis Gregg (Crossville)
clerk@sayma.org

Assistant Clerk

Kristi Estes (Memphis)
assistantclerk@sayma.org

Recording Clerk

Bill Holland (Atlanta)
recordingclerk@sayma.org

Treasurer

Deanna Nipp Kientz (Cookeville)
treasurer@sayma.org

Administrative Assistant

Liz Perch (Philadelphia & Savannah)
adminasst@sayma.org

Ministry & Nurture Comm. Clerk

Judy Guerry (Huntsville)
nurture@sayma.org

Nominating Comm. Clerk

Errol Hess (Foxfire)
nominating@sayma.org

Personnel Committee Clerk

Kristi Estes (Memphis)
assistantclerk@sayma.org

Finance Comm. Clerk

Susan Phelan (Huntsville)
sjpsprout@comcast.net

Young Adult Friends Clerk

Elaine Ruscetta
eruscetta@gmail.com

Peace & Social Concerns Comm. Clerk

Steve Livingston (Asheville)
nc_stereoman@charter.net

Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerks

Ron Taylor (Canton) & Carol Ciscel (Memphis)
ECN@sayma.org carolciscel@bellsouth.net

YM Planning Comm. Clerk

Barbara Esther (Asheville)
planning@sayma.org

SAYF Steering Comm. Co-Clerks

Cathi Watkins (Athens) & Laura Norlin (Atlanta)
fishlabs@bellsouth.net norlila@earlham.edu

SAYF Administrative Assistant

Theresé Hildebrand (Berea)
SAYFadminasst@sayma.org

Deadline for Fall 2008 issue of SAF is October 7

All Friendly reports, concerns, minutes,
announcements, humor, musings &
poems are welcome.

Send submissions to:
Kathleen Mavournin
SAFeditor@sayma.org

Please put your name and email address
or phone number on all submissions.

SAYMA Calendar 2008-9

September 27, 2008
Fall Representative Meeting
Location to be determined

March, 2009
Spring Representative Meeting
Date & place to be determined

June 11-14, 2009
Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
Warren Wilson College
Swanannoa, NC

New SAYMA Calendar: At Yearly Meeting in June, SAYMA Business Meeting approved a proposal to hold only two representative meetings each year, eliminating the winter session in December, moving the fall meeting later in September and the spring meeting to early March. All details have not yet been worked out, but the missing locations and dates will be posted on the web site, *sayma.org*, as soon as they are available.

Changes in SAYMA Positions of Responsibility

These appointments, new or renewed, were approved at Yearly Meeting in June. Terms are shown in parentheses. The complete roster of SAYMA positions of responsibility on the web site will soon be updated with these changes.

SAYMA Clerk Dennis Gregg (08-10)	Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerk Roy Taylor (08-10)
Assistant Clerk Kristi Estes (08-09)	SAYF Steering Committee Co-Clerk Laura Norlin (08-10)
Treasurer Deanna Nipp Kientz (08-10)	SAYF Steering Committee Members Karen Gold (08-10) Chuck Jones (08-10) Rose Black (08-10)
Archivist Kristi Estes (08-10)	Site Selection Committee Errol Hess (08-10) Linda Trask (08-11) Kathleen Mavournin (08-10)
Ministry & Nurture Clerk Judy Guerry (08-10)	FGC representative Maia Hallward (08-11)
Personnel Committee Clerk Kristi Estes (08-09)	RSWR (contact) Rose Black (08-11)
Personnel Committee Member Connie LaMonte (08-10)	Friends Peace Teams Sharon Phelps (08-10)
YM Co-Registrar Adrianna Weir (08-10)	Quaker Earthcare Witness David Ciscel (08-10)
YM Co-Registrar Annie Black (08-09)	FWCC representative Tim Lamm (08-11) Sallie Prugh (08-11)
YM Bookstore Chris Berg (08-10)	FLGBTQC Alternate Joan Conger (08-09)
YM Asst. Bookstore Sue Gerdes (08-10)	AFSC Corporation Free Polazzo (08-10)
YM Worship Coord. Margaret Haun (08-10)	William Penn House Representative Charlie Wilton (08-10)
Web Site Support Mgr Kendall Ivey (08-10)	
Peace & Social Concerns Committee Joan Barnett (07-09)	

Positions Not Yet Filled

Assistant Treasurer, FCNL representative (3), FWCC representative, Quaker House (3)

If you have an interest in or questions about any of these position, please get in touch with Errol Hess, Clerk of Nominating Committee, errol@kitenet.net.

SAYF Retreat Schedule, 2008-2009

August 22-24, 2008:

Nurturing/Steering Committee Meetings
Swananoa Valley MM in Black Mountain
Lead FAP:

February ?, 2009:

Nurturing/Steering Committee Meetings
W. Knoxville Meeting House
Lead FAP:TBA

Sept 19-21, 2008:

Retreat
Atlanta Meeting House
Lead FAP: Laura Norlin

Mar. 6-8, 2009:

Retreat
Nashville Meeting House
Lead FAP: Dick Houghton

Oct. 17-19, 2008:

Retreat
Chapel Hill MM at Asheville Meeting House
Lead FAP:Wren Hendrickson

April 17-19, 2009:

Retreat
Old Greer House in NC
Lead FAP: Laura Norlin

Nov. 7-9, 2008:

Retreat
Berea MM at W. Knoxville Meeting House
Lead FAP:Therese Hildebrand

June 11-14, 2009

SAYMA Yearly Meeting
Warren Wilson College
Swananoa, NC
Lead FAP: Wren Hendrickson

Jan. 16-18, 2009:

Retreat
Atlanta Meeting House
Lead FAP: Laura Norlin

SAYF schedule updates will appear at
www.awesomesafers.org.

Wider Quaker Fellowship transitions

The Wider Quaker Fellowship began more than 70 years ago as a ministry to share Quaker spirituality with the wider world. Discussion groups were formed in various cities to discuss WQF materials and we know of at least one married couple who met at a WQF group. The Internet has opened up the possibilities of discussion groups being formed electronically, connecting those interested in Quakerism worldwide.

At the same time, the financial support for the program has not kept pace with the cost of staffing and mailing, so this is a transition year. In April, WQF said goodbye to staff person, Vicki Hain Poorman. Members of the Wider Quaker Fellowship Committee have taken responsibility for editorial selections and development of a new web page and blog, with FWCC/Americas staff continuing to supervise printing and mailings. This includes a newly-formed Spanish editorial committee, comprised of bilingual Latin American Friends. Check out the web offerings at www.quaker.org/fwcc/Americas/wqf.html.

Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the Church of the Brethren and Mennonite Church USA are planning an event to bring together an ecumenical group working for peace in the world. *Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace* will be held January 13-17, 2009, in Philadelphia.

The purpose of the gathering is to *strengthen our witness and work for peace in the world by inspiring hope, raising voices, taking action*. We have a growing sense that God's Spirit is stirring us to renew, revitalize and bring together efforts to seek peace amidst our nation's violent responses to international terrorism and the violence in our institutions and neighborhoods. As people of faith we must seek nonviolent ways to confront violence, terrorism and fear. Our challenge is to find new ways to address violence through acts of goodness, compassion and honest efforts to understand and meet the legitimate needs of others. Two staff have been hired to handle the logistics and facilitation of the Gathering: Liz Perch (Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting) is the Gathering Coordinator and Therese Miller (Lewisburg Monthly Meeting) serves as Gathering Director.

Letters have been sent to over 80 denominations in the United States, inviting them to express interest in sending delegates to the conference. One half of the 600 attendees will be from the three Historic Peace Churches, and the balance will come from a broad range of communities of faith with primarily Christian roots. "We are eager to bring together people from a variety of perspectives and experience, and explore together the many different ways the call to be peacemakers is being heard and followed, and together imagine and make a new thing!" says Therese Miller.

At the gathering, we will explore our commitment to peace, learn from and build upon each other's peacemaking efforts and discern next steps together. The Gathering is envisioned as a place where participants will worship and work together, under the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit, to develop new bonds, new ideas, and new energy for the work of building peace in themselves, their cities, the nation and the world.

We hope that participants will return to their home congregations with a deeper commitment to God's call to nonviolence and peacebuilding, renewed energy and more attentiveness to the Spirit that dwells within us all, calling us to do what we can to restore God's world for all God's children.

SAYMA will send one of the 100 Quaker delegates to the Gathering. Nominating Committee will select the delegate; interested Friends should contact a member of nominating. More info will be available at the Peace Gathering website, www.peacegathering2009.org.

Contact: Liz Perch, Gathering Coordinator,
(215)808-6537 [cell], (267)-519-5301 [voicemail]
admin@peaceconference2009.org

Young Adult Friends' Conference
Living as Friends, Listening Within
Richmond, Indiana
May 23-26, 2008

Dear Friends Everywhere,

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - Romans 12:2 NRSV

In worship, in small groups, in conversation, we have been transformed. Friends affirmed their love for one another again and again. The act of coming together physically was a first step to enacting loving unity. We are hungry for connection and growth in grace with one another, and the healing of our divisions. We heard sermons and joined voices in song. Friends had opportunities to experience and participate in unfamiliar forms of worship. We felt the support of seasoned Friends who provided pastoral care and many Friends who held the gathering in prayer.

Formal small groups gathered every day for checking in and more personal discussion of the challenges and joys of the conference. Small informal groups treasured free time where we found the space to address other concerns. These informal discussions created a foundation for the depth at which we arrived in worship. Earlham School of Religion professors, students, and alumni led workshops, while conference participants held interest groups on various topics. On Sunday, participants could choose between programmed (First Friends), semi-programmed (West Richmond) or unprogrammed (Clear Creek) worship in the community.

In Spirit-led worship we found that Friends spoke to the necessity of continuing in conversations about our similarities and differences. Friends were asked before the conference to consider the cultural norms of others present, and whether certain choices may impact our ability to find common ground. We began exploring scripture together in workshops, Bible study and programmed worship. This invited new challenges and opportunities to engage with texts important to the experience of Friends. We were reminded by Mark Walker that living in unity as a Religious Society of Friends will make us more effective in our work in the world. The discernment of corporate and individual leadings is one of the obligations we have to one another as a Society. We hear the need to acknowledge diverse leadings, such as Gospel, traveling, vocal, and eldering ministries. Recording these gifts is one way of making individuals and meetings accountable to leadings.

Friends heard a call to find ways to share the good news that has been revealed to us at this gathering. We strive to carry this light with us when we return to our home meetings and churches. We have invited one another to our respective yearly gatherings and to explore ways of opening our spiritual homes. May we share with the world the light and love that was a presence at this gathering.

In peace,
The YAF Conference Participants

News of SAYMA Meetings, compiled by Errol Hess

If news of your meeting doesn't appear, put Errol (errol@kitenet.net) on the distribution list for your newsletter.

Atlanta Forum on racial justice June 29. A young Friend raised in the meeting became a member. A meeting couple were married under care of the meeting. Jonah McDonald began working as Office Coordinator. He is one of the meeting's four employees.

Berea In April ten new attenders participated in three Questions about Quakers lunches. Fifteen Friends participated in a visioning retreat. The Berea College Quaker Campus Fellowship meets every second and fourth Wednesday evening. The ratio of long time attenders to new ones is often an equal number, leading Ministry and Counsel to suggest more religious education opportunities. Membership surveys showed a desire for a more structured approach to religious education. Friends approved a set of priorities for FCNL.

Columbia Columbia Friends and Five Rivers Meeting (Horry County) joined with descendants of the historic Bush River Meeting in their Newberry Homecoming on May 8. Columbia signed with a commercial real estate agent in its search for a meeting house.

Cookville In May, Friends sent recommendations for FCNL priorities, emphasizing environment, foreign policy, health care reform, government reform, and inequities reform.

Memphis The meeting continues to explore the possibility of having its own meetinghouse, with Nashville's clerk, Dick Houghton in May and Birmingham's Jane Hiles in June.

West Knoxville Friends are examining devices to amplify hearing in meeting. Friends approved moving the Quaker Quest inreach process.



Harmony Village



**A New Co-Housing Neighborhood Looking for its People
In West Asheville, North Carolina**

Who we are:

- ~ An eclectic group of like-minded individuals who seek to live together simply and sustainably in community and thereby tread lightly on Mother Earth.
- ~ An intergenerational community and children are welcome.
- ~ A team with secured land and a developer in place.
- ~ A neighborhood expecting a completion and move-in date of fall 2008.

Please come join us:

We are open to all who share our values of care, support, creative expression, fun, laughter and Spirituality.

For more Information, Contact:

Pat Johnson at (828)400-4844(C), (828)505-4366(H) or pjohnsonpa@yahoo.com or Marianne Kilkenny at (828)230-2093 or mk@mekilkenny.com.

Website: <http://icresourcecenter.com/317.html>



SAYMA MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Asheville Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 258-0974
Athens Friends Meeting	Georgia	(706) 353-2856
Atlanta Friends Meeting	Georgia	(404) 377-2474
Berea Friends Meeting	Kentucky	(859) 985-8950
Birmingham Friends Meeting	Alabama	(205) 592-0570
Boone Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 263-0001
Brevard Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 891-7793
Canton Worship Group	Georgia	(770) 720-4669
Celo Monthly Meeting	Burnsville NC	(828) 675-4456
Charleston Friends Meeting	West Virginia	(304) 756-3033
Chattanooga Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(423) 629-2580
Clemson Worship Group	South Carolina	(864) 654-3774
Columbia Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(803) 252-2221
Cookeville Monthly Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 268-2592
Crossville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 277-5354
Foxfire Friends Meeting of Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 283-4392
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
Huntsville Area Friends Meeting	Alabama	(256) 837-6327
Memphis Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(901) 274-1500
Murfreesboro Worship Group	Tennessee	(615) 895-0953
Nashville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(615) 329-2640
Oxford Quaker Meeting	Mississippi	(662) 281-8381
Royal Worship Group	Blountsville AL	(205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 429-1807
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 664-0092
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

SAYMA
 330 Goebel Avenue
 Savannah, GA 31404