

Southern Appalachian Friend

the Quarterly Newsletter of



Spring 2009

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Editor: Kathleen Mavournin

Spirit Woven in Our Lives: A Tapestry of Light

will be the theme for

SAYMA's Yearly Meeting for 2009

Thursday, June 11, through Sunday, June 14
at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC.

The advance program information and registration forms can be downloaded at www.sayma.org or picked up at your Meeting House. Register by May 31 to receive a room reservation and meal ticket, and to avoid late fees.

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Deadline for Summer 2009 issue of SAF is June 22.

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 2009

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

September 12, 2009
Fall Representative Meeting
Crossville, TN

March 6, 2010
Spring Representative Meeting
Nashville, TN

Evening Plenary Presentations for SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2009

Thursday Night: Jane Berger will lead us in small group exercises drawn from Quaker Quest and other inreach-outreach programs. We will consider how we share the precious gift of Quakerism and how we knit newcomers into our meeting communities. A member of Chappaqua Friends Meeting in NY, Jane currently serves as clerk of the Friends General Conference Advancement & Outreach Committee. She travels among Friends with a concern for spiritual hospitality and Quaker advancement.

Friday Night: Bridget Moix leads the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict program for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and has worked for over twelve years on peace and conflict issues within the U.S. and international policy arenas, including with Oxfam America, the Quaker United Nations Office, and the Quaker Peace Center in Cape Town, South Africa. She is a member of Friends Meeting of Washington and Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Saturday Night: Dave McInnes will lead us in the Hibbard Thatcher Memorial Dances, and we will also have a talent show. Both back by popular demand!

2009 SAYMA Yearly Meeting Memorial Meeting for Worship

I would like to have a printed handout for our memorial worship this year. I need input about those in your meeting who have passed away since June, 2008. If your meeting has lost a member/attender, please send a brief (1-2 paragraph) obituary/remembrance so that others attending this worship will know a little about the person being held. Send them to me at cecilia@wutka.com.

Ceal Wutka, Worship Coordinator, SAYMA Yearly Planning Committee

Worship Sharing Queries for 2009 Yearly Meeting

Friday:

What is an example of how the Light has been woven into your life?

What are some of the unfinished edges of your tapestry?

What is the thread of Light in you that can be added to the tapestry of your meeting?

Saturday:

How have you experienced the weaving of different kinds of threads in the tapestry of your meeting?

What are the common threads that can unite us in the midst of our differences?:

**Report on Heeding God's Call Peace Conference
January, 2009
Caasandra Fralix**

It was my privilege to attend the conference in Philadelphia entitled *Peace: Heeding God's Call* as one of SAYMA's representatives. The Quaker tradition that includes such zealous Friends as George Fox, Katherine Evans, Sarah Chevers, Margaret Fell, and Mary Dyer over the years has strengthened my views that Truth often requires sacrifice but at the same time has given me pause to consider: What is my offering? Could I strengthen the witness to Peace and what would be the result of my attendance at this peace gathering?

Those in attendance at the Gathering were asked to contemplate and respond to very serious questions: What does it mean to be the Church representing God's kingdom? How does our privilege affect the peace testimony? In listening to the Peace testimony, how does our way of life contribute to violence? How are the seeds of war found in our possessions? Do we offer ourselves to be used by God? What foundation does our tradition provide that could address the evil of injustice?

The journey to the gathering, the richness of the programs, the vital energy of those in attendance wedded with the scripture and the power of the messages gave meaning to the testimony that we are entrusted with the directive to be servants of Peace. The message that was reiterated by so many was that we must deepen our quest to love peace and to be willing to sacrifice for it.

Powerful messages from renowned men and women of God challenged the participants' commitment and brought home the realization that the Peace Churches have a huge task of addressing a world that is suffering. The murderous disparity of wealth that allows untold suffering must be interpreted. Then we must intercede so that the social system is disturbed, acknowledging that there are costs to change. The voices for peace action were told through the stories of the women of Liberia, through the life of Gilberto Flores, a Mennonite Pastor in Guatemala, through the sacrifice of Alexis Torres, a Puerto Rican lawyer from New York living in the Bronx, and from David Hartsough, a Quaker who was at the lunch counters during the civil rights movement.

The activist lifts up the prophetic message. They sing the Lord's song that the Church is a conscience. The Peace Church is in a challenging struggle not to become a tool of the state, but to stand against the disease of apathy and irrelevance.

So, what does it mean to be a person of peace? This is the invitation. To learn more about the conference and the messages go to <http://www.peacegathering2009.org/>, read the Epistle and listen to the speeches and let us answer together the challenge of how we can create a vital peace/justice church movement that is welcoming and trans-denominational and how can we build a community that supports radical Christian living and prophetic witness? My experience at the conference continues to serve as a reminder of how valuable the peace churches' witness is needed in our world and how great is the responsibility that is ours to speak Truth to Power.

The Transition Handbook: From oil dependency to local resilience
[Rob Hopkins, Green Books Ltd., 2008]
reviewed by Roy H. Taylor III

Here is the best “how to” start a movement book that may not be on the shelves of your local bookstore. It is so popular that it has sold out in many locations. Hopkins, steeped in the principles of permaculture that he taught for many years, appears to have been the right person at the right time for this job.

The future of less oil could be preferable to the present if we can engage in enough imagination, creativity, adaptability in that process. -R. H. In a time of recognizing the potential perils of reaching peak oil how can we plan for a society less dependent on oil? How can we power down our energy requirements? What pieces need to be in place to effect change in the communities where we live? While it seems at first that this might be a version of “Sustainable Sim City or how to create a new city out in the woods somewhere,” that would be an easy task compared to what this book is proposing. The one thing it shares with those types of plans is that this will create very intentional community.

It is one thing to campaign against climate change and quite another to paint a compelling and engaging vision of a post-carbon world in such a way as to enthuse others to embark on a journey towards it. -R.H. The power of this book is not just in the information it provides but in the way it is presented. The book is divided into three sections, Head, Heart and Hands. The author first makes the rational argument for change, then engages the power of vision and possibility before outlining the work that needs to be done to accomplish it. This is masterfully presented so that reader is caught up in the excitement of the Transition Initiative, willing to go work on it or inspired to work harder on the projects that they are already working on.

Most readers of this review are already familiar with the arguments about peak oil and climate change but these are well laid out and create the setting. The second section appeals to the heart with positive vision, the key to creating the community involvement necessary to accomplish the work of transition from oil dependency to local resilience. As vision of what might be is created, desire is born to make it happen. The third section is the real “how to” section, explaining “The Transition Approach” to community development. It is valuable reading for anyone working on a large community or group development project. The principles laid out, based in part on those of Permaculture, include: visioning, inclusion, awareness-raising, resilience, psychological insights, and credible and appropriate solutions. Warning: when you finish this book, be prepared to get involved with the Transition Initiative where you live. To get involved, go to <http://transitionus.ning.com>

FWCC News

2012 World Conference in Kenya update

Liz Gates of Philadelphia YM and Pradip Lamichhane of Nepal YM are co-Clerks of the International Planning Committee for the 2012 World Conference of Friends which is planned for August 14-21, 2012 at Africa Nazarene University, near Nairobi, Kenya.

It is hoped that 1,000 Friends will be able to attend, with emphasis on younger people, to nurture future leadership. Yearly meetings will be asked to name representatives by September, 2011. Study materials linked to the theme will be distributed in Fall 2011 so that meetings and individuals will be able to follow the development of the theme.

Bilingual gathering: time to register

It's time to register for the Northeast Region's gathering May 15-17 in New Hope, PA. *"Peace within Us, Peace with God, Peace with our Neighbor"* is the theme that will bring together Friends from all the branches of Friends in the US and Canada. This weekend retreat/gathering is jointly planned by members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the two Hispanic Evangelical Friends Churches in the Philadelphia area. Keynote speakers are Mary Lord, Baltimore YM and Cesar Nufio, National Evangelical Friends Church of Guatemala. All sessions will be interpreted between English and Spanish. More information, a downloadable brochure and registration form is now at fwccamericas.org in both English and Spanish.

Quaker Institute for the Future

Quaker Institute for the Future is inviting application for its 2009 Summer Seminar, July 6 – 10 at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley CA. The Summer Seminar offers a unique blend of research time and group reflection in a setting of excellent resources. Daily meeting for worship, individual study, and collaborative discernment. For more information contact Shelley Tanenbaum, sheltan@pacbell.net 510-525-8964

News of Meetings, compiled by Errol Hess

A thank you to Carol Hoke who will report quarterly from Brevard Monthly Meeting. Other meetings are encouraged to appoint a reporter for SAF. I received minutes this quarter from only six meetings out of the twenty eight meetings and worship groups listed on the SAYMA web site. What do Friends think? Is it time to lay this column down? errol@kitenet.net

BREVARD Brevard Friends continue their special effort to help keep the food supplies at Sharing House and Bread of Life well stocked in view of the unusually high demand. In addition, we've just begun a new addition to the social life of our Meeting. An enthusiastic group of Friendly cooks, who call themselves the Quaker Bakers, will periodically be providing refreshments after Meeting for Worship. Our hope is that Friends will be encouraged to stay and chat while munching on homemade treats.
Carol Hoke

MEMPHIS [from newsletter] New Quaker Meetinghouse: Vinyl windows with lowE coating and an argon buffer were installed in the meeting room and the dining room on March 16. A good, thick layer of insulation was blown into both attics on March 27th. Friends have begun laying out a vegetable garden in the side yard and spring blooms are brightening up the yard.

WEST KNOXVILLE [from State of the Meeting Report] Other than agreeing that we have no creed, we have found it surprisingly difficult to get to the core of our beliefs and our truths. It is hard to share our Truth and gauge how it has fared with us this year when instead it feels often as though we have many truths and rarely take the time to share them with each other much less with those who are newcomers among us. We imagined greeting both Jesus and George Fox at our meetinghouse door. We are not sure what would happen but we are confident that they would at least be welcomed even if we might consider asking George Fox not to speak quite so long during his next meeting for worship!

ATLANTA March activities included a Forum on Human Trafficking, a Green Friends presentation on A Sustainable Future, adult religious education on Australian Friends, and a book club meeting on Peony In Love.

COLUMBIA [from minutes and email] Our move to the Presbyterian Center has been delayed. We will move early in May. We will discuss plans for first day school now that we have more young Friends and diverse ages. April 5th: 12 Friends talk about Jesus April 26 Pack up boxes and sort library for the move. I have talked with John Cook at the Presbyterian Student Center who felt we would be able to move stuff in on Saturday May 2nd. Please hold that date to help us move. Thank you, Sallie

CELO [from minutes] The query will be written on a chalkboard, placed in the entry way on first Sunday. The clerk will also read the query at the beginning of meeting. It will be the clerk's responsibility to write the query on the chalkboard, to post it in the meetinghouse, to read the query at the beginning of meeting on first Sunday and to take it down after meeting.

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) 234-1602
Royal Worship Group	Blountsville AL	(205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 429-1807
Sewanee Worship Group	Tennessee	(931) 598-5031
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 664-0092
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

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