

Southern Appalachian Friend

the Quarterly Newsletter of



Spring 2009

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Editor: Kathleen Mavournin

SAYMA DIRECTORY

The new SAYMA directory is almost ready. The directory contains names and addresses provided by each monthly meeting and worship group, as well as a complete alphabetical index. SAYMA members and meetings may receive a copy of the directory in one of three ways:

1. by email, as a PDF file -800KB. You will need Adobe to read it. Please do not choose this option if you have a dial up connection to the internet.
2. by postal mail, as a PDF on a CD. As above, you will need Adobe to read this file.
3. by postal mail, as a printed document, approximately 125 pages long, printed on recycled paper. It will be 3-hole punched.

Each meeting and worship group will receive the CD version, unless a different format is specifically requested. Individuals also may receive a directory upon request.

Please contact Liz to request a copy of the directory (contact info below.) Printed copies of the directory must be requested by August 1; other formats may be requested any time.

SAYMA Office
c/o Liz Perch
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YM Clerks, Administrative Assistants, and Standing Committee Clerks

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SAYF Administrative Assistant

Theresé Hildebrand (Berea)
SAYFadminasst@sayma.org

Deadline for Fall 2009 issue of SAF is September 21.

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 2009-10

September 12, 2009
Fall Representative Meeting
Crossville, TN

March 6, 2010
Spring Representative Meeting
Nashville, TN

June 10-13, 2009
Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
Warren Wilson College
Swananoa, NC

Extended Worship - A Friend's Experience
Susan Mason-Bouterse
Celo Friends Meeting

I was unsure what I'd experience in the "Deeper Gathering" workshop held at the 2009 SAYMA gathering. But the concept of a deeper silence intrigued me, so I decided to participate. I was totally unprepared for the intensity of the experience.

There were about ten of us sitting in a circle. After just a few minutes of introduction to the concept, we began the worshipful silence. The initial part of the meeting felt very similar to the silent meetings that I've experienced multiple times. But there was a significant difference - I knew that there was a much longer time span stretching ahead. This realization held uncertainty for me – could I sit still for two hours?! Would my stomach start growling?, etc, etc.

But I felt myself relaxing into the prolonged silence, allowing myself to drift into this extended quiet. I quickly lost track of time and was only aware of the rich silence, the occasional rustling of the others as they shifted position. I slowly became aware of a warmth of spirit, and I found myself connecting with myself as a child, sitting between my parents in a church pew. I felt the warmth of their love and cherishing, but so much greater and deeper that I realized at the core of my soul that the Divine Creator was loving us, cherishing us, nurturing us.

As I settled deeper into the fertile silence, words and phrases began flowing through my heart and the tears were dripping from my face. In hindsight, I understand that those messages of love and hope were for me to share. For as I reflect now, I can only recall one of those messages – the others are lost to me. The only words I can remember are a verse from an old camp song: "It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark; Better far that you light just one little candle, all you need is a tiny spark; if we all say a prayer that the world will be free, the wonderful dawn of a new day we'll see; and if everyone lit just one little candle, what a bright world this would be."

Perhaps this experience represents the budding of a new flower – the beginning of my conviction that God speaks through me also, and it's important that I share that voice, that message, with others.

Practical Hints for Clerks (from the Atlanta Friends Meeting newsletter)

The following list was derived from suggestions made at the FGC Ministry and Nurture consultation for yearly meeting clerks in 2005. It is offered here for monthly meetings in the spirit of viewing all clerking as ministry, whether for a monthly or yearly meeting committee.

- Ask one or two Friends to hold the meeting in prayer during meeting for worship to attend to business. If a committee is experiencing difficulty, a committee clerk may also request a prayerful presence during the committee meeting(s).
- If needed, invite Friends to return to Silence to help find the sense of meeting.
- Be aware of teachable moments.
- Have phrases you can use in needed moments - some clerks bring meaningful phrases with them that they can turn to as needed.
- Be aware of where you are on any given concern brought before the meeting and stand aside if you are too involved to be able to clerk a particular piece. (This should not happen too often.) This includes moving physically away from the clerks' table for all discussion of the concern through the minuting of an action. The assistant or recording clerk usually serves as clerk during that time.
- Remember that clerks don't have the answers - our work is to help discern the sense of the meeting.
- Remember that you don't have to call on everyone whose hand is raised. The person called on may have spoken to others' concerns as well. Calling on everyone can serve to encourage Friends to repeat themselves and carry on discussion well after the clerk has come to clarity of the sense of the meeting.
- If many have spoken the clerk may ask a person whose hand is up if this is something new or if he/she is affirming what has already been said. This helps Friends come to understand that they have reached a sense of the meeting and that it is time to form a minute.
- Things the assistant clerk can help with include: helping clerks find clarity; serving as clerk if the clerk needs to stand aside or be absent from a session; honing a difficult minute; helping the clerk keep tabs of physical energy in the meeting...stretch breaks etc.
- When facing a problem of too little time and too many agenda items, the meeting can help make the decision of what to leave out and how best to use their remaining time.
- Pray without ceasing - we are servants of God.

Seeking pilgrims & leaders

Registration is now open for potential pilgrims - young Friends who will be ages 16-18 next summer - and potential adult leaders for the 2010 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. This bi-annual event will take place **July 16-August 13, 2010** in the Northwestern United States. Information on the pilgrimage may be found at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml> The deadline for both pilgrim and leader applicants is **September 30, 2009**.

FWCC brings together people of many cultural, language and theological traditions in efforts to promote loving understanding of our diversities. The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is an important part of the work of FWCC. Twenty-eight young Friends share an extraordinary experience of travel and learning for four weeks.

The theme of the 2010 Pilgrimage is Living in the Garden of the Spirit echoing the early migration of Friends to the Northwestern US. The Pilgrimage will begin with youth flying in to Seattle, Washington, USA. The Pilgrimage will bring together 14 Young Friends (aged 16 to 18) from the Section of the Americas and 14 from the Europe & Middle East Section with two adult leaders from each section on a four-week journey of exploration. This is an opportunity to promote loving understanding of our diversity within the worldwide Quaker family.

Pilgrims will discover that what may be acceptable in one cultural or Friendly tradition may be shockingly inappropriate in another. Pilgrims should come to the Pilgrimage with the awareness that there will be differences in standard of ethics and religious convictions and be prepared to explore these differences in an open and honest manner, with tenderness toward one another. Pilgrims should be sensitive to each other in their use of language and expressions of physical affection. Willingness to accept responsibility for developing and living in community with other pilgrims and adult leaders is needed. Being sensitive to one another's beliefs and traditions means being willing to modify one's own behavior so that all persons in the group can take part. To show respect for one another, you will be asked to agree to certain standards of behavior during the Pilgrimage:

The four leaders will coordinate the activities of the Pilgrimage and have responsibility for the care of the pilgrims. The leader selection process will include careful review of references, background checks, and a telephone interview. The committee hopes to complete the process in October.

Pilgrim and leader applications available at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml>

New Study Resources from QuakerPress of Friends General Conference

Join the Conversation Now

On February 5, more than two hundred people celebrated the publication of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye at the book launch in Philadelphia's Arch Street Meetinghouse.

Now, monthly meetings in New York, Philadelphia, New England, and Lake Erie Yearly Meetings (to name a few) are planning the use the *Fit for Freedom Study Guide*. This newly available resource for group study addresses issues raised in the book in hopes to move toward a more racially inclusive Religious Society of Friends. www.fitforfreedom.org

Look for information about these and other recent resources from Quaker Press of FGC—*Living out The Kingdom While Living in The Empire* by Christopher Sammond and *Silence and Speech* by Richard Allen—at www.fgcquaker.org.

Being Salt and Light

Plans are underway for the sixth World Conference of Friends, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, August 13-21, 2012. Around 1,000 Friends will gather on the campus of Africa Nazarene University to consider the theme **Being Salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world.**

In deciding the theme, the International Planning Committee drew inspiration from several Bible passages, including Matthew 4:13 ("You are the salt of the earth..."), Matthew 5:14-16 ("You are the light of the world..."), Matthew 6:33 ("Seek ye first the Kingdom of God..."), Matthew 6:9-13 (the Lord's Prayer), Micah 4:4 ("They shall sit under their own vines and fig trees and no one shall make them afraid."), and Micah 6:8 ("...And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"). "*This theme unites the spiritual foundation of our faith with our understanding of the basis of our work in the world in all its diversity,*" said FWCC General Secretary Nancy Irving.

The theme will inform the preparation for the conference, and between now and August 2012 there will be many opportunities for Friends to consider and reflect on it, both individually and in groups. A study pack will be prepared, and FWCC hopes to offer an on-line course focusing on different aspects of the theme, as well as other opportunities for Friends to share their views and thoughts. This will lead to a conference book being prepared which will bring together the various ideas and issues that will be generated. Ultimately, the theme should guide the conference in discerning concrete ways in which Friends can live the Kingdom of God in a broken world.

News of the Meetings

Compiled from monthly meeting minutes by Errol Hess

ATLANTA

Annual Celebration of Youth day May 31 commemorates end of year's first day school classes. The meeting's scholarship fund provides up to \$500 annually, with a maximum of \$2000, for post-secondary education. In June, adult religious education class read Parker Palmer's book, Hidden Wholeness. A revived search committee is looking for a Friend in residence at the meetinghouse. Fundraising is underway to renovate Ferguson Cabin, a retreat property with cabins 90 miles north of Atlanta.

BREVARD

Brevard Monthly Meeting newsletter describes an ACLU filed lawsuit to allow NC Peace Action access to Wilkes County students equal to that of military recruiters.

CELO

Five Friendly Eights groups recently formed. Landscaping work continues around the meetinghouse.

CHARLESTON

Friends continuously collect food for Manna Meal. Bible study--Book of Matthew. Friends are planning for a statewide gathering.

COLUMBIA

The meeting collects canned goods for a food bank on a weekly basis. Palmetto Friends Gathering will be held in Columbia area in March, 2010. Columbia Friends struggle with difficulties of using rented space and need for a permanent meetinghouse. Bush River Quaker Homecoming in Newberry will be held May 14--16, 2010. Palmetto Friends will lead a Sunday worship.

MEMPHIS

Memphis Friends spent a day in late April planting the yard around their new meetinghouse. Two Memphis Friends attended the spring Quaker Earthcare Witness meeting in Chicago. A meeting newsletter article by Carol Ciscel describes how Costa Rica and Denmark have achieved obtaining all of their energy needs from renewable sources. Seven Memphis Friends attended Yearly Meeting.

WEST KNOXVILLE

Friends approved a marriage under meeting care of two regular attenders.

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) 264-5812
Brevard Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 698-2862
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) 654-2588
Columbia Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(803) 252-2221
Cookeville Monthly Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 260-1206
Crossville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 742-0030
Foxfire Friends Meeting of Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 202-8661
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
Huntsville Area Friends Meeting	Alabama	(256) 837-6327
Memphis Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(901) 324-3500
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) 669-0832
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

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