

Southern Appalachian Friend

the Quarterly Newsletter of



Winter
2010

Dennis Gregg, clerk
185 Hood Drive
Crossville, TN 38555

(931) 484-9033
clerk@sayma.org

Editor: Kathleen Mavournin

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2010, June 10-13
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa NC

Discerning the Way

Evening Programs

Thursday evening: Panel - Clearness for Real Life - will focus on 1) recognizing the need for clearness, 2) attention to the clearness process, and 3) how to proceed when way is open.

Friday evening: Plenary: Action Out of Clearness, speaker to be announced.

Saturday evening: Dancing and sharing of our talents.

SAYMA Office
c/o Liz Perch
330 Goebel Avenue, Savannah, GA 31404
adminasst@sayma.org
(865) 272-9621

YM Clerks, Administrative Assistants, and Standing Committee Clerks

Clerk

Dennis Gregg (Crossville)
clerk@sayma.org

Assistant Clerk

Tim Lamm (Berea)
assistantclerk@sayma.org

Recording Clerk

Bill Holland (Atlanta)
recordingclerk@sayma.org

Treasurer

Deanna Nipp Kientz (Cookeville)
treasurer@sayma.org

Administrative Assistant

Liz Perch (Savannah)
adminasst@sayma.org

Ministry & Nurture Comm. Clerk

Judy Guerry (Huntsville)
nurture@sayma.org

Nominating Comm. Clerk

Sallie Prugh (Columbia)
nominating@sayma.org

Personnel Committee Clerk

Tim Lamm (Memphis)
assistantclerk@sayma.org

Finance Committee Clerk

Susan Phelan (Huntsville)
sjpsprout@comcast.net

Young Adult Friends Clerk

Galen Labotka
theicelizard@hotmail.com

Peace & Social Concerns Comm. Clerk

Steve Livingston (Asheville)
nc_stereoman@charter.net

Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerks

Roy Taylor (Canton) & Shaun Chavis (Birmingham)
wrlldpeas@mindspring.com schavis@mac.com

YM Planning Comm. Clerk

Kristi Estes
QuakerKristi@gmail.com

SAYF Steering Comm. Co-Clerks

Laura Norlin (Atlanta) & Chuck Jones (Chattanooga)
laura.norlin@gmail.com cjonesfly@earthlink.net

SAYF Administrative Assistant

Theresé Hildebrand (Berea)
SAYFadminasst@sayma.org

The Deadline for Spring 2010 issue of SAF is March 15.

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

Send submissions to:
Kathleen Mavournin
SAFeditor@sayma.org

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

SAYMA Calendar 2010

March 6, 2010
Spring Representative Meeting
Nashville, TN

June 10-13, 2010
Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
Warren Wilson College
Swanannoa, NC

September, 2010
Fall Representative Meeting
Date and place TBA

What is Your Ministry to the World?

Dennis Gregg, Crossville Meeting
SAYMA Clerk

Winter is always a special time for reflection for me. Things just naturally slow down and provide me with a little more space in my life. With my interest in learning more about effective outreach for our monthly meetings, one theme has been picked up for some years – the importance of a vital spiritual life in the meeting. If the Spirit is not obviously present in our midst, we will have difficulty drawing new people in.

This message has been received and most meetings both historically and presently ask themselves these reflective questions about their spiritual health and strive to maintain its vitality. But this reflection leaves unanswered the equally important question of what brings new people in the door. There are those active seekers out there who find us. But the real fertile ground for new members and attenders are the seekers who don't know about us.

As unprogrammed Friends, we face two difficult challenges that most other religious groups do not – our willingness to face God without the authority of either institutional structure or the written “law” of the Bible and our acceptance by each of us of the role of minister. How we express our ministry is not proscribed, but the expectation is real. There are different levels of ministry as well – the tending of our own spiritual life, the tending of the spiritual life of our monthly meeting, the tending of the personal needs of our families and friends, and our ministry to the world. Most of us strive to live our lives in the Spirit and see that as our testimony to the world. But for many in the larger society, this is just too subtle. We are appreciated (or reviled) for our witnesses, but often the connection to our Quaker spiritual life is missed.

Do our friends and our colleagues know we are Friends? Do they understand our goal to live our lives in the Spirit? Are we willing to be “out-of-the-closet” religious people? Are we willing to publicly set aside the basket and let the light shine? Perhaps the reason we haven't been growing as a Society is that folks don't know we're out here.

for information about the
2010 FGC Gathering of Friends
Accepting Gifts of the Spirit
July 4-10, Bowling Green State University in Ohio
www.fgcquaker.org/gathering

Report from the FCNL Annual Meeting

Jane Hiles, Birmingham, njhiles@samford.edu
Carol Nickle, West Knoxville, cnickle@knoxjustice.com
Kelly Schoolmeester, Columbia, jetgolfer@gmail.com
Charlie Wilton, Berea, cwilton@gmail.com

In November, the four of us attended the annual meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC. Three issues of particular importance need to be highlighted.

First, the biannual legislative policy priority process will be taking place this spring. This begins with each monthly meeting having discussions on what work they would like FCNL to emphasize during the 2011-2012 session of Congress. Packets should be coming out in January and priorities need to be back in to FCNL by mid-April. Ideally, each monthly meeting in SAYMA will hold one or two worship sharings or discussions during business meeting between now and April to give the priorities your thoughtful consideration. The cumulative impact of your decisions will determine the direction FCNL takes in the next two years.

You may have heard by now that Executive Secretary Joe Volk is retiring and a search process has begun. Joe has been a strong and inspirational leader through difficult times, and we need someone with the experience and vision to fill his shoes. If you would like to nominate someone for this position, please be in touch with one of us or visit the FCNL website at fcnl.org.

Finally, the financial situation at FCNL continues to be very serious: contributions have actually remained fairly constant, but the year-long market downturn has meant that reserves are depleted and the organization continues to operate with a too-small staff, all working at reduced pay -- all at a time when Congress and the White House are actually capable of hearing what FCNL has to say. In order to rebuild, FCNL has an ambitious goal of raising 9 million dollars over the next three years. Every individual Quaker, every monthly meeting, and SAYMA as a whole can be a part of that. We urge you to expand your donations to FCNL as much as possible. FCNL cannot do its work without our donations. Donation options are easy to access at fcnl.org.

FWCC Annual Meeting, March 18-21, 2010
Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center near Baltimore, MD
fwccamericas.org/events/2010_annual_meeting_info.shtml

Call for SAYMA Yearly Meeting Workshops

SAYMA members/attenders and Friends are welcome to submit proposals for workshops. All proposals will be given consideration, whether or not they address the theme.

Have you recognized the need for clearness in your spiritual journey? How did you or your Meeting proceed? Has your Meeting attended to the process when corporate clearness was need? Is our Way of discerning useful or possible in the workplace? What about within our Families? Are there particular gifts of our Meeting Members that work well in reaching clearness; how might you set up a clearness committee?

Please consider sharing your insights, experiences and skills with others. Workshops can take many forms - worship sharing; practicing the clearness process; working on specific concerns with a group. Workshops which invite intergenerational participation and include an element of play are particularly encouraged!

Please use the Workshop Form to submit your proposal. The Workshop Form is available in two formats. The editable RTF document can be downloaded at http://sayma.org/online_documents.htm#YM%20Work, filled out on your computer, and returned by e-mail to Sharon Annis. A printable PDF document can also be downloaded, filled out by hand, and returned by mail to Sharon Annis. The PDF document is reproduced on page 6.

Be sure you are clear in your description of your workshop. Folks want to know ahead of time if it is very political or spiritual. Give an idea of how much is interactive or if your workshop is lecture or PowerPoint presentation.

We do not offer compensation in any form to workshop presenters.

Workshops will be offered Friday (6/11) and Saturday (6/12) afternoons between 2:30-4:30 PM. The sessions can be as short as 60 minutes or as long as 120 minutes. Please help us in our planning by filling out this form **as completely as possible** and returning it by **MARCH 15, 2010** to:

Sharon Annis
869 A West Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865.483.8783 (home)
865.414.2682 (cell)
sharonannis@comcast.net

**SAYMA Yearly Meeting Workshop Proposal Form
due back by March 15, 2010**

- Title of proposed workshop:
- Your name, address, phone number and e-mail:
- Brief (approximately 50 words) description of your workshop. (To be used for the advance program to help Friends in selecting a workshop.) If your description is too long, it will be edited. However, we hope also to put descriptions on the SAYMA Web site, which will accommodate longer descriptions.

Please specify Friday or Saturday preference:

Would you be willing to give your workshop twice? (You may have different people in each session.)

Does your workshop need more than one session? (If you offer a two-part workshop, should participants attend both parts?)

What portion or percent of your workshop is worship? Lecture?
Discussion? Interactive?

Preferred participants: Adults, youth or both? Women, men, or both?

Are there limits to the numbers of participants? Maximum? Minimum?
What is your ideal number?

Workshop length: 60 minutes? 75-90 minutes? 90-120 minutes?

Particular space or equipment requirements (e.g., projector, piano)? We will try to have all workshops in handicap-accessible classrooms.

Please list any books or other materials that you would like to see stocked in the YM bookstore.

Additional Comments:

Please contact Sharon Annis with any questions you may have. She will send confirmation that she received your proposal, and you should hear before April 15 on whether or not your workshop has been accepted for the program.

Sharon Annis
869 A West Outer Drive, Oak Ridge TN 37830
865-483-8783 (home), 865-414-2681 (cell)
sharonannis@comcast.net

News of SAYMA Meetings

Asheville: Friends continue to meet monthly for a period of extended worship. Gary Briggs of Asheville Meeting died on Christmas Day of H1N1 influenza complicated by pneumonia. A memorial service was held in Asheville on January 23 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church.

Atlanta: Atlanta Friends School is completing a capital campaign and reports record growth. Atlanta Friends studied "Fit For Freedom, Not For Friendship" in October and hosted the book's authors in November. Atlanta Newsletter quotes messages out of the silence. A Friend proposed and the meeting supports the instituting of a mid-week, semi-programmed meeting. Seven young Friends received \$500 scholarships from the meeting. Atlanta meeting's relationship with El Sitio, El Salvador continues. The meeting plans a January Gathered Meeting Retreat.

Brevard: For the past few months, Brevard Friends have been focusing on the plans for a new emergency shelter to alleviate the problem of homelessness in Transylvania County. After careful consideration we believe it vital to join with others in the community to help fund this project. We have written to the board of directors of The Haven, as the shelter will be called, stating that a contribution of \$5,000.00 will be forthcoming from Brevard Friends Meeting. In the letter we expressed our gratitude for their efforts. Our Adult Forum has recently wrapped up its eleven-month-long discussion of Ben Pink Dandelion's *The Quakers: A Very Short Introduction*. Also, the Quaker Bakers will be treating us to homemade goodies after rise of meeting one First Day this month. --Carol Hoke

Celo: Friends considered details of renting out their new meetinghouse. Friends met with co-author Donna McDaniel and discussed "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship." Friends minuted support of great Britain Yearly Meeting's climate change minute. Celo will host the April SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee meeting. Friends provided a meal for the local Habitat for Humanity crew.

Columbia: Palmetto Gathering will be the first weekend of March at the Lexington YMCA. Search for a meetinghouse continues. Columbia Friends sent a donation for flood relief to Philippine Friends. Columbia is one of several meetings suffering a budget shortfall. Bush River Meeting Homecoming will take place in Newberry, SC May 14-16. Bush River is a long-ago meeting which had its first homecoming last year at the request of meeting descendants and with the help of local Friends.

Charleston: November activities included collecting food for Manna Meal, fundraising to benefit the homeless, reviewing SAYMA Faith and Practice revisions. Friends will serve meals at shelters on Super Bowl Sunday.

Memphis: The January Memphis Friends Newsletter has an encouraging story about their purchase of a meetinghouse. They celebrated their first year there in November. Other meetings considering this action might want to read it. Contact Ron McDonald. Memphis will host the January SAYMA Ministry & Nurture Committee meeting. Memphis Friends invited FWCC to hold their fall meeting there. Friends participated in a Christmas Food Drive.

West Knoxville: West Knoxville Friends agree to explore the possibility of starting a meeting school. Ministry and Nurture committee recommends formation of an outreach committee. Encroachment by an adjacent church required hiring an engineer to assess property damage and remedy. Friends offered to host the 2010 Southwest Region FWCC Section of Americas meeting. The Outreach Committee set up a Facebook site for the 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) 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 |
| 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 |

SAYMA
 330 Goebel Avenue
 Savannah, GA 31404