

Eighth Month (August) 2015

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218
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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Eighth Query: Outreach

Do you, as the way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting **your life speak**? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Advices for the Eighth Query

Fellowship and Community

The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization which it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstances; but the springs of life lie deeper, and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of a spiritual life which is its strength.

William Charles Braithwaite, 1905

A. Within the Local Meeting

It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.

Typically Friends come together in meetings for worship from diverse neighborhoods, seeing one another rarely except on First Day or on special occasions. Many Meetings find it helpful to encourage groups to meet in one another's homes for worship, recreation, study or fellowship. Committees provide opportunities for other kinds of relationships within the Meeting. But all too often these contacts fail to satisfy our yearning for community. Sometimes a glimpse of the meaning of community comes as Friends work together in projects of social service, peace education, religious education or pastoral care for fellow members. Each Meeting should have as an active concern before one or more of its standing committees the nurture of the Meeting community in whatever ways may open.

B. Within the Society of Friends

Friends who restrict their experience of the Society to their local Meeting are missing rich experiences of fellowship in the wider community. Quarterly, Half-yearly and Yearly Meetings as well as larger gatherings provide opportunities for Friends of all ages to broaden their experience of the Society and the circle of their spiritually-based friendships. Attendance at such larger Meetings should be seriously considered by each of us as a benefit of membership, an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and a means of widening our community.

Another rich resource within the Society which provides opportunities for fellowship and community is the variety of service committees and action organizations established to further our testimonies. Involvement in these endeavors can help to knit us one to another in common effort. The Society also sponsors study, conference and retreat opportunities at various centers. Meetings should assist the attendance of members and provide opportunity to share the fruits of such experiences in the local Meeting.

Finally, the Friendly tradition of intervisitation, whether under the weight of specific concern or in the interest of wider Quaker fellowship, should be fostered among our local Meetings.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING are needed and gratefully accepted; they support the maintenance of the Meeting and our contributions to designated service organizations. It is very helpful for contributors to make arrangements with their banks for automatic transfers. This provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow.

As of the end of May, we have raised about 25% of the contributions needed from members and attenders to meet our goal for 2015. Please consider making a contribution and, if possible, setting up automatic transfers. Every bit helps and no contribution is too small!

WICKER BASKET: Baltimore AFSC's Friend of a Friend program will be the recipient for August and September.

Please consider making a regular Wicker Basket contribution. Recipients are chosen by the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee (BQPJC), which meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend. FIND BQPJC on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/BQPJC>.

HOMEWOOD EVENTS AND COMMITTEE NEWS

THE BALTIMORE QUAKER PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (Homewood contingent) is being reconstituted. Friends are invited to get involved on any level. The June Meeting for Business approved continuing the Friday vigils with the theme "Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter" until the new members of the committee can discuss it and make a recommendation. Friends are especially urged to participate in the vigils in light of recent events.

THE 2015 HOMEWOOD DIRECTORY: the printed directory has been delayed so some software problems could be remedied; as soon as those have been verified, booklets will be produced. The online document has been updated whenever information has changed during the process, however, so it remains the most reliable source of contact information. Try it out if you haven't yet done so: just visit <http://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/directory/>. You'll need to enter the member password.

SAVE THE DATES:

ATTENDER'S POTLUCK (everyone welcome): **on a Sunday evening in September (date TBA)** at the home of Sarah Bur and Gary Gillespie.

QUAKERISM 101 classes are planned for **Wednesday evenings** in October.

HOMEcoming is scheduled for **September 13**.

SIMPLE LUNCH offers soup, bread or bagels, peanut butter, jelly, at times some fruit, and a salad. Everyone is welcome; there is no charge. Friends are welcome to bring other food but please bring enough for everyone.

Note: The Hospitality Committee needs to complete Sunday's Simple Lunch in a reasonable amount of time, to make time for their other obligations. Thank you, Pat Tracey & Susie Higgins, Co-Clerks.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE requests everyone to help keep the kitchen(s) tidy by doing their own dishes.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A MONTHLY GREETER, an important opportunity to welcome newcomers, members, and attenders as they come to the experience of worship. It is satisfying and enjoyable—just ask a greeter! Interested? Have questions? Talk with Kathleen W. If you are interested but concerned about occasional absences, talk with her anyway. Greeters and substitutes work together wonderfully, filling in for one another.

ONGOING HOMEWOOD EVENTS

JOIN US FOR OUR PEACE VIGIL: Each Friday the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Social Justice Committee (BQPJC) holds a 5-6 p.m. peace vigil in front of Homewood Meeting House; everyone is welcome. The current theme is "BLACK LIVES MATTER/ALL LIVES MATTER."

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI DAY: On 1st day (Sunday), the 9th of 8th month (August) from about 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Homewood Peace and Social Justice Committee will co-sponsor (with the Baltimore Nonviolence Center) the Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration. After a pot-luck dinner there will be a talk by Ralph Moore about Freddie Gray, Black Lives Matter and the need for cutbacks to military spending to provide jobs with peace. There will also be music and poetry. Later, organizations will be able to speak about their peace and justice events, e.g. the peace vigil. Everyone is welcome.

5 RHYTHMS® MOVEMENT: Adult Religious Education will continue 5 Rhythms movement on fourth First Days through the coming season.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2015: The Pre-Session Retreat will begin after lunch on **Monday, August 3** and conclude with Meeting for Worship at 11:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, August 4**. Annual Session will begin with Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business at 3:00 p.m. on **Tuesday** and will continue through **Sunday, August 9**. Registration is now open; go to <https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/events/annualsession/registration.html>.

THE 2015 FALL SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT this year will be **Friday, September 4,- Sunday, September 6**, at Priestfield Retreat Center. You must register by August 1. Learn more at <https://bym-rsforg.presencehost.net/events/spiritform/>.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE is having a conference (Central Committee Meeting) from **Thursday, October 22 to Sunday, October 25** in Reisterstown, Maryland. They are looking for child care providers.

They pay for room, board and \$12.50 per hour when children are being watched. FGC will perform a background check and a reference check in accordance with our child safety policy.

Service expectations: There will be 2 child care workers for 1-5 children up to age 5. The meeting times are below. The parents will let us know where they need the most support, so the schedule can shift depending on the children's and parents' needs. We ask the parents not to exceed 8 hours of child care time on Friday or Saturday. The schedule will be more defined when folks get a chance to see the meeting agenda, which will happen sometime early in October.

Thursday—2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday—9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; 7:00 to 9 p.m.

Saturday— p.m. to 1 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; 7:00 to 9 p.m.

Sunday—9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Carpooling might be a possibility if you need a ride. Please call if you have any questions.

Contact Susan Lee Barton, susanleeb@fgcquaker.org or 215-561-1700, ext. 3005 for application forms or more information.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING'S "Seek Peace and Pursue It" silent vigil is held each Saturday, 12 to 1 p.m. on the West Lawn of the Capitol (nearest the wall along First St.). See www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/news/peacevigil.shtml.

I kept steadily to meetings, spent First-day afternoons chiefly in reading the Scriptures and other good books, and was early convinced in my mind that true religion consisted in an inward life, wherein the heart does love and reverence God the Creator, and learns to exercise true justice and goodness, not only toward all men, but also toward the brute creation; that, as the mind was moved by an inward principle to love God as an invisible, incomprehensible Being, so, by the same principle, it was moved to love Him in all His manifestations in the visible world; that, as by His breath the flame of life was kindled in all animal sensible creatures, to say we love God as unseen, and at the same time exercise cruelty toward the least creature moving by His life, or by life derived from Him, was a contradiction in itself."

John Woolman

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (downstairs in summer)
Every Tuesday (on vacation until September 8 2015)	11:30 a.m. at Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House (under the care of Stony Run Friends Meeting)
First Sunday of each month	12:15 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays (September 27, 2015) 12:15 p.m.
Hospitality—OPEN	As called; contact Pat Tracey, 443.846.1036
House & Grounds—OPEN	1st Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., contact Charlie Neill
Indian Affairs—OPEN	3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Stony Run dining room, contact Barb Katzenapple, 410.319.6440
Library—OPEN	1st Sundays at 9:00 a.m., contact Debbie Kennison, 410.464.1835
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact Stan Becker, 410.366.6923
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays; contact Ann Walker Kennedy, 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	Dates vary; contact Chris Rutkowski, 410.325-9435
Stewardship & Finance	As called; contact Susan Russell Walters, 410.377.3328
Trustees	3rd Tuesdays;

These are the regularly scheduled meeting times for each committee or group. Changes and special meeting times will be announced and/or committee members will be notified (see calendar at www.homewoodfriends.org). Location is at the Meeting House unless noted. Most committees are OPEN to guests; contact the clerk if you'd like to attend.

I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Etienne de Grellet, 1773-1855 (attributed)

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