

Ninth Month (September) 2015

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

3107 North Charles Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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(includes calendar, no password required)

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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Ninth Query: The Social Order

Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing? Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values? Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences? Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged? Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service? Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things?

Civic Responsibility

Friends believe that the aim of government is to preserve a community in which justice, peace, good order and individual development are possible. Members of our Society are also citizens of the community and the nation. Quakerism is not intended to be a refuge from the disturbing events of our times, but rather a source of strength and support in facing them. The free institutions under which we live give many of our members a direct share in the responsibilities of government and in forming a healthy public opinion.

Friends have supported the state as long as its requirements have not opposed the leadings of the Inner Light. They have generally believed that:

...if any be called to serve the commonwealth in any public service, with cheerfulness it be undertaken, and in faithfulness be discharged unto God. (Meeting of Quaker Elders at Balby, 1656)

Whether or not directly involved in government, we need to consider carefully our responsibilities in influencing legislation and educating fellow citizens on public issues. Friends should work with people in other churches and in the community to bring about desirable ends through the institutional resources of society.

From the beginning, Friends have found that loyalty to God results at times in refusal of the demands of the state, as in opposition to war and unjust laws, and have supported decisions of conscience taken by individual Friends. Before deciding on a course which involves civil disobedience, a Friend should consult with persons of trusted judgment who have sympathy with the individual's sense of duty. Clearness committees within the Meeting are valuable in such situations.

Vocational and Financial Decisions

The relationships, decisions, and actions of our working lives should reflect a calling to the service of God. Our witness will be unconvincing unless we seek and heed Divine guidance. Individual leadings vary with differences in talents and interests. Each Friend's talents, however, should be fully used.

Investment of assets and consumption of resources require our careful stewardship. As Friends we can direct our investments toward socially desirable ends, avoiding speculation and activities wasteful or harmful to others. We seek to participate constructively and without greed in the economic life of the community. We should refrain from undue accumulation of wealth as well as irresponsible borrowing.

Friends' Meetings and concerns require money and time. Non-pastoral Meetings do not need as much financial support as churches with paid ministers, but our concerns do call for considerable funding. We are required to give generously of our time, since our way of serving the Spirit depends on our personal efforts. For every Friend, the responsibility to give generously of both money and time is real. Monthly Meetings should provide regular opportunities for us to discuss our practices in the use of money and time. Wills should be made and

periodically revised with care. This avoids difficulties for heirs and beneficiaries. The needs of our own family members and the merits of contributions to worthy causes should be considered in a spirit of love. Selection of a capable and understanding executor is encouraged.

Social Responsibility

The basic Quaker trust in the Light within leads to our trust in the inherent dignity and sacredness of each person. This trust, combined with our Society's own history of persecution, underlies our social witness.

Some concerns which once drew the witness of Friends are obsolete today, but still we have many challenges. War, violence in streets and homes, injustice in the justice system, prejudice and discrimination, the plights of starving, homeless and disadvantaged people, and business conduct which involves exploitation of people or nature's resources all these still call us to action in obedience to the Spirit.

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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 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

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SPECIAL SESSION: Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Homewood Spiritual State of the Meeting: Next Steps

Ministry and Counsel will host this Adult Religious Education session in which we will review our Spiritual State of the Meeting Report from 2014 and engage in respectful dialogue on next steps. The conclusion of that report states:

Meetings for worship and business remain the heart of our meeting. Our worship is deep and centered and is enriched by a lively array of adult religious education offerings. Homewood is a small meeting which many experience as a community in which love abounds. We have invested significant time and money into our beautiful, aging, and challenging building, recently resolving some major structural problems and making significant progress in "greening" our building. We are glad to see our Meeting House used most days by multiple meeting and community groups.

We also identify significant concerns about the condition of our meeting. Each year this report reflects on the fact that we have too few people to fill too many committees. We are an aging group, having attracted few young adults and young families in the last decade. In comparison to our local urban environment—which is diverse in age and race, among other qualities—we lack diversity. We have identified some significant deficits in terms of our outreach and are finding it challenging to implement a stronger outreach program. We also struggle to provide a vigorous religious education program for our small group of children. In addition, many of us mourn our lack of an energetic and unified service to peace and justice.

We have faith that as we open ourselves to the workings of the Inward Light that way will open. In the coming year we are committed to uplifting the sense of Spirit we experience in our meeting, facing our concerns about our meeting's condition, and exploring creative ideas to invigorate Spirit-led service beyond our doors. As our hearts grow, so will our community.

ATTENDER'S POTLUCK (everyone welcome): 5:30 p.m., **Sunday evening, September 13**, at the home of Sarah Bur and Gary Gillespie, 3206 Montebello Terrace, 21214.

SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE: Every Friday, 5-6 p.m. Since 9/11/2001, we have held a vigil for peace every Friday evening. Join in at any time during the hour. The current focus is on “**BLACK LIVES MATTER/ALL LIVES MATTER.**”

THE FRIDAY VIDEO SERIES will resume on **September 11 (a change of date)** with **WALL-E**, an animated comedy produced by Pixar Animation Studios. Directed by Andrew Stanton, the story follows a robot named WALL-E, who is designed to clean up an abandoned, waste-covered Earth far in the future.

The series theme this season is **CAN WE HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?** Videos will usually be shown on the first Friday of each month, from September through December, at Homewood Friends Meetinghouse. After the weekly Peace Vigil, from 5-6 p.m., there will be a potluck dinner. At 7:15 p.m., the video will be shown, and a discussion will follow. There is no charge, and refreshments will be available.

The Series is sponsored by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, the Baltimore Quaker Peace and Justice Committee of Homewood and Stony Run Meetings, and Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility.

SAVE THE DATES:

AN INTRODUCTION TO QUAKERS course will be held on **Wednesday evenings, Oct. 14, 21, & 28 and Nov. 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** in the meetinghouse library. All, and particularly newcomers, are invited. HOMECOMING is scheduled for **November 15**.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September 6: No ARE; Meeting for Business

September 13: The Homewood Quaker Book Club will begin a year-long discussion of Douglas Gwyn's newest book, A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation. The book can be obtained from the FGC Bookstore at <https://www.quakerbooks.org/book/sustainable-life> (also as a digital edition for \$6.50) or from Amazon Books. The Homewood office has a few copies for sale as well; these are on the table with the pamphlets. Please leave a check or cash for \$15 in the box. This book has also been selected for a year-long study by Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The Quaker Book Club looks forward to seeing more Homewood members and attenders join our rich discussions, which occur on the second Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m.

September 20: Homewood Spiritual State of the Meeting: Next Steps, at 9:15 a.m.

September 27: 5 Rhythms movement

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 that everyone 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.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING'S WORKING GROUP ON RACISM (WGR) will meet at Stony Run Meeting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Saturday, September 19**. WGR will meet in a variety of locations during 2015-2016, to make it easier for interested Friends from different parts of the Yearly Meeting to attend at least occasionally. (In the past, the group has mostly met at Bethesda Friends Meeting or at Friends Meeting of Washington). All meetings are open to everyone

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING Gunpowder Friends Meeting will host the Ninth Month 2015 session **Sunday, September 27**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join Friends for singing, speakers, and worship. For information, contact Sarah Bur, Clerk of Chesapeake Quarter. (410-426-9584 or sbur@bop.gov)

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.

It seems to me that the moving force behind the Quaker social witness has got to be some vision, however faint and tantalizing, of what the world would be like if we were really obedient to God. (Deborah Haines)¹²

CHILD CARE NEEDED: 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.

Homewood Friends Meeting
First Day (Sunday) School Teacher Position
2015-2016
Updated 8/30/2015

General Position Description: Homewood Friends Meeting at 3107 North Charles Street in Baltimore City is seeking a First Day (Sunday) School Teacher to use existing curricula to facilitate lessons in Quaker History for children in grades 1-5. The Teacher is responsible for planning, preparing, and teaching 45 minute lessons for this multi-age group of 8 to 10 students for 2 Sundays per month beginning on October 4th.

Requirements for Position: We are seeking a motivated and caring children's educator with all or most of the following qualifications:

- Practicing Quaker or regular attendee of a Friends Meeting with some knowledge of Quaker faith, practice, and history;
- Prior experience teaching, counseling, or working in programs for elementary school students;
- Prior experience working with a multi-age group of students;
- Ability to use and modify curriculum to meet the needs of an instructional group;
- Successful completion of a criminal background check; and
- At least two references—one from a person who can speak to the applicant's professional experience and one from a person who knows the applicant as a member or attendee of a Quaker meeting.

Responsibilities: The Teacher will work closely with the Religious Education Committee (REC) of Homewood. He/she will:

- Complete pre-service training provided by the REC;
- Be knowledgeable about and adhere to the Youth Safety Policy established by the Meeting for children and adults working with them;
- Submit lesson plans to the REC for each session;
- Maintain attendance record of the children in the program;
- Meet with the REC or a designated member of the REC once every two months or at least three times per school year for the purpose of coordination of curriculum and assessment of progress;

Teaching Schedule: The Teacher will hold sessions for the students in the group on the first and third First Days of each month from October through May. Variations to this schedule will be communicated to and negotiated with the Teacher by the REC. On each day of a scheduled lesson, the Teacher should attend Meeting for Worship beginning at 10:30 AM and then rise and take the children to the designated classroom at 10:50 AM. Typically, the lesson will last 40 – 45 minutes. Parents are expected to pick up their child(ren) at the classroom by no later than 11:50 AM.

Compensation: The Teacher will earn \$75.00 per session including time for preparation and planning. Reimbursement for travel expenses to and from Homewood is available. Time spent in training will also be compensated.

To apply, please send a cover letter expressing interest and a resume including relevant experience to:

Religious Education Committee
Homewood Friends Meeting
3107 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

ATTN: Chris Rutkowski

These materials may also be sent via email with attachments to: homewoodfriends@verizon.net noting "Teacher Application, ATTN: David Penney" in the subject line.

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (downstairs in summer)
Every Tuesday	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, 410.323-8504
Indian Affairs—OPEN	3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Stony Run dining room, contact Dellie James, 443) 501-3535
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, Contact Bess Keller, 410. 889-3176

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.

Keep close to the Light and own it alone to be your teacher, guide, and counselor in all the way through which you are to pass, and in all things that you are to do. Stand in the denial of self and all its goals; and own the Light, which leads into singleness of mind unto God away from selfish ends.

James Parnell, 1637?-1656