

Tenth Month (October) 2015

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218
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(includes calendar, no password required)
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Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Tenth Query: Peace

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Testimonies for the Tenth Query: Since their beginnings over 300 years ago, Friends have been led by their commitment to the ideal of peace to renounce wars and violence, as in the declaration made to Charles II by George Fox and other Friends on November 21, 1660:

We...utterly...deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. ... The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world.
(George Fox, 1660)

God's law of love, as taught and lived by Jesus Christ, applies to all the levels of society. Wars break the law of love as do violence in communities and families and fighting between individuals. Friends have a settled intention to practice love and to make peace.

As peacemakers we hold that attitudes of justice and compassion are basic. A peacemaker must be able to identify with others. Peace cannot be attained at the expense of others. "Do to others as you would be done by" is indeed a Golden Rule.

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple life style is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace.

Friends need to wage peace boldly and positively. The promotion of peaceful methods of conflict resolution, of international exchanges, of peace education and research, of world law and world-wide standards of human rights all are positive ways.

One important aspect of our peace witness is refusal to serve in the military or in activities contributing to military preparedness. Friends who face the draft or registration for it should consider prayerfully their alternatives. Their Meetings should stand ready to counsel and support them. Friends of all ages may witness by acts ranging from refusal to pay war taxes to non-participation in war-related work to demonstrations and other public witness. All should be aware of the tragic consequences of indifference, timidity and procrastination.

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.

WICKER BASKET: Amnesty International will be the recipient for October and November.

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>.

THANK YOU HOMEWOOD AND STONY RUN FRIENDS in the welcoming of State Delegate Jill Carter on 27 September, 2015. Light was indeed shed on the complexities of the new Expungement Law MD HB304, which Delegate Carter Co-Sponsored. We gathered in Stony Run's Library which was befitting of the enormity of information provided. Our Joint Court Observation's Group says, "Special thanks to all participants." **Reminder: All are welcome to join with us on Fridays for Court Observations.** For details please contact Debbie Ramsey at 443-800-0566 or email: dbramsey@comcast.net

HOMEWOOD EVENTS AND COMMITTEE NEWS

INTRODUCTION TO QUAKERS will be held on **Wednesday evenings, Oct. 14, 21, & 28 and Nov. 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** in the Meeting House Library. All, and particularly newcomers, are invited.

HOMECOMING is scheduled for **November 15**.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

October 4: Meeting for Worship

October 11: Quaker Book Club: *A Sustainable Life*, by Doug Gwyn

October 18: Lance Billingsley will speak on the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

October 25: 5 Rhythms movement

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

October 4: Quaker History: George Fox

October 11: Service Activity

October 18: Quaker History: Margaret Fell

October 25: Art

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.**"

FRIDAY VIDEO SERIES: On **October 2** the video will be *CRUDE*, directed by Joe Berlinger, a documentary following two years of an ongoing class action lawsuit against Chevron in Ecuador. The plaintiffs are 30,000 Ecuadorians living in the Amazonian rainforest who claim that their ancestral homeland has been polluted by the oil industry.

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 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.

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.

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 Wilson. If you are concerned about occasional absences, talk with her anyway. Greeters and substitutes work together wonderfully, filling in for one another.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES (TTV) IS SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS. Homewood Meeting has a long-standing relationship with this group's Baltimore store, and HFM attender Polly Heninger currently serves on its Board. As a non-profit organization, TTV-Baltimore depends on its Board of Directors to guide it in its mission of creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income through long-term fair trading relationships. TTV is seeking candidates for board membership who can provide general direction and/or have retail, marketing, financial, legal, or network knowledge. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Polly at 410-366-8360, peh616@msn.com; or the Board Chair, Anita Zimmerman, at 443-472-1887, abzimmer@juno.com). Many thanks, Polly Heninger.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: please join us on **Friday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.** for an American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) forum with Shan Cretin, the General Secretary. Hear about how AFSC work inspires young people to become leaders who speak truth to power, defend the oppressed, and seek lasting change, and how its dynamic work in Baltimore is a great example of that. The forum will be at the Broadmead: Auditorium; 13801 York Road; Cockeysville.

AFSC is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice. For almost 100 years AFSC has worked throughout the world to address the root causes of war and violence. In 1947, AFSC was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, on behalf of all Quakers for its work "...from the nameless to the nameless...."

Shan Cretin has been the executive head of AFSC since 2010. A graduate of MIT and Yale, Shan served on the faculties of Harvard, Yale, West China Medical University and University of California at Los Angeles. She is also a former clerk of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

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

DAYSPRING SILENT RETREAT FOR BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS, October 9-12, 2015: Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Silent Retreat. We will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in meadows and woods, walking, resting, praying, reading, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

AT: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 ([301-916-1131](tel:301-916-1131)).

FACILITATOR: Jean Christianson, Member of Annapolis Friends Meeting

ARRIVAL: 3:30-7:00 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.) DEPARTURE: 2:00 p.m. Monday.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Individual room in the Inn with Bible, bed, desk, sink, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth. 9 vegetarian meals in the Lodge dining room. Gatherings in the Yoke Room for community worship and shared solitude by the fireplace. 200 acres for roaming.

COST: \$300. Registration deadline: October 3. Friends will be enrolled as their checks are received.

QUESTIONS? Call Jean Christianson at [410-544-1912](tel:410-544-1912) or e-mail jschristianson@gmail.com.

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.

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; we ask that child care time not exceed 8 hours on Friday or Saturday. The schedule will be refined when folks get a chance to see the meeting agenda 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: 9 a.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 information.

OTHER EVENTS AND NOTICES

BALTIMORE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER (BAIC) will host its 41st Annual “Pow Wow” Native American Festival on **Saturday and Sunday October 17-18** at the Towson University Union (second floor Union Garage entrance). There will be demonstrations, vendors, food, and fun. Six categories of costumed dancers will compete for prizes. Parking in the garage is free. Hours are Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Festival.

Homewood Friends Meeting helps support the BAIC’s Seniors, Health, and Education programs. Visit the Pow Wow or [Baltimore American Indian Center](http://www.baic.org) (www.baic.org) to learn about them and about the BAIC Heritage Museum.

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 (November 29, 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.

Ask anyone, Quaker or otherwise, about the essential beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends and chances are you will hear something about Friends historic peace testimony. “Quakers don’t fight in wars” is something specific that people can say about this peculiar sect which steadfastly refuses to be defined by creed or dogma. Moreover, in a world where it is considered acceptable, indeed praiseworthy, to go to war and kill one another for the sake of peace or justice, in a world where we have learned to define successes, amass our fortunes or win our arguments at the expense of others like us (our enemies) who lose out, the perception that ‘Quakers are peacemakers’ sets Friends apart and makes them visible.

But Friends’ peace testimony is not a creed, in the sense of a statement of belief true for all time. Nor is it a code of behavior, a set of rules to which all Quakers individually and corporately must adhere. On the simplest level, “testimony” means “bearing witness” and Friends’ long heritage of witnessing to peace can be found in public statements and personal reflections, in their refusal to bear arms in times of civil and international conflict, in acts of prophetic confrontation and of quiet, reconciling diplomacy. But these are merely outward and visible signs of inward conviction. This conviction springs from a living Spirit, mediated through the human experience of those trying to understand and follow its leadings. It grows afresh in every life, in every worshipping group, in every generation.

Mary Lou Leavitt, in Quaker Peace Testimony, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, n.d.