

First Month (January) 2018

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, the First Query: Meetings for Worship**

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?

Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways?

***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, Advices for the First Query:**

Meeting for Worship

The meeting for worship is the heart of every Friends Meeting. Baltimore Yearly Meeting generally has unprogrammed worship based on waiting in silence, and founded on faith that human beings can commune directly with God. In expectant silence we strive to center inwardly. Each is aided by the seeking of others, so that worship becomes a corporate experience.

Friends approach the meeting for worship confidently, believing that God speaks directly to us, revealing Divine Will and guiding those who listen. Each worshiper becomes a listener ready to receive God's message, which may come in the silence or in spoken words. The divine manifests itself to individuals in many ways.

While Friends in the several branches have varying forms of worship, even unprogrammed Meetings have elements of accepted practice. All Friends seek to avoid the stultification which can arise from dependence on ritual and outward sacraments. The simplicity of Friends' worship results from an emphasis on the reality of the inward experience. Direct communion with God the experience of the Holy Spirit makes the observance of outward rites unnecessary.

Worship requires discipline of mind and heart, and heeding the Holy Spirit over and above our worldly concerns. Daily meditation and prayer, study of the Bible and other writings of spiritual inspiration, and striving to live each day in harmony with the Divine Will help to prepare minds and hearts for the consciousness of the presence of God in worship.

With diligence meet together, and with diligence wait to feel the Lord God to arise, to scatter and expel all that which is the cause of leanness and barrenness upon any soul; for it is the Lord must do it, and he will be waited upon in sincerity and fervency of Spirit; ...and let none be hasty to utter words, though manifest in the light in which ye wait upon the Lord; but still wait in silence, to know the power working in you to bring forth the words, in the ministration of the eternal word of life to answer the life in all.

(Stephen Crisp, 1663)

Vocal Ministry

Waiting upon the Holy Spirit in silent expectation and prayer is the basis of our meeting for worship. Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. The experienced speaker should be watchful not to speak too often or at undue length. No Friend should come to meeting for worship with an intention to speak or not to speak.

The most satisfactory vocal ministry arises out of a leading that is felt in the silence so strongly that it cannot be ignored. It should be delivered with as few words as possible, yet as many as necessary. Vocal prayer offered on behalf of the gathered meeting can also bring us into closer harmony with God.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

QUAKER CONCERNS ILLUMINATED IN FILMS: FIRST FRIDAY FILM SERIES

Friday, Jan. 5: *Chasing Coral*

Chasing Coral is a powerful documentary featuring breathtaking underwater photography that chronicles a growing threat to the oceans' nurseries. Make it an evening out by joining the Black Lives Matter vigil at 5-6 p.m. and potluck dinner 6-7 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Working Group for the Arts and the **Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)**.

The Working Group for the Arts at Homewood offers this series of films to shed new light on Quaker concerns in today's world. Each first Friday through May there will be a different film beginning at **7:15 p.m. in the Meetinghouse lower level**. Everyone is invited to gather at 5 p.m. for the weekly vigil on Charles Street and eat together potluck style from 6-7 before the film. Afterwards the filmmakers or guests will discuss the evening's film.

HYMN SINGING: Jan. 7 (first Sunday), 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. in the meeting room, led by Dave Sydlik. All are welcome.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sunday, Jan. 7, 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room (note change of location). Childcare is available.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:15 a.m. in the dining room. At this QBC discussion, we will focus on the Sermon on the Mount, starting at Matthew, Chapter 5.

POTLUCK LUNCH: Jan. 14.

PRAYER GROUP FOR ISIS: Sunday, Jan. 14, 12:30 - 1:00 in the library. Inspired by a letter from Richard Taylor in *Friends' Journal* (3/2016) in which he wrote, "What would happen if the adherents of ISIS saw, all across the United States, thousands of people gathering in groups to pray for them?", we meet for worship to hold in the Light those active in or attracted to ISIS. This includes over one hundred who have been captured in the U.S. We meet for about 30 minutes on the 2nd First day in the library of Homewood Friends Meeting. All those who believe in the power of the Light at a distance are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Stan Becker at 410-366-6923 or sbecker2@jhu.edu.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL

1/7: Quaker History with Giovanna
1/14: Martin Luther King, Jr. program
1/21: Quaker History with Giovanna
1/28: BYM Camp Day*
*See more camp information on page 7.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT, Sunday, Jan. 28, 9:15 a.m. in the library, led by Susan Russell Walters.

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday, February 25 will be the discernment of the **Spiritual State of the Meeting**. Details are forthcoming.

PEACE VIGIL: 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**" and "**We Are All One People.**"

COURT OBSERVATION every Thursday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. Observe Baltimore City district court in action. Join the carpool that leaves from Stony Run. For more information, contact Kathryn Munnell (kathryn_munnell@hotmail.com).

TEENAGE CHILD CARE WORKER NEEDED

The Religious Education Committee is seeking another teenage child care worker to work with Chris Stadler in the Nursery. Potential applicants should contact Mina in the Meeting office or John McKusick. Thanks to Henry Kennison for signing up!

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:
"GOAT NOAT" FOR JANUARY

The Maryland General Assembly will be "in Session" from **January 10, 2018, through April 9, 2018**. This 90-day period is a busy one, during which 3,000 bills are considered. About 700-800 might actually make it into law. Given the volume, we need to raise many voices to be heard. During the Session, we may hear that a bill has been proposed, that we need to call our representatives to share our views. These requests may repeat as the same bill is first presented in a committee, and later goes to the whole House of Delegates or State Senate. Please stay tuned! We will keep an eye out for bills that will protect or potentially harm the environment.

Today, we know that the **Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative** (www.cleanenergyjobs.org) will be a key issue that needs our support. Together with climate coalition partners, they are hosting a **rally** on opening day, **January 10, 11:00am**, on Lawyers Mall in Annapolis. Show your support for clean energy jobs, Maryland communities, our children's health, new opportunities, and doubling the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policy to 50% renewable energy by 2030. Some GOAT members are planning to attend and would like to **carpool**.

The **E-cycling** collection continues through January. Boxes are available near the main floor restroom for electronic media of all types and for electronic devices. In addition to phones, laptops, tablets, and computers, you may include cases for media and cables, jacks, and cords. Questions? Please contact John McKusick john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net.

We are looking forward to the January 5th showing of *Chasing Coral*; we are coordinating this event with the Homewood Working Group for the Arts. Screening is at **7:15 p.m.**, after the Friday vigil and potluck. See <http://www.chasingcoral.com> for information on this documentary, which is at once visually sumptuous and very disturbing. Mark your calendars.

Committee members: Polly Heninger (clerk), Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Cathleen Hanson, John McKusick, and Stephan Rogers. (This is an open committee - please join us!)

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS

The Wicker Basket recipient for January is the **African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams**. From their website: "Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. FPT's Initiatives build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution." *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>.*

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 for their banks to send regular checks. This regularity provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow. *Please make all checks payable to "Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Homewood."*

SIMPLE LUNCH: Everyone is welcome to lunch after Meeting for Worship; there is no charge. Friends are welcome to bring food but please bring enough for everyone. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the dining room if you can provide simple lunch for a day of your choosing. Remember to bring food for potluck Sundays (2nd Sunday of each month) - but join us even if you forget.

JOIN A COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee invites you to consider joining a committee; it's a great way to serve the Meeting and to get to know others in the community. Committee descriptions are available on the Homewood website at <https://homewoodfriends.org/member-resources/committees/>. Please contact Carol Beck, Mina Brunyate, Gary Gillespie, or Kevin-Douglas Olive for more information.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE: The Jonathan K. Taylor Swarthmore College Scholarship Fund is administered by Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run to provide support to students attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA. Preference goes to members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting community. For the 2018-2019 academic year, there are funds up to \$15,000 to be distributed among the successful applicants. For more information, or to apply by the **April 20 deadline**, contact Cindy Maier (cynthiamailer13@gmail.com).

SINGING FOR EVERYONE, Sunday, Jan. 7, 7 - 9 p.m. We will gather at the home of Nelson Hyman, 5724 Oakshire Rd., Baltimore, 21209 (410-466-2283). Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one.

FROM FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC): SPIRITUAL DEEPENING eRETREATS

Spiritual growth is linked to community, and a Spiritual Deepening eRetreat connects you with other curious seekers in an online exploration of Quaker thought, a deepening of your own spiritual practices, and the sharing of stories from your life and your personal journeys.

Each week, there will be a new topic with videos, quotations, and activities, and you'll be able to engage at your own time and pace. You'll connect with other participants through discussion boards and one optional video chat session. Participants are encouraged to explore a personal spiritual practice during the eRetreat.

The 8-week Silence & Light eRetreat focuses on the topics of Silence & Expectant Waiting and The Light, Seed, Christ Working in Us. The 4-week Beloved Community eRetreat addresses the vision of Beloved Community, the patterns of marginalization and exclusion that distort this vision, and steps Friends can take to act toward justice and building the Beloved Community. **The next retreat is from January 9 to March 3, Silence & Light eRetreat.**

For more information, go to <https://www.fgcquaker.org/spiritual-deepening-program-eretreats>

DISCOVER SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 8:15 - 11:00 a.m., Sandy Spring, MD. Do you know a family who has been meaning to come and explore all that we have to offer here at Sandy Spring Friends School? Please encourage them to start their New Year by attending our Discover SSFS Information Session and Tour. A Financial Aid Q&A will follow in Scott House. If possible, please RSVP.

AT STONY RUN:

Sunday, Jan. 14, at 9:15 a.m.: Words Matter – More conversations about race. Let's practice!

These conversations can be awkward. We may keep silent in the face of an uncomfortable or confusing situation because we have no idea what to say or we fear saying the 'wrong' thing. The Working Group on Racism (WGR) again invites you to bring your own anecdotes about times you wanted to, or thought you should, or you did, speak up. The WGR will also provide scenarios for small group role-plays.

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AT PENDLE HILL (WALLINGFORD, PA):

Beyond Diversity 101, Jan 14-18. Beyond Diversity 101 intends the healing transformation of personal relationships, community living, and organizations based in power-over dynamics and systematic discrimination. Participants are offered ways to move beyond assigning blame and increasing guilt so they can take responsibility, shift mindsets, and build useful skills.

NB: This workshop is AT CAPACITY. If you wish to register, please call the Registration Office at ext. 137 to be placed on the waiting list.

- There are many other events coming up at Pendle Hill; check them out at <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>.

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE, Jan. 20 – 21, Herndon Friends Meeting (Herndon, VA). Please arrive at 10 a.m. with sleeping bag, pad, pillow, change of clothes and toiletries. **Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is one week before the conference (January 5).** Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend. For more information, contact Jocelyn Dowling, Youth Programs Manager. To register, go to the JYF Registration page on the Yearly Meeting website. (www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/jyfs/jyregister.html)

2018 WOMEN’S RETREAT, Jan. 26 - 28, at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD: *Leaning into our Light on Gender, Race & Sexuality.* **Registration is now open!** Young Friends are enthusiastically welcomed (14-17 year olds must have a sponsor on-site). The Women's Retreat seeks to integrate Young Friends into the wider community of women. This is not a BYM Youth Programs event, and there is no separate structure or programming for Young Friends. We joyously invite teens and their caregivers to attend the Women's Retreat together and enjoy an opportunity to embrace the evolution of relationships as Young Friends approach a new life stage. For more information, go to <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/ymevents/women18.html>. **Registration closes on January 5, 2018.**
→ **Remember that you can apply for a grant from Trustees to help cover retreat fees.**

FROM BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING:

FIRST DAY SCHOOL & YOUTH RESOURCES FOR MEETINGS

As we begin a new year, it might be helpful to be aware of BYM’s assistance to our children and families. Take a look at the resources listed below.

- **Support for your Meeting’s Religious Education (RE) Committee**, including curriculum resources with help from the BYM Religious Education Committee.
- **“Innovative and Best Practices” sharing and training sessions** for your Meeting RE volunteers at Annual Session and at weekend retreats.
- **Programming throughout the school year for your Meeting’s middle and high school youth (Young Friends and Junior Young Friends).** Youth Programs’ weekend sessions help provide meaningful connections with other Quaker youth, especially for Meetings which have few attenders in this age group. Contact BYM Youth Programs Manager (see BYM webpage).
- **Retreats for Parents** to help equip them to address the challenges of Quaker parenting in a materially focused world. See the Youth Programs Committee page for details.
- **Summer Camps** provide access for the youth of your Meeting, from age 9 through rising 11th graders, to the summer camps owned, staffed, and operated by Baltimore Yearly Meeting at four locations in Maryland and Virginia. Hiking, working, creative projects and worship in

community all help kids discover richer relationships and their own inner resources. Go to the BYM Camps for full details.

- **Junior Yearly Meeting's** week-long residential program at Annual Session for your Meeting's children, from infancy through middle school. Go to the Yearly Meeting's Annual Session section for information or see the Spring issue of the *Interchange*.
- **Young Friends'** week-long residential program at the August Annual Session for your Meeting's High School students. Go to the Yearly Meeting's Annual Session section for information or see the Spring issue of the *Interchange*.
- **Adult Religious Education Curriculum**, materials, and speakers are available. Check with the BYM office for more details. For curriculum materials, see the BYM website.
- **The Build It! A Toolkit for Nurturing Intergenerational Spiritual Community from Friends General Conference.** It is designed to strengthen and nurture ties among generations in our meetings, worship groups, churches and in our larger Religious Society of Friends, and contribute to meetings' efforts to identify and cultivate emerging leaders. It is both spiritually enriching and fun.

BYM CAMPING PROGRAM: Get ready for summer! Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, Teen Adventure.... So many choices, so little time. Go to <https://bymcamps.org/> for more information about the camps. Registration is coming up:

- **RETURNING CAMPERS: registration begins January 15th at 7 p.m.**
- **NEW CAMPERS: registration begins February 1st at 10 a.m.**

→ Yes, you can apply for a grant from Trustees to help cover the camping fees.

SAVE THE DATE: FORUM ON FOSTERING DIVERSITY AT QUAKER CAMPS, Saturday, Feb. 10, 6:00 p.m. potluck and following discussion, Stony Run Meeting. Friends from Baltimore area meetings will be gathering on February 10th for an in-depth discussion of how the BYM Camping Program is working to make racial and economic diversity a lasting reality at our Quaker camps. The main presenter is Dyresha Harris, a Quaker of color and current co-director of Catoctin Quaker Camp. Dyresha can speak from her own experience as a young camper. She will also give us a solid understanding of progress made and needs still to be met in accomplishing greater diversity through the STRIDE program.

Others with camping program experience over the years are invited to join in sharing what has worked and what needs further work to ensure that our camps expand their mission with effective work towards growing diverse leadership and inclusivity. The evening will provide an open discussion of this arm of BYM that has for many decades been an incubator for young friends' faith and vibrant commitment to Quakerism. Come with your questions. Please bring something to share at the potluck, if convenient. We will provide the basics. Childcare will be provided, if Martha Barss is notified in advance by Wednesday, Feb. 7th (martha.barss@gmail.com).



QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING (FUM)

Adrian Moody is the new Head of **Ramallah Friends School**. He writes, “There's something different about this school. ... It's not a normal school. Of course, in many ways it looks normal—classes and books, libraries and bells and all those things. But in fact it's not normal. It is a school under occupation—and occupation influences both what we teach and how we teach. The Quaker value of peace takes on a special relevance here. The curriculum includes lessons on ‘how do you respond to difficulty and conflict? what is a nonviolent way to resolve things?’ The occupation creates a relentless sense of pressure. People are constantly told by their surroundings, ‘You are occupied.’ At the Friends School, they are told ‘You are beloved.’”

THINKING ABOUT RACE (JANUARY 2018): *Tears We Cannot Stop*

Professor and author Michael Eric Dyson, in *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* (2017), in preaching mode, addresses the reader directly as “Beloved.” Here are some excerpts from Chapter 5, “Our Own Worst Enemy”:

“Beloved, why is it that every time black folk talk about how poorly the cops treat us you say that we should focus instead on how we slaughter each other in the streets every day? ... You do not bring this up because you’re genuinely concerned. You want to win points in debates. You want to avoid any responsibility for how traumatized our communities are. You want to hide from the horror of cops mowing us down like we’re animals. (p. 143)

“Beloved, what you see happening among us is not best understood as black-on-black crime. Rather it is neighbor-to-neighbor crime. ... You are right, however, about those proportions. Ninety-three percent of black folk who are killed are killed by other black folk. But 84 percent of white folks who are killed are killed by other white folk. ... Where’s the white-on-white crime rhetoric? Where are the rants against white folk ruining white culture with their murderous ways?

“White folk commit the bulk of the crimes in our nation. And, beloved, it might surprise you that white folk commit the most violent crimes too. ... White folk consistently lead all other groups in aggravated assault, larceny, illegal weapons possession, arson, and vandalism. [Other statistics follow.] The white-on-white mayhem is profound, yet no one speaks of it in racial terms.” (pp. 148-149)

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting. The BYM WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

The Baltimore-Area Working Group on Racism usually meets 7 – 9 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the Stony Run dining room, except in July and August. We consider issues around racial justice, share personal experiences, and plan and host special events. All are welcome to attend, on a regular or drop-in basis.

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 <u>Sheppard Pratt campus Meeting House</u> (under the care of Stony Run Friends Meeting)
First Sunday of each month	12:30 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House <u>JANUARY'S BUSINESS MEETING</u> will be on Jan.7.

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	3rd Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Library; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.366.8360
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Pat Tracey</u> , 443.846.1036
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., contact <u>Charlie Neill</u> , 410.323-8504
Library—OPEN	2nd Sundays at 1:00 p.m. in the Library; contact <u>Polly Heninger</u> , 410.366.8360
Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m., alternates between Homewood (odd months) & Stony Run.; contact <u>Barbara Bezdek</u> , 410.377.4205
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact <u>Ann Walker Kennedy</u> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education—OPEN	Dates vary ; contact <u>John McKusick</u> , 410.377.2797
Trustees	3rd Mondays ; contact <u>Bess Keller</u> , 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 homewoodfriends.org). Location is at the Meeting House unless noted. Committees so marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk if you'd like to attend.