

Twelfth Month 2023

Homewood Friends Meeting

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Newsletter

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Queries from Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

The Twelfth Query: Environment

ARE YOU CONCERNED FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR NURTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS? DO YOU TRY TO AVOID WASTEFUL CONSUMPTION AND POLLUTION? DO YOU SEEK TO PRESERVE THE BEAUTY AND BALANCE OF GOD'S WORLD?

Humankind and the Environment: Population growth and technological abuses are threatening the planet. Millions of people are malnourished or starving, unable to obtain food, homeless. Our faith that there is that of God in every person calls us to concern over this tragic situation. Friends are advised to set the example in living simply so that others may have the wherewithal to live. We are called also to work for public policy aimed toward conserving the world's resources on one hand and sharing them fairly among all God's children on the other.

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.

[...]

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.

...Read the full Twelfth Query's advices and references: [BYM Faith and Practice](#), page 26.

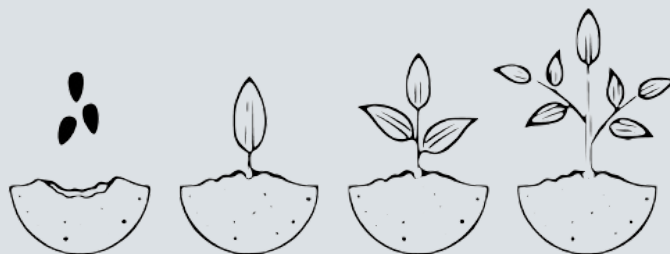
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING

This is our annual reminder that about a quarter of the Meeting's annual budget comes from contributions.

We ask that you make a monetary gift, no matter the size, to support the Meeting's efforts before our budget year closes on December 31.

You can make gifts [online](#) at our website or by mail to our office (3107 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218) or leave them in the wooden contribution box in the meeting room. Checks should be payable to "Homewood Friends Meeting."

If you have questions or would like to talk about giving, please feel free to contact Polly Heninger, Trustees clerk, at peh616@msn.com or 410-419-2305.





FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hello Friends,

The Library Committee has two announcements to share with you.

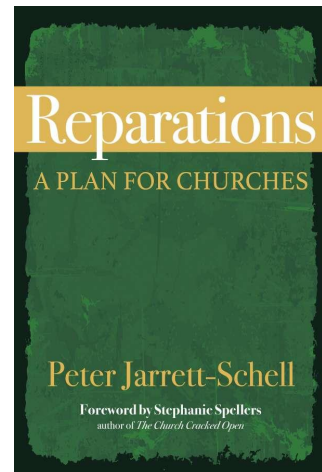
1. We are actively looking for Friends to participate in the Library Committee. We meet on 2nd Sundays at 12:15pm in the Meeting House Library. Our next meeting is 12/10. If you are interested, please reach out to Polly Heninger at peh616@msn.com or Andres Lobo at andres.lope24@gmail.com.
2. The Homewood Friends Library has recently purchased a copy of "Reparations: A Plan for Churches". It is available for check out and will be located on the shelf behind the check out clipboard.

See below for a synopsis from the books publisher, Church Publishing Incorporated.

"A clarion call and evidence-based reparations plan for churches engaged in dismantling racism.

Christian churches, schools, and organizations committed to a reparations plan can learn how to do it--including how to support local, Black-led organizations working on economic empowerment. This is a much needed resource as churches have acknowledged generations of participation in systemic and structural racism and are looking for specific ways to action responsibility. This engaging book show how these plans are being lived out in congregations across the country.

All royalties go to Harriet's Wildest Dreams, a Black-led abolitionist community defense hub centering all Black lives most at risk for state-sanctioned violence in the Greater Washington area."



[Full Synopsis Here](#)





GOAT's Noats

News from the Garden: The Garden Club – open to everyone – will meet on Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 AM to work on late fall pruning and weeding. Tools and gloves are provided. And the fellowship is great!

※ ※ PS: The next time you are at the Meetinghouse, check out the new cistern box adjacent to the side porch. ※ ※

Green Interests Survey: Here is the [corrected link](#) to share what you'd like to see at 2024 GOAT workshops, discussions and actions. This is for any member, attender, or newcomer. We'd really appreciate getting responses in by 12/10.

Donations from HFM to Environmental Organizations: GOAT has submitted a budget request for FY 2024 that includes funds for committee projects and for small donations from the Meeting to the following five organizations or projects working on the environment

◇ [Blue Water Baltimore \(BWB\)](#)

◇ [Chesapeake Climate Action Network \(CCAN\)](#)

◇ [Interfaith Partners with the Chesapeake \(IPC\)](#)

◇ [Interfaith Power and Light \(IPL\)](#)

◇ [Quaker EarthCare Witness \(QEW\)](#)

The second reading of the FY 2024 Budget is on the agenda for Meeting for Business on Sunday, December 3rd beginning at 12:30 PM. We will spotlight the mission and work of each of the organizations in upcoming editions of GOAT Noats.



GOAT Members: Carol Beck, Luke Early, Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Bess Keller, Cathie Magee, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, and Heather Ravlin.

We meet on the **3rd Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM.**

We welcome interested Friends, members and attenders.

Feel free to contact John McKusick (john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net) with questions about GOAT's Noats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person.

MID-WEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Every Thursday, 7 PM Ministry & Counsel continues to offer Experiment with Light on Zoom ([link](#)). Please join us for this intimate form of worship.

HOMEWOOD CAROLING: Sundays in December 10:00-10:20 AM All are welcome to join holiday and spiritual singing on First Day mornings before Meeting for Worship. Thank you to Kendall Kennison for piano accompaniment. Sponsored by Outreach Team.

STONY RUN CAROLING Sundays 12/10, 12/17, 12/24 —7-8 PM at Stony Run and on Zoom.

Y.A.F DINNER: Saturday 12/9, 5-7 PM Young Adult Friends (18-35+) are meeting for dinner at Ben & Cathie's. For address and more: Benjamin.j.rogers.14@gmail.com (You can ask to be on the YAF email list!)

CAROLING AND PEACE VIGIL: Saturday 12/9, 4:30 PM: More caroling! But different: this will be connected with the Peace on Earth vigil, starting with singing on the steps then silent witness in front of the meetinghouse on Charles Street. Afterwards, Friends will be walking (and riding) to "Miracle on 34th Street" in Hampden (join Kevin-Douglas Olive and members of Outreach Team!).

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sundays): 12/10, 12:30–1:00 PM in-person and on Zoom ([link](#)). The Meeting for Healing format will continue with 2-3 names and brief biographies given into the silence in three groups: a) Those murdered in Baltimore — family and friends held in the Light; b) Persons arrested or convicted for murder; c) Unnamed persons touched by violence.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday 12/17 Rise of Meeting (tentative): A favorite of many Friends! After Meeting for Worship ends, stay to see the First Day School perform. Date is subject to change.

BLACK LIVES MATTER INTERFAITH COALITION RALLY: Sunday 12/17, 1:30–2:30, 9033 Honeygo Blvd (Honeygo Regional Park) [Visit BLMIC website](#)

HOMEWOOD SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Monday 12/18 6:30 to 9:00 PM Large group gathering for potluck and worshipful reflection in the dining room. See previous page for reading recommendation.

COFFEE HOUSE: Sunday 12/31 6-9 PM Celebrate New Year's Eve with Friends at the annual Coffee House. The Working Group for Art is putting on a potluck dinner and evening of music, games and fellowship in the downstairs dining room from 6-9 pm. This is a multigenerational event - fun for all ages.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

VIGIL AND A MOVIE: Friday 1/5, 5-7:30 PM The monthly nonviolence vigils are held on First Fridays from 5 to 6 PM. After the vigil on January 5th, gather inside the meetinghouse to view the new film Rustin about key Civil Rights movement organizer Bayard Rustin, who identified as a gay black Quaker.

(Right: Actor Colman Domingo portrays Bayard Rustin in a new film which Friends will view together after the First Month nonviolence vigil.)



Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting: Sunday, February 12th at Sandy Spring Friends

Meeting. This gathering will occur about four weeks after the beginning of 2024 Maryland General Assembly. Quaker Voice of Maryland and Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform will update Friends on key pieces of environmental and criminal justice legislation. More details on priority bills and legislative advocacy will come in January 2024. Do you want to get involved in Quaker lobbying in Maryland? Contact John McKusick for info: john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net

Community Requests

FOOD AID: VIVA HOUSE

Here is a way you can help people in Baltimore meet their most basic food needs.

Viva House, a Catholic Worker House that Homewood has long supported, is requesting food bags for their West Baltimore community. Please consider joining in the effort.

← Left: How to pack a food bag.

...and then bring your bag(s) to Homewood. Drop packed bags in the little kitchen on the landing going downstairs. Sarah Bur and Gary Gillespie will be collecting on Sunday 12/10 -- drop them off anytime before or on that 1st Day morning.



We hold in the light the loved ones and those who knew the over 11,000 who have been killed in Gaza, as well as the many more who have been injured, dislocated, and traumatized by violence.

◆◆◆ A note from Homewood Friends clerk, Sarah Bur:

Friends, we were deeply saddened to hear that [3 Palestinian graduates of Ramallah Friends School were shot in Burlington VT](#) this week. The shooting is being investigated as a hate crime. Homewood has long supported the [Ramallah Friends School](#) which has been providing Quaker education in the West Bank since 1869.



Reflections on Gaza, Genocide, and Co-Liberation

By Lucy Duncan; published in Friends Journal

I visited Gaza in May 2014. I walked with other folks from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), where I worked at the time, through the long, wire-enclosed checkpoint and past the border fence with remote-controlled machine guns perched on top. I learned that if people go into the no man's land near the wall, they will be shot without hesitation. I learned that farmers who farm nearby can only visit their crops during certain hours; if they are caught after dusk, they will be shot.

Soon after we arrived, we met with around 20 young people, part of AFSC's Palestinian Youth Together for Change program, and they told us stories. They talked about how they have electricity for only a few hours a day and how fresh water is scarce. A student talked about getting up at 4:00 a.m. when the electricity was working to iron her clothes for school and to take a taxi early enough so she could get to class. She said that she did all that in order to resist the blockade, the occupation: to continue despite the horrible obstructions to life.

One woman, Ayah, talked about the last war at that time, lasting 22 days from late 2008 to early 2009, known as the Gaza War or Operation Cast Lead. She would cover her young brother's ears during the bombing and tell him when it had stopped. She talked about how she dreamed one day of driving from Gaza City to Haifa, the city from which her family was expelled in 1948. She said, "We have been living in a kingdom of illusions for 20 years," referring to the brutality of the blockade, a reality that gets hidden from Israelis behind the fence. She said, "We are the victims of the victims." [...]

...Read the full article in Friends Journal.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

Meeting for Worship

Every Sunday
10:30 - 11:30 AM

At the Meetinghouse
and on Zoom ([Zoom link here](#))

Afterwards:

Join us for social time after Worship at the same Zoom link or in-person downstairs (for a simple lunch).

Experiment with Light

Part of the mid-week meeting for worship series.

=== Zoom only ===

free and open, no experience necessary

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 7:00 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1149 8198

Passcode: 976351

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 87411498198#

Fourth Sundays Experiment with Light has been discontinued. Join on Thursdays at 7 PM.

[Learn more](#) about Experiment with Light on our website.

Meeting for Business

FIRST SUNDAYS 12/3 12:30 PM

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

✓ **All are Welcome**

Vigil for Nonviolence

FIRST FRIDAYS 1/5 5-6 PM

Outside of the Meetinghouse

✓ **All are Welcome**

Outreach Team

SECOND SUNDAYS 12/10 9:00 AM

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

✓ **open committee**

Holding in the Light Group

Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore

SECOND SUNDAYS 12/10 12:30 PM

In-person and on Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

✓ **open group**

Library Committee

SECOND SUNDAYS 12/10 12:15 PM

In the Meetinghouse Library

✓ **open committee**

Quaker Bible Study

THIRD SUNDAYS 12/17 9:30 AM

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

All are welcome, no prior readings or experience.

✓ **open group**

Green Organizing Action Team

THIRD SUNDAYS 12/17 12:30 A.M.

Instead of a committee meeting, GOAT invites all Meeting attendees to stop by the "How Do We Get to Meeting" stations after simple lunch.

✓ **open group**

Peace & Social Justice Committee

FOURTH SUNDAYS 12/24 9:00 AM

Zoom only

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

✓ **open committee**

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 AM Homewood Meeting House
First Sunday of each month	12:30 PM Meeting for Business

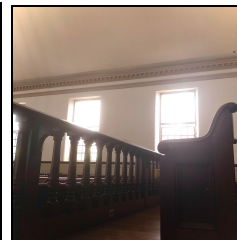
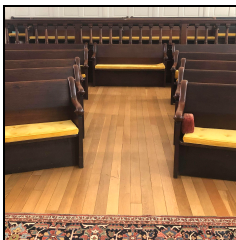
Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 PM, hybrid
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN	3rd Sundays , 12:30 PM, Meetinghouse
Outreach Team—OPEN	2nd Sundays 9 A.M. , hybrid
Hospitality—OPEN	As called
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Mondays at 7:00 PM
Library—OPEN	2nd Sundays 12:15 PM, Meetinghouse Library
Peace & Social Justice —OPEN	4th Sundays , 9:00 AM, Zoom
Ministry & Counsel	Last Wednesdays , 6:30 PM, Zoom
Religious Education--OPEN	2nd Tuesdays , 7:15 PM, Meetinghouse
Trustees	2nd Tuesdays 7:15 PM, location varies

Committees so-marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk or the Homewood office if you'd like to attend or have questions.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING

You can [make a contribution online](#) or make a check payable to “Homewood Friends Meeting”, which you can mail or drop off at the office or put into the contribution box in the meeting room. Thank you for all that you give to and share with our Meeting.



What's a Homewood Newsletter without some pictures of the garden?

(sorry to omit them last month -- LSM)



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