

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
44th Annual Meeting, June 19-22, 2014**

Thursday, June 19, 2014

44-01 Opening Worship

We gathered for the 44th annual gathering of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association with an extended period of waiting worship.

44-02 Welcome and Reading (Attachment B: Readings)

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville), Clerk of SAYMA, welcomed Friends and opened the session with the reading "On the Pulse of the Morning" by Maya Angelou. The Clerk invited Friends to continue worship as we move into our business, to listen deeply, and to leave space and silence between Friends speaking.

44-03 Introductions/Roll Call (Attachment A: Attendance)

The roll call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups was held, and Friends introduced themselves.

44-04 Agenda Review

The Clerk reminded Friends that SAYMA's *A Guide to Faith and Practice* calls for seasoned suggestions for changes to the guide. As stated, "To encourage openings to divine revelations and to promote the corporate nature of Friends' decision making, the clerk of SAYMA shall inquire each year at the beginning of the first yearly meeting Session for Business if concerns have arisen among Friends regarding this guide. Specific minuted proposed alterations, seasoned in a monthly meeting, may then be presented and referred to an Examining Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting." Friends voiced no concerns.

44-04-01 On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approved the proposed agenda.

44-05 Epistle Committee

The Clerk spoke to the importance of the Epistle, a window into the world for our Yearly Meeting proceedings, and our vehicle for sending our messages and leadings into the world. Three volunteers are sought for this responsibility to serve the Yearly Meeting in this important way. Friends were asked to listen for leadings to serve and let the Clerk know so that the work may begin.

44-06 Naming Committee

The Naming Committee is another window of service that lasts for the Yearly Meeting session only, and the work of the committee is to name members for the Nominating Committee. Tim Lamm (Berea) has already volunteered, and two others are sought.

44-07 Administrative Assistant's Report (Attachment C: Administrative Assistant's Report and Census)

Liz Perch (Savannah), Administrative Assistant, reported that she has been fulfilling her 52-hour/month average noted in the job description.

The census is complete with only 4 meetings not reporting. The enrollment fell by 35, with a decline of 2.8 percent, in line with the normal range. New categories have been requested by Ministry and Nurture Committee identifying children, teens, and young adults aged 19-35 in each meeting.

Draft directories are available for review at yearly meeting. Meetings that have not updated the directory for the last 2 years will not be included in the hard copy. Historical information will remain in CD format. Data will be accepted until next week. Final drafts will be sent to the meetings for a last review.

All assessment checks, contributions, and the like should be mailed to the SAYMA Office. Requests for reimbursements go directly to the treasurer, Charles Schade.

The SAYMA office has moved and the insurance premium has decreased as a result.

The administrative assistant reminded Friends that all reports are now on the website, so only limited paper copies are available here.

44-08 Treasurer's Report (Attachment J: Treasurer's Report)

The Treasurer, Charles Schade (Charleston), noted that at this time the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) update is good. SAYF expenses and income have gone up by \$1,000 each, indicating an increase in youth participation.

The new format of the treasurer's report corresponds with a new change to the budget format. The new format will allow Friends to more easily see what is in reserve, and whether funds are being added or withdrawn. The budget itself will address whether funds are planned for addition to the reserve or planned for withdrawal from the reserve. No questions were asked at this time.

44-09 Friends General Conference (FGC) (Attachment G: Traveling Minute)

The Clerk welcomed our invited guest John Meyer from Friends General Conference and read his traveling minute. The minute is attached. FGC commends Friend John Meyer to our care and noted his long time associations with Friends in a number of ways. John Meyer lives and works at Pendle Hill. He will be looking for opportunities to listen and share. FGC holds our time together in the Light.

John noted our warm welcome in our cool surroundings. The opportunity to attend various yearly meetings helps connect our meetings together, and to identify areas of service to deepen the growth of meetings, resources for the meetings. The report to SAYMA from FGC comes from our own representatives to FGC. John highlighted this year's FCG Summer Gathering in California, PA, and next year, with the theme, "Seeking Wholeness" at Western Carolina University in Cullowee, NC. He noted that the White Privilege Conference (WPC16) will be held on Mar 11-15, 2015, in Louisville KY, and noted that Friends from all traditions attend this opportunity as a method for increasing ministry on racism. An autumn retreat for Friends of Color will be held Oct 31-Nov 2, 2014, in Denver CO.

John can also speak to the New Meetings Project, Quaker Quest and the lessons learned: You are Welcome Here, and other FCG resources. Seek him out at any time, and see the materials downstairs in the Wider Quaker Organization display area. Resources for First Day School are available to all meetings here and online.

44-10 Nominating Committee Report (Attachment H: Nominating Committee Report)

The Nominating Committee is represented at Yearly Meeting by co-clerks David Ciscel (Memphis) and Barbara Esther (Asheville), and by Jane Goldthwait (Celo). Friends are asked to see the Nominating Committee to talk about terms expiring in 2014, or for more information about the many open opportunities

to serve. A Young Adult Friend (YAF) presence on SAYMA committees is highly desired and sorely needed, and Friends are urged to connect YAF to the nominating committee members where possible. Many committees have openings. Wider Quaker Organizations (WQO's) are mostly well-represented, but some openings are available. The Handbook is now on the SAYMA website and available here in hard copy. It provides information for those who want to learn more about the committees or other positions.

44-11 Web Manager's Report (Attachment L: Web Manager's Report)

Charlie Wilton (Berea) SAYMA Web Manager, updated Friends about new capabilities of the SAYMA website. Our website address is SAYMA.org. In addition to SAYMA contact information, each Monthly Meeting and Worship Group has a page on the SAYMA website. The website can host photos, link to an existing meeting website, or serve other meeting and committee needs. Reports and other documents are easily accessible. Meetings are encouraged to review their web page and send updates and new information. Information about upcoming email system changes is included in the report. Friends noted the website's enhanced visuals, color, and capability, and thanked the webmaster for his fine work.

44-12 Peace & Social Concerns (Attachment D: Committee Reports)

Bob Welsh (Swannanoa Valley) informed Friends that at the end of last year's sessions, the Peace & Social Concerns Committee was tasked to plan how to circulate the Swannanoa Valley Minute on Israel and Palestine, and to continue the work of the Kabarak call. The committee's convener left the committee and the work was not completed. A new committee is forming now and Bob is the clerk. The spirit of peace and social concerns is moving throughout SAYMA with a number of meetings actively working on issues. Birmingham meeting has a special concern about the unchecked war-making powers granted to the president following 9/11. Young Friends from Berea, learned about the Fare Wage Campaign for workers who pick tomatoes, and the Swannanoa Valley Minute has been discussed within a number of meetings over the year. The Swannanoa Valley Minute is available at SAYMA now and will be further discussed this session. The Clerk noted that SAYMA Friends in their meetings are grappling with peace and social concerns at home and abroad, and that passing a minute can be the beginning of an action, not the end.

44-13 Outreach Committee (Attachment D: Committee Reports)

Hank Fay (Berea), Outreach Committee Clerk, noted with only one quarter of the meetings responding so far, many elegant and powerful outreach activities are happening throughout SAYMA. Committee members are sought to continue and share this work, to work with other resources such as the FGC new meetings project, and to help identify and share the formal and informal outreach activities of our meetings and worship groups.

44-14 Personnel Committee (Attachment D: Committee Reports)

Carol Nickle reported that the personnel committee recommended a cost of living increase for the two SAYMA employees and sent that recommendation to the Finance Committee. The SAYMA Clerk, as supervisor of our Administrative Assistant, rated the performance of Liz Perch as excellent.

44-15 SAYMA Ad Hoc Handbook Committee (Attachment D: Committee Reports)

Sharon Annis (West Knoxville) informed Friends that the Draft Handbook is currently on the SAYMA web site and is available to officers and committees for review. There was a discussion of whether the Ad Hoc Committee should become a standing committee and that the Handbook no longer be classified as a "Draft." After consideration at Representative Meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee made the recommendation that a standing committee be formed to maintain and up-date the SAYMA Handbook, with a number of

charges as recommended in the committee report. The significance of the handbook in learning new positions is invaluable. The need to identify Friends willing to keep the handbook updated is essential to its success. Making the long serving ad hoc a standing committee will create a vehicle for identifying the operational information that must be understood and passed on for committees and positions of responsibility to perform.

44-15-01 MINUTE: The long serving SAYMA Ad Hoc Handbook Committee is laid down, and a new standing committee, the Operational Handbook Committee, is established. Friends approved.

44-15-02 MINUTE: The charge of the Operational Handbook Committee is as follows:

1. That the committee consist of two people plus the Archivist and a representative from current Yearly Meeting planning committee.
2. At least once a year the handbook committee will remind each yearly meeting committee and officers to review Faith and Practice and the Handbook. Asking the following questions:
 - a. Is the current operational description of your work up-to-date and accurate, as you understand it?
 - b. Is there missing information?
 - c. What has become outdated?
 - d. Do any changes need to be brought to Yearly Meeting?
 - e. Will the changes effect the operation of the SAYMA Office?
3. If any changes or additions are needed the Handbook committee will work with the individuals or committees to prepare these changes.
 - a. The additions or corrections will be made, as appropriate, in the SAYMA Office copy of the Handbook and on the SAYMA web site.
 - b. If the changes will affect our Faith and Practice, a note will be kept in a Faith and Practice file in the SAYMA office for reference when and if a Faith and Practice examining committee is appointed.
4. That at each Yearly Meeting the Operational Handbook Committee will report any changes or additions to the Handbook.

Friends approved.

Friday Session, June 20

44-16 Opening Worship

The Yearly Meeting business session resumed from a worshipful period of silent expectant waiting.

44-17 Welcome/Reading (Attachment B: Readings)

The Clerk welcomed Friends and guests, and asked for periods of deep listening and silence between Friends speaking. The reading, "Odyssey of a Quaker Earthpeace Activist" by Louis Cox, is from EarthLight: Spiritual Wisdom for an Ecological Age.

44-18 Introductions/Roll Call

The roll call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups was held, and Friends introduced themselves. The Clerk welcomed our guests and noted that several will present workshops or plenary sessions while with us. The guests introducing themselves were John Meyer, representing FGC; Joe and Terry Graedon, Durham Friends Meeting and FGC Gathering; Lynn & Steve Newsom from Quaker House; Lucio Perez-

Reynoso and Lucy Duncan from AFSC; Shelly Tannenbaum, Quaker Earthcare Witness; Bob Barnes, Grass Valley Meeting; and Maiya Zwerling from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

44-19 Epistle Committee

44-19-01 Friends approved Joan Barnett (West Knoxville), Susan Fletcher (Huntsville), and Steve Olshewsky (Berea) for the Epistle Committee.

44-20 Naming Committee

44-20-01 Friends approved Tim Lamm (Berea), Chris Berg (Greenville), and Sharon Annis (West Knoxville) to serve as the Naming Committee.

44-21 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Presentation (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Lucy Duncan brought greetings from AFSC; her home meeting, Green Street Friends Meeting (PhYM); and from Ramallah Friends Meeting whom she visited recently. She read an excerpt from the opening letter by Shan Cretin, AFSC General Secretary, to "Let your life speak," the summer 2014 edition of AFSC's magazine, Quaker Action," which spoke to the integrity of Bayard Rustin, Quaker activist and chief organizer for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Lucy asked "Does the work drive the Spirit or the Spirit drive the work?"

She spoke of AFSC's Meeting Church Liaison Program, started in 2011, and that nearly 200 meetings have a relationship now with AFSC through that program, collaborating with AFSC and using AFSC resources to work for peace and social justice in their neighborhoods. She spoke of the meeting in Norman, OK, and active Friends liaisons there, who are focusing their efforts on mass incarceration, working in the prisons, and implementing the Alternatives to Violence Programs. Lucy spoke to the impact that yearly meetings could have coming together to work collectively with one another and with AFSC in the many areas of need around peace and social justice issues. A new southern regional director, Kamau Franklin, has joined AFSC and it is hoped that he will join us here next year at Yearly Meeting. Lucy invited Friends repeatedly to engage with her and Lucio Perez-Reynoso while they are here and to continue that dialogue through the AFSC website and other avenues after Yearly Meeting.

44-22 Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Presentation (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Shelley Tannenbaum, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, invites Friends to work on our spiritual growth as we work on the health of the natural world. By networking with Friends personally and through the internet, Friends share our stories locally, nationally, and internationally. Shelley will bring her plenary message Friday evening and convene a workshop on Saturday. She and other QEW SAYMA Friends David Ciscel, Roy Taylor, and Lisa Rose invite Friends to share and engage throughout the yearly meeting session.

44-23 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering

Terry and Joe Graedon spoke to their surprise and joy and finding themselves co-clerking the 2015 Friends General Conference Gathering. The theme is Seeking Wholeness, and evening speakers identified already include Parker Palmer, Dr. Tieraona Low Dog, and Scott Holmes. Spirit's presence was visible in the co-clerk's excitement. All are invited to attend the 2015 FGC Gathering, July 5 – July 11 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Volunteers for the Gathering Committee are

also welcome. Subcommittees of special interest include Worship, Workshops, Communications, and Local Arrangements.

44-24 Quaker House (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Directors Steve and Lynn Newsom submitted a report describing the many activities and programs Quaker House sponsored over the year to reach out to the Fayetteville and Ft. Bragg communities; to build bridges and establish connections with the military, address military-related domestic violence; moral injury as PTSD, and engaged in numerous outreach opportunities to further relationships and collaborations for peace and social justice, and support of military personnel and their families. "That of God" in the soldiers has been damaged by the 12 years of the war machine; Quaker House works to help them recover their Spirits. Friends were visibly moved as Lynn read the report aloud by the passion, accomplishments, and deep needs Quaker House addresses. Steve and Lynn will present a workshop on Recovering from Moral Injury on Saturday.

44-25 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Maiya Zwerling spoke of her experiences in the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and of her work now in the current movement to secure a nuclear deal with Iran. Maiya reminded Friends we live in an important geographical area of influence, and that support from our region in certain programs such as "Letter to the Editor" are powerful. Friends from Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina are urged to involve their states in opportunities for more visibility. The FCNL Annual Meeting will be held in November 20-21, and will lobby specifically on Iran diplomacy. Maiya will convene a workshop and lunch session during Yearly Meeting. Jane Hiles and Charles Wilton are the SAYMA representatives to FCNL and provided a detailed report of additional FCNL activity that is attached. FCNL contacts from monthly meetings can sign up or update information to stay current with FCNL issues and actions.

44-26 Finance Committee - first reading of the budget (Attachment I: Proposed FY2015 Budget)

Lee Ann Swarm (West Knoxville), Finance Committee Clerk, distributed and presented the draft budget for the initial look. It will be discussed again.

The Finance Committee encourages committees who steward designated funds to review the balances and use. Committee request for funding has been low.

Application of SAYMA funds to WQOs are a living issue, and Friends are reminded that historical precedence may not reflect WQO need or SAYMA's intent from year to year. A Friend noted that yearly meeting WQO support can come from both SAYMA funds and the encouragement of monthly meetings to contribute as well. Another Friend spoke to the gratitude that organizations have for both the financial and moral/spiritual support that contributions from yearly and monthly meetings evoke. Friends who have suggestions about WQO funding recommendations or other issues can speak to any Finance Committee member.

This year's draft budget recommends a transfer of approximately \$4,500 from the reserve funds. SAYMA's reserve level is well-above what is typically held.

44-27 AFSC Ad Hoc Committee

Dennis Gregg, Clerk of the Ad Hoc Committee, spoke to the history of a long-standing debate about the identification of AFSC as a Quaker organization. The Ad Hoc Committee appointed last year contained all who wanted to be on the committee, and represented the range of thought on the issue. The appointed

members were Hank Fay, Larry Ingle, Janine Bruton, Rebecca Solomon, and R.D. Flowers, (who was later inadvertently dropped from committee communication). The committee was clerked by Dennis Gregg. The report that was presented and discussed at Spring Representatives Meeting was distributed again for Friends who have not seen it yet.

As discussed at the Spring Representative's Meeting, the ad hoc committee felt Spirit's guidance when meeting and discerning the proposed minute. However, the full ad hoc committee was not united with the specific language in subsequent historical preface and/or five recommendations of the minute that was written after the meeting and not reviewed in real-time. The document and discussion from Spring Representatives Meeting is brought to Yearly Meeting today for Friends to understand the issue and previous history, and to decide how Yearly Meeting discerns to proceed on this issue.

Several Friends spoke to needing more time to read the proposed minute and preface. The five points from the report were read aloud (contained in the attached Report of the Ad Hoc Committee). Another Friend spoke to spirit moving as the ad hoc committee met, and how the points reflected that engagement. That Friend also spoke to the deepening engagement of AFSC with local meetings especially in the last 9 months, and that AFSC is also in a different place than when the committees met.

The discussion will continue in the next session.

Saturday, June 21

44-28 Opening Worship

The Yearly Meeting business session resumed from a period of silent expectant waiting.

44-29 Welcome/Reading (Attachment B: Readings)

The Clerk welcomed Friends and reminded Friends to remain in a worshipful place, leave space between speakers and listening deeply. She read from "The Practice of the Presence of the Wild" by David Oates from EarthLight: Spiritual Wisdom for an Ecological Age.

44-30 Introductions/Roll Call

Friends not yet acknowledged in the roll call introduced themselves and their meeting affiliations.

44-31 AFSC Ad Hoc Committee (continued)

The Clerk opened the discussion from the previous session to focus on the five points identified in the Ad Hoc Committee's proposed minute. The AFSC Ad Hoc Committee report and the portion of the March representatives meeting minutes on this issue had been distributed the day before. The SAYMA AFSC Representatives distributed their report today.

1. Lee Ann Swarm, one of SAYMA's three representatives to AFSC, volunteered to follow up on the five points with AFSC, work with AFSC over the year, and report back to Yearly Meeting.
2. Another Friend spoke to a positive feeling about the five points, and yet felt that what was missing from the proposed minute was how SAYMA corporately wished to engage with AFSC. This Friend supported the offer by our SAYMA AFSC representatives to bridge the communication gap with AFSC. The Friend expressed disappointment, however, in the tone of the report to yearly meeting by SAYMA AFSC representatives, and felt it was argumentative and a step back from the unity we are seeking to find. The

Friend expressed his desire to see more substance about the experience of the representatives over their opinions.

A Friend who has served in multiple roles and positions with AFSC at the local, regional and board level, said that most of her memories were fond and dear, and that also mistakes were made as we all do in our lives. She spoke of the Quaker family, the name we all take on, the joys and burdens of family, and of the need for gentleness and integrity in relating and communicating with one another. She urged Friends to keep the image of the family uppermost in our minds, and to avoid actions that can bring sadness over generations. This Friend pointed to recent AFSC publications in hand that speak directly to Quaker roots, connections to meetings, and current actions, encouraged Friends to speak to AFSC representatives here at the Yearly Meeting, and suggested SAYMA increase the number of representatives we send to AFSC to the full 5 allotted.

The Clerk clarified that the representative's report is not a part of the morning's proceedings. Friends were invited to speak directly to the SAYMA AFSC representatives about their report.

A Friend proposed the following minute:

1. We wish to ask AFSC to engage with SAYMA in an on-going dialogue about how we can all (AFSC, Yearly Meetings, and Monthly Meetings) become more Quakerly.
2. We ask AFSC to consider
 - a. How it supports spiritual discernment of all individuals in the organization (staff, Board, Corporation).
 - b. How it supports spiritual discernment at the organizational and policy level.
 - c. How the belief in living in the Spirit is reflected in its management processes.
3. We ask SAYMA to engage more fully with AFSC by
 - a. Encourage all SAYMA members to become informed about the work of AFSC.
 - b. Assist AFSC in finding qualified candidates, both Quaker and non-Quaker for job openings.
 - c. Encouraging more Monthly Meeting involvement with AFSC through formal liaison people as well as other linkages with AFSC staff and programs.
4. We hope and expect that AFSC will wish to engage in an on-going dialogue with SAYMA (see Point 1). We request that both AFSC and SAYMA determine in a timely fashion who will be engaged in the dialogue and inform the other so that the process can begin.
5. We request of AFSC that they provide a statement of the roles and expectation of Yearly Meeting and their Board of Directors in the life of AFSC. We are also interested specifically if the structure of the Board of Directors formally acknowledges the role of Friends.

The Clerk asked Friends to respond to the five points in the proposed minute, and to the offer of Lee Ann to communicate and follow up with AFSC on those points.

A Friend who served on the AFSC ad hoc committee and is in unity with the proposed minute spoke to his long history and outspoken concerns with AFSC over the years. He believes the minute will begin a needed dialogue, and that this will change the conversation from "us" and "them" to "we." He asked our SAYMA AFSC representatives to make these concerns known about the conflict that has emerged over the years, and to accomplish this by talking.

A Friend spoke to carrying an unspoken concern about a previous communication with AFSC from SAYMA a few years ago, and for not speaking of his great concern at that time. He felt that AFSC's

response to the SAYMA inquiry at that time was the opening to the dialog we seek. This Friend is disturbed by Point 1's expression to "become more Quakerly" and the explanatory paragraph following that point.

The AFSC Ad Hoc Committee clerk related a historical fundamental conflict of how AFSC ended up with the title of Friends in its name, and said that the committee had included "spiritual discernment" as an essential piece of Quakerism when drafting the language in Point 1.

One Friend spoke to the wider perception and association of AFSC as an esteemed Quaker organization that performs service that is needed and appreciated by much of the world. He expressed a concern that Point 2's use of the word "considering" could lead to "reporting." This Friends concern with the last sentence in Point 5 was addressed with the clarification that 80% of the AFSC board is Quaker by requirement. Another Friend spoke to her belief that it is not SAYMA's responsibility to tell people how to run the organization, and objected to the spirit behind the five points.

A Friend stated the proposed minute addressed concerns that have been alive for 35 years. Another suggested that the answers to these concerns are already in place, and that the dispute is not between Yearly Meeting and AFSC, but with individuals.

The meeting settled into silence. The Clerk acknowledged a rich discussion and that the dialogue had begun, however unity had not been found about the proposed minute.

44-31-01 Friends agreed to have our AFSC representatives continue the dialogue with AFSC.

44-32 Finance Committee - second reading of budget (Attachment I: Proposed FY2015 Budget)

Lee Ann Swarm reminded Friends that the draft budget will come to the Representative's Meeting for final approval. The final budget will consider an increase to Friends Journal from \$200-\$300, and the request that an amount be established now and ongoing to Quaker House. Withdrawal from the reserves is estimated at approximately \$8,400.

44-33 Nominating Committee (Attachment H: Nominating Committee Report)

The Nominating Committee presented the following names to fill open positions. Friends approved each grouping of nominees individually.

OFFICERS

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) Assistant Clerk – 1 year (2015)

Susan Phelan (Huntsville) Recording Clerk – 1 year (2015)

Charles Schade (Charleston) Treasurer – an additional 2-year-term (2014-2016)

M&N COMMITTEE

Sharon Annis (West Knoxville) – Clerk – 1 year (2015)

Thais Carr (Nashville) – Member (2014-2016)

Christine Sears (Huntsville) – Member (2014-2016)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Ciscel (Memphis) Clerk (2014-2016)

Lee Ann Swarm (West Knoxville) (2014-2016)

Kendall Ivie (West Knoxville) (2014-2016)

Wood Bouldin (Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group) (2014-2016)

The Finance Committee also includes Roger Wise (Charleston) as Assistant Treasurer (2014-2016) and Charles Schade (Charleston) – Treasurer

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Carol Nickle, Clerk – 1 year (2015)

SAYF STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-clerks – Wren Hendrickson (Chapel Hill) & Mari Ohta (Celo) (2014-2016)

Adrian Weir (Asheville) (2014-2016)

Mark Wutka (Nashville) (2014-2016)

Jonathan Schinhofen (Lexington) (2014-2016)

JYM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Rose Black (Cookeville) Convener, – 1 year (2015)

YEARLY MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

Carol Ciscel (Memphis) Clerk – 1 year (2015)

Adult Programs - Hank Fay (Berea) (2014-2016)

Workshop Coordinator - Judy Guerry (Huntsville) 1-year (2015)

Co-registrars – Laura Seeger (Chattanooga) and Lissa West (Cookeville) (2015)

Recording Register Chris Berg (2015)

Bookstore Chris Berg (2015)

Local Bob Welsh (2015)

Layout Editor - Carol Ciscel (2015)

SAYF coordinator 2 years Wren Hendrikson (2014-2016)

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Bob Welsh – Clerk (2014-2016)

Florence Yaffe (Celo) (2014-2016)

RD Flowers (Chattanooga) (2014-2016)

ARCHIVIST

Missy Ivie (West Knoxville) – (2014-2016)

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Hank Fay, Clerk – (2014-2016)

OPERATIONAL HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

Carol Ciscel - Clerk 1-year (2015)

Missy Ivie, - (2014-2016)

Charlie Wilton (2014-2016)

FAITH & PRACTICE REVISION – AD HOC FOR QUERIES

Free Polazzo (Atlanta) Clerk

Beth Meyers (Berea)

One Friend expressed concern that there are no term limits for Ad Hoc committee members. This can be addressed at the next representatives meeting.

WQO REPRESENTATIVES

Anne Welsh (Swannanoa Valley) Quaker House - 3 years (2014-2017)

Pat Williams (Atlanta) Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) – 3 years (2014-2017)

Barbara Esther thanked Liz Perch for the survey that went to 900 individuals, and to the far fewer number of Friends who completed and returned them. Friends will see this survey in the future to help the next Nominating Committee with its work. She also thanked the Friends continuing in positions and noted it is the 'worthwhileness' of the work that inspires Friends to continue serving.

Positions still open include:

Co-rep to RSWR

William Penn House

FCNL

AFSC

Operational Handbook Committee

Web Support committee

Outreach Committee

Peace and Social Concerns

YMPC Book store

JYM Oversight Committee

Personnel Committee

Ministry and Nurture – At Large or from monthly meetings

Seasoned Clerk

44-34 Ministry & Nurture Committee (Attachment D: Committee Reports)

Sharon Annis, Clerk, reported that the State of SAYMA Meeting is included as part of the M&N Report and is also available online. The complete M&N report was not read during the session and Friends are encouraged to read the full report in the attachment.

44-35 Ecological Concerns Network

Roy Taylor (Atlanta) and Lisa Rose (Swannanoa) reported to Friends that ECN is reenergized with a proposed new name and new mission. The committee seeks to identify representatives from each monthly meeting and worship group to create a collaborative ecological network across SAYMA. Lisa Rose is gathering a list of contacts from monthly meetings and worship groups who will receive information from Quaker Earthcare Witness, other actions on earth care, and share with their meetings. A second list will share with one another what meetings are currently doing in areas of earth care. Roy noted that SAYMA is well-connected with QEW through Friends serving as our representatives from SAYMA and as officers in QEW.

44-36 SAYF and JYM Announcement

Chuck Jones encouraged Friends to apply to work with SAYF and JYM so that a pool of authorized volunteers will be available. Application forms are available on the table, on the SAYMA website and from the administrative assistant.

Sunday, June 22

44-37 Opening Worship

The Yearly Meeting business session resumed from a period of silent expectant waiting.

44-38 Welcome/Reading (Attachment B: Readings)

The Clerk welcomed Friends and guests, and read “An Emerging Discipline” from How on Earth Do We Live Now?

The Clerk again asked for periods of deep listening and silence between Friends speaking.

44-39 Introductions/Roll Call

Friends not yet acknowledged in the roll call introduced themselves and their meeting affiliations.

44-40 Peace & Social Concerns (Israel/Palestine Minute):

Bob Welsh presented the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting Minute to SAYMA. Tim Lamm served as clerk for this session. He reminded Friends the discussion is time-limited, to observe the rules, and to speak only once. Friends are encouraged to say “This Friend speaks my mind” as that occurs rather than speak personally to repeat a message previously said.

The Clerk read from a minute SAYMA united with from 2002:

“We, the members of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends, are deeply concerned by events in Palestine and Israel.... We pray for the strength to resist taking sides in this conflict, and to remain focused on being peacemakers.... We reject terrorism in all its forms, especially the killing and maiming of people on both sides. We strongly oppose the destruction of the social and economic infrastructure of the Palestinian Territory, the confiscation of Palestinian land and property, the extreme curtailment of freedom of movement for all Palestinians, and the denial of such fundamental human rights as food and medical care to noncombatants....

“We call upon our government to use all its influence to seek:

An immediate end to all violence and assassinations,

An immediate cessation of all settlement activity,

An end to the occupation,

A return to permanent status negotiations leading to two states living side by side based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with mutually agreed-upon land swaps.”

SAYMA is already on record as opposing the occupation with the 2002 minute. Last year, Swannanoa Valley Friends brought a minute concerning the continuing conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians. The new light brought to our attention is the boycott of products made in the West Bank settlements. The Swannanoa Valley minute was referred to the Peace and Social Concerns committee to shepherd the minute to all the monthly meetings, but that process has not been brought to fruition. There is not a recommendation from Peace and Social Concerns on how to proceed. The Clerk opened the discussion to the concept of the boycott: Can Friends from Yearly Meeting unite on a boycott of products produced by Israelis on occupied territory?

The Clerk asked to hear from Friends supporting the boycott. A Friend stated that the boycott is not an ideal expression of Quaker action, but it is necessary. It is what is available to do. The occupation is a grave injustice. Quakers are known to oppose grave injustice. If Israeli businesses are successful in doing business on Palestinian land, that will strengthen and perpetuate the occupation. Friends should do all we can to discourage the development of Israeli businesses in the occupied territory. Boycotting is the only way this Friend knows to tell Israel that to establish businesses in the occupied territory is not right. If this boycott is not done, what else is available? If we do nothing, we encourage the success of the business and are complicit in the perpetuation of a grave injustice.

The Clerk asked to hear from Friends who did not unite with the boycott. A Friend united with the principle to oppose the grave injustice but does not feel that the boycott will be effective. In order to be effective this Friend needs to know more about the products that are made in the occupied territories and ways to successfully boycott. This Friend does not unite with boycotting, but wants to know other effective ways to do something.

Another Friend spoke to the list of yearly meetings, monthly meetings, and other non-Quaker organizations that support the boycott. He gave examples from other meetings, Gandhi's boycott of British-made goods, the U.S. civil-rights movement to boycott goods, and the boycott of products from Napalm producers during the Viet Nam war to show that boycotting is a common non-violent action strategy. Despite the obscurity of Israeli products to Friends here, the products mentioned may have popularity in other communities, and word of a Quaker boycott may influence those purchases. This Friend believes the effect of our efforts will not be linear, and small actions and testimonies have larger influence. Our actions can include boycott, sanctions, and divestment.

A Friend spoke to her willingness to avoid products she knows now are made in the wrong place.

Another Friend expressed a concern that sanctions and divestment are not mentioned in the Swannanoa Valley minute and there is more that Friends can do.

A Friend expressed his willingness to boycott almost anything to be effective. The problems of occupation on the west bank are driven by U.S. policy and Israeli lobbying. If Friends want to do meaningful, effective action, the place to start is in the United States. This Friend would be more comfortable with individual action, and addressing the ways U.S. policy is made.

A Friend said that he was called by Spirit to bring a message related to the proposed Minute, and as led, has taken the unusual step of writing down the message to be faithful, clear and succinct in conveying it. The prepared message was read and included the following:

The minute calls for two distinct sets of actions: First, education about the conditions of oppression in the occupied territories of Palestine, and to avoid products and services that contribute to perpetuation of those conditions; and second, to join and actively support the systematic boycott of the products until the occupation has ended and basic human rights are restored. The first of the actions is clearly in harmony with a long tradition of Friends who sought to live with integrity, mindful of choices, and the social and economic impact of their choices. Friend spoke to Woolman's example of faith and action, and to adapting his choices as new information was received. Woolman remained in true relationship with all involved, remaining faithful to his own Spirit-led calling. This Friend discerns that the boycott campaign is not keeping with faith and action. It is by its nature a creature of the political and economic culture around us, a secular frame work, not the faith and action of our spiritual led faith and action. Its language aligns it with the secular frame work, not faith in action. He said that we must resist the urge to respond as individuals to social ills in ways that are not spirit-led. This Friend believes this is not a path with spirit heart and God's voice. Where do we see the spirit of God in the Israelis? This is not a path of nonviolence, but one of coercion by economic force. In support of the desire expressed in the Minute to contribute to social and economic justice in the world, this Friend asks us to lay aside this minute, and to study Woolman's witness. As a Yearly Meeting and individual meetings, he asks us to work together to look at how our choices contribute to global violence, to share what we learn with one another to become more informed, and to make our own faithful choices. He suggests Friends explore how we might be led to conceive a 21st century model of the Free Produce Movement.

Other Friends expressed agreement, followed by a period of silence.

A Friend spoke to his family history of parents in concentration camps, little knowledge of ancestors, misinformation, and to his experience as a Jewish Friend. He said that Atlanta and SAYMA have hearts big enough to be inclusive. Thanks to the imperfection of the minute, the issue comes to the SAYMA floor. AFSC works in the Middle East, a lot is happening. Woolman had a small community to deal with; today Friends have the world. We can't all do everything. This Friend fears what is happening to the soul of Israel, as he prays for the Germans and the U.S. citizens who didn't do much to help the Jews. Sometimes the powerful need help. This minute is not for the Palestinians. It is for the Israelis. It is the Christian majority that supports and funds this effort; what are Friends doing to talk to U.S. Christians? Jewish Voice for Peace supports this boycott. This minute is an opening from Spirit begging Friends to get involved as a group. Group involvement makes this Spirit-led. Other Christians are supporting this effort, companies are support this effort. We can't wait to be perfect. This is the holocaust, done with Caterpillars instead of ovens. Palestinians are asking for this. Israelis are asking for this. Other Friends indicated agreement.

Another Friend spoke to John Woolman's respectful relationship with slave owners. What is happening to Palestinians is terrible. But in the proposed minute we have closed our hearts to the Israelis. As Friends we need God's love and wisdom for all involved. The Friend's concern with the proposed minute is that we do not affirm the right of Israel to exist, that we will stand by no matter what even as we condemn what they are doing. As to U.S. government, the Christian right and Jewish right need to know we will stand with them in the face of anti-Semitism, we will not let the holocaust happen again. We need to make the double stand. We need to hold our arms out to both. The minute does not have enough of that outreach.

A Friend spoke to logic and the argument of a false choice, using the example of the U.S. attack on Saddam Hussain. Quakers have a great skill at discerning a third way. We look at the second way. How does this resonate with my values? This Friend wants to uplift peace and reconciliation between Palestine and Israel, the rights of Palestinians to make a living without dependence on the occupation. The Friend spoke of a women's cooperative run by both Palestinians and Israelis that markets Palestinian products. This is the third way. When we are troubled that there is an issue before us that requires response but the response does not bring comfort and joy in the context of Quaker values, then we need to look for a third way. This is Quaker discernment, what is missing from this minute. There is nothing that prevents Friends from participating no matter what with this boycott. But as a body, we don't have that unity. Follow what is presented; consider again a seasoned minute that offers the third way.

A Friend said Quakers are called to be not of the world but to live in it, called to work for justice and equality. This Friend has no involvement in the proposed minute, but has been standing with Women in Black for 12 years. WIB supports Israeli sisters. The boycott will be the most effective action and is in support of both groups. Israelis and Palestinians are already working together to end injustice. This boycott is to wake up the corporations taking advantage of the settlements and occupied people. The boycott and a SAYMA minute would be an effective voice to join the other voices who have passed minutes supporting the boycott.

Speaking about Hewlett Packard and Caterpillar, a Friend calls to go back to the 1967 borders. The situation is being promulgated by the Israeli government with U.S.-provided resources. This Friend believes the boycott will be effective, and the Israel's government is paying attention. The minute will also support both Israelis and Palestinians who support peace. This Friend calls us to support the boycott and work on the wording of a minute later. Unite on the boycott, and work more through a committee.

One Friend prefers a much shorter minute to gain unity, and said that David Foster's message was prophetic, and brings something very important for us and the world. This Friend wants to see this lifted up, and hopes DF will work with Peace & Social Concerns to enlarge the minute to meet needs that we have heard today. This Friend hears unity today to join in unity with other Quakers and boycott-

divestment-sanctions movement that are effective, and work the details, including prophetic details for the future.

Another Friend said the previous message speaks his mind, but that his meeting was not able to unite. He suggested that SAYMA should receive this minute, not adopt it. SAYMA should encourage more meetings to learn about the history, and other issues, and work as Friends are led. For many this may be a boycott, but not for all. SAYMA should charge the Peace & Social Concerns committee to assist in this effort.

The Clerk said we do not have unity on support of the minute, or unity on a boycott campaign. The record will show diversity of thought presented today. We can agree that we need to educate ourselves and we need to take the discussion to our meetings. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will continue to shepherd the minute through Monthly meetings. Are the seeds of war in the products we buy? Let us consider the role of this campaign in relation to our Quaker values.

The clerkship was returned to Carol Nickle.

44-41 Report from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Representative (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

The report from SAYMA's representative to the Friends World Committee on Consultation, Michael Galovic (Swannanoa), was not read but is attached to these minutes.

44-42 Nominations Committee (Attachment H: Nominating Committee Report)

The Nominating Committee brought the following names and positions to Yearly Meeting. All nominations were approved.

Clerk – Larry Ingle (Chattanooga) (2014-2016)

Personnel Committee – Tobin Russell, (Athens), (2014-2016)

JYM Oversight – Marcie Thaxter (Asheville) (2014-2016)

Peace & Social Concerns – Christopher Easton (Athens)(2014-2016)

Pattie Hughes (Asheville) (2014-2016)

Arnold Karr (Columbia) (2014-2016)

Lisa Rose (Swannanoa) (2013-2015)

Web Support - Sig Christianson (West Knoxville) (2014-2016)

Robin Josephs, Swannanoa (2014-2016)

Operational Handbook Committee - Kendall Ivie (2014-2016)

FCNL Representative - Christopher Easton, Athens (2014-2017)

RSWR Co-Representatives - Pat Williams (Swannanoa) (2014-2017)

Steve Olszewsky, Berea (2014-2016)

William Penn House Representative – Bonnie Isaacs, Lewisburg Worship Group (2014-2017)

Outreach Committee - Roger Wise, Charleston (2014-2016)

YMPC – Assistant Bookstore – Judy Geary, Boone (2014-2016)

Additional positions that remain open include JYM oversight and some representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations. Friends can see current or new nominating committee members for more information or to serve.

44-43 Naming Committee Report

The Naming Committee included Tim Lamm, Chris Berg, and Sharon Annis. The naming committee recommended the following Friends for Nominating Committee:

Jane Goldthwait (Celo) 2014-2016 (continuing), clerk
Pam Beziot, (Nashville), 2014-2016
Mark Gooch (Birmingham) 2014-2016
Ann Welsh (Swannanoa) 2014-2016
Beth Myers (Berea) 2014-2016
Annie Black (Cookeville) 2014-2016
Kathleen Hardie (Nashville) 2015?

Friends approved.

44-44 Registrar's Report

Laura Segeer, co-registrar, presented the following information about 2014 Yearly Meeting attendees and compared those numbers to the previous year (indicated by parenthesis).

Total attenders: 240 this year (259 last year)

Adults: 163 (175)

Young Adult Friends (YAF): 11 (14)

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF): 54 (52)

Junior Yearly Meeting participants: 10 (18)

First time attenders: 63 (89)

Participants from outside SAYMA: 31 - 13% of attenders

No show/cancellations: 6

Donations to scholarship fund: \$ 1,299

Scholarships granted: \$785.51

Fee subsidies for guests, staff, FAPs paid by SAYMA: \$2853.50

Key deposit donations: \$ 200

Evaluations will be online and information will be coming. Friends are asked to complete the evaluations, each are read and important.

The SAYMA Clerk thanked the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee for all its work.

44-45 Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) (Attachment K: SAYF Reports)

The Southern Appalachian Young Friends presented their Epistle in the form of an original song, which Friends enjoyed. For a full report of the SAYF activities this past year, see the SAYF Report by Jonah McDonald attached. Friends thanked the SAYFers and all those who have worked with SAYF this past year and during Yearly Meeting. Friends especially found that the Fish Bowl activity organized and facilitated by SAYF was very meaningful.

44-46 Young Adult Friends (YAF)

The Epistle this year, as in previous years, was presented in song. The epistle committee engaged the audience by encouraging them to participate in the singing, which appeared to be met with general approval. Friends accept the Epistle, and appreciate the Spirit-led energy that YAFs bring to Yearly Meeting.

This year YAF reported that there were an indeterminate number of YAFs at SAYMA. Three friends attended from Berea, one from Chapel Hill with one who was unaffiliated, two QVS volunteers, and more Friends from Memphis, Atlanta, and Athens. Due to a business meeting scheduling conflict, many of the attending YAFs were not present at our business meetings where we generally have our head-count. Specifics of rescheduling the YAF business meeting will be discussed in next retreat's planning committee meetings.

The first order of business we addressed was the new YAF Scholarship Fund. This contains \$1429 with no specified purpose. Because it was not being used, yearly contributions to it had shrunk considerably. Last year, there was only \$40 deposited. We would like to increase the amount added each year in order to provide support for YAFs wishing to attend SAYMA. The fund would be used to subsidize the cost of participating in the weekend (registration, room/board, etc.), but not transportation. To fully subsidize two Young Adult Friends for the weekend, it would cost roughly \$300. We would appreciate it if a bulleted/bolded notice could be included in SAYMA outreach to spread the word about this fund and, hopefully, attract more YAFs. We will include notifications of this fund in our outreach work as well.

The YAFs led the wider community worship sharing with the query "What was a time when your spirits were raised?"

The YAFs ran a successful SAYF graduation, managing to lure a few YAFs who had not graduated SAYF into participating. Although these YAFs left early, we appreciated their help and were glad to have the opportunity to share with them this time-honored YAF tradition.

It is with great regret that the YAFs wish to notify the wider community of their waning participation in the Simple Supper Option at SAYMA. In order not to be misleading, we agreed it might be best if we moved the SSO out of the YAF section in future years.

There were several committees which desired YAF members. Sam Leeman-Munk volunteered for YAF clerk and outreach and will send a note to the greater YAF community notifying them of the remaining positions in future years.

44-47 Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)

The JYM Friends used a large mural that they had painted to present their Epistle and told of their favorite activities at this Yearly Meeting.

This year Junior Yearly Meeting had between 6 and 10 youth ages 8 years to 11 years old. We used the theme Spirit Rising: A revolution in practice, to think about our practice as young people. We read three books, Creation by Gerald McDermott, The Tin Forest by Helen Ward, and Something out of Nothing by Phoebe Gilman. We heard stories told by Ron MacDonald of Memphis Friends Meeting at the Thursday evening Plenary where the children participated in by illustrating Ron's premise that God is sneaky. He joined us again during the weekend to tell more stories and sing with us. We heard the Easter stories as told through Atlanta Friend Richard Alan's piano compositions. Each story or set of stories offered us the opportunity to ask wondering questions that the children could respond to without a right or wrong

answers. They also allowed the young people to make connections among the many stories as well as to their own lives. We made paper with volunteer Wendy Satterthwait of Berea Friends Meeting, Created art with pastels while listening to Richard Alan's piano compositions, and built cooperative forts, among other things. These stories, wondering questions and programmed activities guided us toward a glimpse of Spirit's work in our lives revealed in our creativity and play. We also spent time swimming at the aquatic center, walking to and playing in the creek with volunteers, and playing outside.

JYM coordinators Jennifer Dickie and Becca Fiscal of Atlanta Friends Meeting express great appreciation for the volunteers who spent time with JYM this year.

We thank Jennifer Dickie and Becca Fiscal for their dedication and work with JYM and accept the JYM Epistle with much appreciation.

44-48 Quaker Youth letter to Publix and Berea Minute (Attachment M: Quaker Youth Letter to Publix and Berea Minute)

Quaker Youth presented a letter that they have sent to Publix on behalf of Immokalee workers urging Publix to pay higher wages and provide better working conditions.

Friends are appreciative for the courage and work of these Quaker Youth. The Berea Minute will be seasoned, presented, and discerned at a later time.

44-49 Yearly Meeting Epistle (Attachment N: Epistle)

Steve Olshewsky presented the Epistle for the committee. Friends gratefully accepted the Epistle and expressed appreciation to the Epistle Committee for their work.

44-50 Representative Meeting Calendar

The Fall Meeting will be held on September 20, 2014, hosted by West Knoxville Friends. Spring Meeting in March 2015 will be hosted by Berea Friends. The date will be determined.

44-51 Minute of Thanks

Friends are grateful for our time together in the familiar settings of Warren Wilson College, for the excellent care of our needs from Liz Brace and the Warren Wilson College staff, and for delicious nourishment provided. We are grateful for Spirit's presence in our business sessions and throughout our Yearly Meeting. We are thankful for the presence and participation from Wider Quaker Organizations, new Friends who attended Yearly Meeting for the first time, and long-timers who come every year.

44-52 Ministry and Nurture Committee's State of the Yearly Meeting Report (Attachment D: Committee Reports)

Sharon Annis read the State of the Yearly Meeting Report to Friends as we began centering for closing worship.

44-53 Closing Worship

Closing worship included both heartfelt messages and spirit-filled silence.

Carol Nickle, Clerk
(Archive copy signed)

Susan Phelan, Recording Clerk
(Archive copy signed)

Attachments:

- A: Attendance (printed copies only)
- B: Readings
- C: Administrative Assistant's report and Census
- D: Committee Reports
- E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports
- F: State of the Meeting Reports
- G: Traveling Minute for John Meyer, FGC
- H: Nominating Committee Report
- I: Proposed FY 2015 Budget
- J: Treasurer's Report
- K: SAYF Reports
- L: Web Manager's Report
- M: Quaker Youth Letter to Publix and Berea Minute
- N: Epistles

Attachment A: Attendance
(Print copies only)

(this page is blank in digital copies)

Attachment B: Readings

'On The Pulse Of Morning' : An Inaugural Poem by Maya Angelou (Thursday Reading)

A Rock, A River, A Tree
Hosts to species long since departed,
Marked the mastodon,
The dinosaur, who left dried tokens
Of Their sojourn here
On our planet floor,
Any broad alarm of their hastening doom
Is lost in the gloom of dust and ages.

But today, the Rock cries out to us, clearly, forcefully,
Come, you may stand upon my
Back and face your distant destiny,

But seek no haven in my shadow,
I will give you no hiding place down here.

You, created only a little lower than
The angels, have crouched too long in
The bruising darkness
Have lain too long
Facedown in ignorance,
Your mouths spilling words

Armed for slaughter.
The Rock cries out to us today,
You may stand upon me;
But do not hide your face.

Across the wall of the world,
A River sings a beautiful song. It says,
Come, rest here by my side.

Each of you, a bordered country,
Delicate and strangely made proud,
Yet thrusting perpetually under siege.
Your armed struggles for profit
Have left collars of waste upon
My shore, currents of debris upon my breast.
Yet today I call you to my riverside,
If you will study war no more.

Come, clad in peace,
And I will sing the songs
The Creator gave to me when I and the
Tree and the Rock were one.
Before cynicism was a bloody sear across your brow
And when you yet knew you still knew nothing.

The River sang and sings on.

There is a true yearning to respond to
The singing River and the wise Rock.
So say the Asian, the Hispanic, the Jew
The African, the Native American, the Sioux
The Catholic, the Muslim, the French, the Greek,

The Irish, the Rabbi, the Priest, the Sheik,
The Gay, the Straight, the Preacher,
The privileged, the homeless, the Teacher.
They hear. They all hear
The speaking of the Tree.

They hear the first and last of every Tree
Speak to humankind today.
Come to me,
Here beside the River.
Plant yourself beside the River.

Each of you, descendant of some passed-
On traveler, has been paid for.

You, who gave me my first name, you,
Pawnee, Apache, Seneca, you
Cherokee Nation, who rested with me, then
Forced on bloody feet,
Left me to the employment of
Other seekers -- desperate for gain,
Starving for gold.

You, the Turk, the Arab, the Swede,
The German, the Eskimo, the Scot,
The Italian, the Hungarian, the Pole,
You the Ashanti, the Yoruba, the Kru, bought
Sold, stolen, arriving on a nightmare
Praying for a dream.

Here, root yourselves beside me.
I am that Tree planted by the River,
Which will not be moved.
I, the Rock, I, the River, I, the Tree
I am yours -- your passages have been paid.
Lift up your faces, you have a piercing need
For this bright morning dawning for you.
History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, but if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.

Lift up your eyes
Upon this day breaking for you.

Give birth again
To the dream.

Women, children, men,
Take it into the palms of your hands,
Mold it into the shape of your most
Private need. Sculpt it into
The image of your most public self.
Lift up your hearts
Each new hour holds new chances
For a new beginning.
Do not be wedded forever
To fear, yoked eternally
To brutishness.

The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space
To place new steps of change
Here, on the pulse of this fine day
You may have the courage
To look up and out and upon me,
The Rock, the River, the Tree, you country.
No less to Midas than the mendicant.
No less to you now than the mastodon then.

Here on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes,
And into your brother's face,
Your country,
And say simply
Very simply
With hope --
Good morning.

January 20, 1993

“Odyssey of a Quaker Earthpeace Activist” by Louis Cox (Friday’s Reading)

In 1970 I had a “conversion experience” that altered the course of my life.

I was sitting in an adult forum after Meeting of Worship. The guest speaker, a chemistry professor from a local college, was one of the early voices crying in the wilderness, trying to convince Americans of the seriousness of the global ecological crisis. He faced a hard sell, however. The year before, U.S. astronauts had landed on the moon. Our nation’s faith in science and technology reigned supreme....

I was aware of and concerned about specific environmental problems – the smog that hung over the city, news of a river so polluted that it once caught fire. I had read about brown pelican and eagle populations that seemed to be headed toward extinction because a pesticide had invaded the food chain and was weakening their egg shells.

But up to that point I had viewed these problems as *local* issues, appropriately addressed by appropriate technology, education, and legislation. And I trusted that “they,” our leaders, were doing what needed to be done to solve those problems.

There had been an element of denial in my outlook as well – the tendency that many people have to tune out “inconvenient truths” in order to maintain their psychological comfort zones....

But our guest speaker that day showed very effectively how the world scientific community was assessing the overall health of the planet. Because of the combined effects of all the local environmental problems, all of the earth’s interconnected life support systems were now in serious decline. More startling was the speaker’s explanation that the current economic system depended on depleting the earth, not on its continued good health. At the heart of this crisis was a mode of thinking that seemed to be out of touch with the natural processes of the planet.

It was devastating for me to realize that the earth, our mother, was dying, and that I was part of the cause. The future I had envisioned for myself suddenly vanished like a mirage. As I walked out of the Meeting House that day, I knew that I must begin changing my life *immediately*....

My vulnerability to this message at that particular moment had a lot to do with the spiritual sensibilities that had led me to Quakerism and were being nourished there. All my life I had wanted to live with integrity, that is, to make my personal behavior a reflection of my professed values. But it did not occur to me to seek support for this newfound environmental concern within my Quaker Meeting. Some Friends in my Meeting were practicing a form of simple living, which they linked to the testimonies of Peace and Equality. But no one talked about the Quaker faith itself as a primary source of guidance and inspiration for living more lightly on the planet.

Acting as best I could on my own, I started reducing, reusing, and recycling. I drove less and bicycled more. I joined a local citizens group that lobbied legislators and handed out leaflets in front of stores. I attended many rallies and demonstrations. However, after a year or two of frantic activism, I began feeling burned out, overwhelmed by the apathy and inertia of U.S. society. It all seemed so utterly hopeless.

I finally decided that the best way to lighten my impact on the earth was to join the “back to the land” movement. I ... developed an organic homestead in the rural Ozarks.... After 12 years, I began to doubt that my isolated household would be very secure with the rest of the world going to pieces....

My doubts deepened during a Friends gathering in the Midwest... in the late 1980s. Elise Boulding, the main speaker, shared an experience that had influenced her decision to become a lifelong peace activist: She... had emigrated from Norway when she was a young child after World War I. She remembered being horrified when she saw photographs of the destruction and suffering caused by the War. Her anxiety grew when, as a teenager in the late 1930s, another major war ... seemed likely. But she took comfort in the thought that she could always go back to Norway, where ... it would be safe.

The Nazi invasion and occupation of Norway at the outset of World War II, therefore, left her deeply shaken. She suddenly realized that there was no longer any place in the world where a peace-loving person could simply hide from trouble. The only way to be safe, she concluded, is to work for peace and justice for all, to eliminate the root causes of violent conflict. Out of this realization, her life’s calling as a peace activist emerged. Significantly, she found the support and guidance she needed in the traditions and practice of the Quaker faith.

I saw a parallel between Elise’s story and my own role as a “conscientious objector” to modern industrial society’s “war against nature.” I saw the truth that the world had become too small for individual withdrawal

to be a viable option. I felt a leading to take what I had learned as a homesteader and journalist and to engage the powers as an “Earthpeace” activist.

Fortunately, it was about this time that I learned of a group of Quakers who had started a North American environmental organization called Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN, later renamed Quaker Earthcare Witness).... I reveled in finding committed Friends who were talking about Earthcare as a Quaker testimony. This is what had been missing in my earlier frantic environmental activism – an understanding of the spiritual transformation that is essential to curbing our ecologically disruptive behavior....

From EarthLight: Spiritual Wisdom for an Ecological Age. Louis Cox, member of Burlington Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, has been writer and Publications Coordinator for Quaker Earthcare Witness.

The Practice of the Presence of the Wild by David Oates (Saturday Reading)

The first time I attended a Quaker meeting there was something strangely familiar about it. It took me a long time to discover what it was.

The first meeting was in 1980. About that time I had also been taking hikes by myself in the Sierra Nevada mountains. They varied from a few days to a few weeks in duration, and from easy strolls to arduous explorations up high, beyond trails and signposts.

Eventually I began to understand that the two experiences, seemingly so unlike, shared something essential. It was wildness; the uncontrolled and uncontrollable.

Alone on a mountainside it is an obvious meditation to recognize how big the world is, and how much bigger the cosmos beyond it, and beyond that how encompassingly small the little life is that holds the beholding mind. Small and easily damaged.

In a silent meeting there sometimes comes a similar recognition. Out of the dark into which the mind descends, a becoming humility settles over one. There is much in that dark silence, much that is not understood or understandable. Some of it emerges during a well-gathered meeting, either to stir the individual with unexpected intuitions or to impel someone to stand and speak words that are just a little truer than his ordinary talk.

The silence is wild. No one controls it or measures it. Without this silence, Quaker meetings would be shallow talk-societies. In the silence is the depth and profundity. In it one encounters the truth: a person is a small bit of intellectualizing jetsam afloat on a mighty and incomprehensible stream....

Typical city-folk today apparently believe that if anything goes wrong, it must be someone’s fault. They suppose that we humans control all: if someone is hurt, some official must have screwed up. It can never just be the fact that humans are mortal, and life is dangerous....

Civilized life fosters this delusion. City lights blot out the starry sky... Day and night can be ignored. Weather is minimized. Edges are rounded....

What losses these comforts are! What a revelation simple hunger can be – how sharpening to the senses, how bracing to the mind. What sleepy, deluded, dull people we turn into under such a regimen of toasty quilts... What a silly theory it is to think that all hazards are, or ought to be, marked with red triangles and registered with the appropriate authorities. How badly we need a sharp pinch now and then to bring back

to us the reality: though we try to provide for our needs, life is nevertheless both uncertain and painful. Best not to forget it.

The common thread in all these urban delusions is denial of nature as an independent and superior reality. Our handling of wilderness is symptomatic of this denial: we label it “natural resource” and chop it up for raw materials. Where human desire is the measure of all things, all the world is a consumable commodity, a playpen for the infantile appetite.

But nature is present all the while. It is undeterred by our silly denial. Sickness, accident, old age, and death remind us, eventually, if nothing else does.

But the systematic loss of awareness of this reality leaves us unable to comprehend. We think there must be some mistake.

It is the urban/civilized lie that humans can control all, much, or even an important part of life. Most of what counts is far beyond our reach. By limiting our focus to a few trivial elements which we can manipulate, we shrink our lives to pitiable smallness... all the rest of the cosmos goes unnoticed.

It is a high price to pay for the illusions of safety.

If the reality of nature is as present as all that, then we do not have far to look for deliverance. Which is not to say there is no need for plain old outdoor trees – and – mountains wilderness. Contact with the *real* wilderness of uncivilized nature is an unmatched vehicle for awakening and deepening the mind. In many non-Western cultures one leaves the village to encounter the natural world alone and in its full reality – and to gain the depth and serenity which that encounter brings....

But even right now... in the middle of the city, opportunities for encounter surround us. The wild is everywhere... Wilderness is the medium in which we swim, as near as the night sky, a brush with death on the freeway, a dream. By learning to welcome the unplannable, uncontrollable, and the incomprehensible as nature itself, we can refresh and renew ourselves daily. Thoreau knew what he was saying – that in *wild-ness* (not wilderness) is the preservation of the world.

Tracts of unexplored land are wonderful; but the wild is within us, as well.

from EarthLight: Spiritual Wisdom for an Ecological Age. David Oates teaches at Clark College, a community college in Vancouver, Washington and attended Santa Monica (CA) Friends Meeting.

How on Earth Do We Live Now? (“An Emerging Discipline” pg.73-76) (Sunday Reading)

There is a spiritual tension between the old faith in technological progress and the growing sensitivity to the integrity of Creation. This tension is troubling not only to many Quakers, but to a wide community of people who are seeking a better way to be in relationship with the whole Earth and its commonwealth of life. We seek the guidance of continuing revelation, of ever new horizons of learning, as we cope with the practical changes that have begun to face us in day-to-day life. From the unconscious faith in technological progress we are moving to the conscious discipline of ecologically sound adaptation.

For Quakers, as for others who take up this discipline, there is much to appreciate about the concept of the commons. (“The commons” represents those resources or parts of Earth held in common and managed for the well-being of all. pg. 31). Cooperative governance of the commons places responsibility and accountability for equitable access to common resources on those who use them in a given locale. The governance of the commons takes into account local conditions in setting rules for use and for

preserving the vitality and resilience of resources under its care. “Under the care of the commons: is a phrase that, for Quakers, may evoke another phrase, “under the care of the Meeting.” There is a deep resonance of solidarity and mutual care for the gifts of Creation in this discipline.

Quaker experience in building trust within community settings and creating effective practices for conflict resolution are directly relevant to successfully governing the commons. By virtue of their faith community experience, Quakers should be particularly drawn to support and participate in the public trust institutions that are needed for governing the commons.

In the past, Quakers have been primarily concerned with the well-being and development of human communities, but many are now waking up to an imperative to extend our concern and caring to the whole community of life.... These initiatives amplify the relevance of Quaker experience in helping to shape a realm of the commons that is responsible for overseeing the care and use of Earth’s life-sustaining gifts.

In the same way that members of the Religious Society of Friends led in past social reform movements, it is time for Quakers to help lead the way in building an ecologically sound economy. In a time when prices varied widely depending upon who the buyer was, early Quaker merchants established one fair price that was available to everyone who came to the marketplace. So now, for example, as our society is engaged in a great struggle on how to drive down carbon emissions, Quakers could call on the same sense of fairness and respect with regard to pricing greenhouse gases as they are emitted into the commons of the atmosphere.

.....

Building Earth restored in an industrial economy is not an easy task. It asks several things of Friends. First of all, we must live our lives in a manner that sets an example. While this can be done household by household, collective action in creating ecologically sound communities that are also viable for the larger society remains a great challenge.

Secondly, the practice of collaborative discernment and decision making that Quakers cultivate should be brought into the public policy arena at every opportunity. Quakers hold to the experience of the Inner Light not only as a spiritual reality, but as a way of informing decision-making process. Decision making that arrives at unity, rather than majority rule, has been long practiced by the Society of Friends, and is precisely what is needed for successful governance of the commons.

And finally, in line with the Quaker insight that the Inner Light created the potential for everyone to manifest the Spirit of God in the world, Friends firmly hold to expectation that people have the potential to choose the common good. But do we proceed with this in mind when we deal with economics and the ecology of the planet? Winning arguments about correctness should be less important than finding the common vision for action that will advance Earth restored. It is this faith in the future, this willingness to continue laboring at the task, and this belief in the inherent goodness of Creation, which leads Quakers to engage the world for radical change, knowing that the outcomes we seek will not come easily, as soon as we might like, or in exactly the way we might envision.

from How on Earth Do We Live Now? , Quaker Institute for the Future Pamphlet 2, by David Ciscel, Barbara Day, Keith Helmuth, Sandra Lewis, and Judy Lumb

Attachment C: Administrative Assistant's Report and Census

My work for SAYMA continues to be fulfilling and interesting. My hours vary month to month, but in keeping track over a year I have found that I now average just over the 53 per month noted in my job description.

1. Directory

A draft of the 2014-2015 directory will be available near the registration table/reading table in lower Gladfelter. Please check your entries and make corrections as needed.

Meetings generally responded well to the request to provide an updated spreadsheet, although some Friends noted how tedious it was to check all the entries this way. Please note that each meeting that commented was checking about 5% of the entries I had to check last year! Most recognized this. Thank you!!

Meetings which have not updated the data in the past two years will not be included in the print copies of the directory. These meetings will be included on the digital and CD editions with a note that the data has not been updated.

A final draft for each meeting will be sent in a week, and the directory will be ready to publish in early July. As always, opportunities request paper copies, CD copies, and digital copies will be widely publicized.

2. Census

The Census has been completed, with all but four meetings reporting. The total reported census dropped 35 Friends back to the 2011 level. I did a quick analysis of the fluctuations over the past 9 years (for which I have reliable records) and determined that a change of about 3% up or down is the average. Thus, this year's loss of 2.8% is within the normal range.

3. Child Safety

Considerable time has been spent setting up procedures for implementing the child protection policy. Procedures and requirements from our background check provider have been modified, forms have been consolidated and improved, and policies have been implemented. Files and master lists have been created. I have worked closely with Jonah McDonald, the SAYF administrative assistant, as well as the SAYMA clerk. There is a need for more volunteer involvement from JYM.

4. Other duties

I monitor the list serves, answer routine emails, forward requested materials to Friends, solicit and distribute State of the Meeting reports, and coordinate hospitality requests for rep meeting with the host meeting. I submit an expense report to the treasurer each month, including all receipts for debit card purchases.

A reminder: All assessment checks, contribution checks, and other accounts payable should be mailed to the SAYMA office, **PO Box 5848, Savannah, GA 31414**. Requests for reimbursement go to the Treasurer. Mail is picked up at least once a week and at most twice a week.

The SAYMA office itself has moved. A guest room is available in West Chatham (Savannah) as well as a day bed in a fabulous sewing room for Friendly visitors.

In service,

Liz Perch

SAYMA Census 2013--Reported June 2014

	Asheville	Athens'	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Foxfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville	
1.a. Recorded members																						
Adults	29	37	176	39	15	0	6	49	25	32	17	5	6	7	8	2	43	48	8	47	64	
under 18	16	9		5	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	1	
Subtotal: Members	45	46	176	44	15	0	6	51	25	33	17	5	6	7	8	2	49	48	8	50	65	
1.b. Attenders																						
Members of another SAYMA meeting	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Members in another Yearly Meeting	3	0	2	3	2	0	0	5	2	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	12	0	10	2	
Not members of RSOF	35	0	116	26	34	1	0	20		10	29	5	3	2	6	11	21	44	3	3	19	
under 18	2	0	50	15	3	0	0	4	0	5	2	0	0	0	5	4	10	18	0	5	5	
Subtotal: Attenders	42	1	168	44	39	3	0	29	3	19	32	5	6	2	13	16	32	76	3	10	26	
TOTAL: Individuals to report to SAYMA	87	47	344	88	54	3	6	80	28	52	49	10	12	9	21	18	81	124	11	60	91	1275
Adults considered inactive	n/a	10	37	14	1	0	2	18	d/c	13	3	0	2	4	4	0	26	8	5	11	32	190
Report to FWCC (Includes PM/WG attenders; NOT members of other YM's)	82	46	342	85	54	1	6	75	25	48	48	10	9	9	19	17	80	110	11	50	89	1216
Reported to FWCC last year	65	32	347	90	25	1	6	89	24	48	54	10	9	19	19	28	81	117	13	85	89	1251
Change	17	14	-5	-5	29	0	0	-14	1	0	-6	0	0	-10	0	-11	-1	-7	-2	-35	0	-35
Members who																						
Attend your meeting	29	25	d/c	30	10		5	21	18	19	12	5	4	3	3	2	17	35	3	34	21	
Attend Worship Group under the care of your meeting	0	n/a	d/c	0	2		0	0	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	n/a				0	
Attend another SAYMA Worship Group	0	n/a	d/c	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	d/k		0		0	
Attend another SAYMA Meeting	0	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	
Attend in another Yearly Meeting	0	n/a	d/c	4	1		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	0	3	6	
Attend in another religious tradition	0	n/a	d/c	1	0		0	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4		2	1	0	
Attend rarely/not at all/don't know	4	n/a	d/c	10	1		0	21	0		0	0	0	3	1	0	16	10	2	12	5	

SAYMA Census 2013--Reported June 2014

	Asheville	Athens	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Foxfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville
2. Count of Events																					
a. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders under care of meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a		0	1	1	0	1	0
b. Marriage/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders NOT under care of meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a		0	0	1	0		0
c. Marriage/commitment ceremonies under care of meeting, non members/attenders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a		0	0	0	0		0
d. births/adoptions	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a		1	0	1	0	2	0
e. Deaths	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	n/a	0	0		0	1	1	0	3	1
f. transfers in	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	0		0	0	0	0	4	0
g. transfers out/withdrawals	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	n/a	0	0		0	1	1	2	2	0
h. new members	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	n/a	0	0		1	3	5	0	2	1
i. new attenders	d/c	12	d/c	2	8	0	2	16	0	7	6	n/a	0	4		3	8		2		5
j stopped attending	d/c	5	d/c	1	3	d/k	2	9	0	1	0	n/a	0	3		0	9	3	0		2
3. Active Meeting Participation																					
Under 12 years old		0	22	7	3			4	0	0	6	0	0		4	9	16	0	8	2	
12-18 years old		0	28	13				5	0	5	2	0	0		0	1	2	0	2	4	
Young adults 19-35 years old		15	22	7				8	0	2	2	0	1		0	5	10	0	1	9	

¹Meeting does not distinguish between members and attenders

PLEASE NOTE: light shaded meetings did not provide new data--2012 data was used. Dark shaded meetings have not provided data since 2011 or earlier

Attachment D: Committee Reports

Finance Committee
Handbook Committee
Ministry and Nurture Committee
Outreach Committee
Peace & Social Concerns
Personnel

Finance Committee

First, I want to thank Charles Schade for his work as the SAYMA treasurer. He has persevered, not just in the basic work of the treasurer, but also in leading us to think more about how we should be spending our money. Largely as a result of his questions on this issue, we have tried this year to get more input about how much we should contribute to wider Quaker organizations. We did this primarily by contacting the SAYMA representatives to those organizations to get their input since those individuals presumably know more about the organizations than most of us. The results were mixed partly because it is somewhat difficult for even those individuals to know what numbers to suggest. We will continue to consider this process and welcome the ideas and concerns of others. As a result of that process there are some modest changes in the draft budget as well as some blank spaces where we received no responses.

We have also requested input from committees about funds to do their work. As you will notice in the draft budget most committees did not request any funding. We hope this means that they do not anticipate having any expenses rather than either not responding or not doing any committee work.

As a reminder of our budgeting process, the current proposal is a draft budget which will be approved at the Fall Representative Meeting so there is still time for additional input and changes in the budget before it becomes final.

The proposed budget for the next fiscal year balances but only because of the addition of a line in the budget showing "withdrawals from reserves." We feel that the addition of this line makes the budgeting process clearer. The Finance Committee has recommended that SAYMA carry reserves of about half the annual budget other than yearly meeting expenses. We now have reserves of at least twice that amount (see the treasurer's report for details) so we feel that we can afford the withdrawal of reserves in the amount indicated to balance the proposed budget. Obviously, this same level of withdrawal cannot continue indefinitely but it is certainly satisfactory for a few years and we have time to consider what to do in the future if our finances continue on the same path.

-Lee Ann Swarm
Clerk, finance committee

Ad Hoc Handbook Committee

The Draft Handbook is currently on the SAYMA web site and is available to officers and committees for review. There was a discussion of whether this committee should become a Standing Committee and that the Handbook no longer be classified as a "Draft". After consideration at Representative Meeting we make the following recommendation:

That a standing committee be formed to maintain and up-date the SAYMA Handbook. This is a record of the operational functions of the committees and individuals to accomplish their assigned tasks for the Yearly Meeting. To that end we make the following recommended charge:

1. That the committee consist of two people plus the Archivist and a representative from current Yearly Meeting planning committee.
2. At least once a year the handbook committee will remind each yearly meeting committee and officers to review Faith and Practice and the Handbook. Asking the following questions:
 - a. Is the current operational description of your work up-to-date and accurate, as you understand it?
 - b. Is there missing information?
 - c. What has become outdated?
 - d. Do any changes need to be brought to Yearly Meeting?
 - e. Will the changes effect the operation of the SAYMA Office?
3. If any changes or additions are needed the Handbook committee will work with the individuals or committees to prepare these changes.
 - a. The additions or corrections will be made, as appropriate, in the SAYMA Office copy of the Handbook and on the SAYMA web site.
 - b. If the changes will affect our Faith and Practice, a note will be kept in a Faith and Practice file in the SAYMA office for reference when and if a Faith and Practice examining committee is appointed.
4. That at each Yearly Meeting the Handbook Committee will report any changes or additions to the Handbook.

Ministry and Nurture Committee

This has been a year of clarification of our responsibilities, growth in the number of members and a look at how we can best serve Monthly Meetings and Worship groups. Clarification of several operational definitions is also being addressed and will be presented to the Representative Meetings or clarified in the SAYMA Handbook.

Our review of the Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting reports gave us a good overview of the Spiritual condition of our meetings but also points out areas where we need to work more closely with communication and nurturing. To this end we have assigned to each member of the committee monthly meetings and worship groups to develop contacts with their Ministry and Nurture committees and possible visits through out the year. (The State of the Yearly Meeting is attached)

What are the needs of our meetings with regard to spiritual nurturing? What problems/concerns do they have and what programs can the Yearly Meeting M&N develop or provide to address these issues. How do we help Monthly Meetings care for the Worship Groups under their care? All information shared during these contacts or visits are held in confidence.

Communication between worship groups, help with religious education and visits by individual Friends are area identified as needing attention. We continue to meet at various Monthly Meetings for our committee work hoping for opportunities to share with the Meeting's Ministry and Nurture committee as well as worship with the Meeting. We currently have funds for committee travel with the hope that our visits would not be a burden on small meetings.

Additional members for the committee representing their monthly meetings are always welcome . The addition of men to serving on this committee would help balance our perspective.

The new information requested on the annual census report with regard to the break down of the ages of our young people was at our request. Just how this information may be used or what it tells us will require further study over the next few years.

Goals for the coming year:

A one day retreat for the committee – nurturing ourselves.

Sponsor at least one workshop at Yearly Meeting in response to the needs expressed by the Monthly Meetings.

Identify gifts our SAYMA members might be willing to share with Monthly Meeting and Worship groups. (a traveling ministry within our yearly meeting)

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association: State of the Yearly Meeting Report to Yearly Meeting, 2014

There is something unique about being a Quaker in the southern part of the United States. We often find ourselves called to be a liberal spiritual oasis in a regional society that reflects differing values. We recognize the necessity of joining together to be a living testimony for peace, equality, and fairness. We know that strengthening our communities feeds us for this work and enables us to join larger efforts for building a healthy, earth-respecting, beloved community.

Eighteen monthly meetings submitted State of the Meeting Reports this year. The largest meeting's report states that it has "insufficient members to fill many vacant committee positions." And one of the smaller meetings states joyfully, "We're still here!" Many of the smaller meetings are strong in Spirit and Community, both in spite of and because of their size. Several meetings have welcomed new babies, and several are coping with the loss of members who have died in the last year, some of whom were founding members of their meeting. Many meetings report welcoming new members (some of whom have been long-time attenders). One meeting lost a few (people move away), and then gained three new families, giving the meeting different strengths.

Community and community building were major themes in most of the reports. The Spirit works among us through all kinds of community building activities, both within the meeting and as outreach to the local and wider communities, both Quaker and civic. These include: midweek extended worship, parlor meetings for home worship, meetings for healing, Friendly bible study and hymn singing, intergenerational retreats, men's luncheons, Quaker bakers, book sharing, spiritual support groups, dream groups, Christmas plays, fund raisers for causes we care about, projects like "adopt a highway," writing groups, secret pals, and shared outside activities like tai chi, hiking, and bicycling. Social justice activities meetings have been involved in include attending Moral Monday events, writing legislators about issues, feeding the hungry, supporting Hope to Home teams and Veterans for Peace and even helping support programs as far away as Africa in which our members are involved. Opportunities for community building can arise when meetings are forced to make decisions about aging meeting houses.

Many meetings send young f/Friends to SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) retreats or host them themselves. Community and Spirit are truly alive among our teens. If they are our future, we are in good shape.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has begun a review of Outreach activities within SAYMA Meetings and Worship Groups. About ¼ of the SAYMA Meetings/Worship Groups have responded.

What amazes is the range of activities Meetings have created to help seekers find Quakerism, or understand/appreciate Quakerism. Often, these MWG's don't classify these activities as being Outreach, because they are not specifically labelled as such. In fact, of course, they are elegant and powerful activities of Outreach.

We invite Friends to join the Outreach Committee and participate in this process of getting to know Outreach activities within SAYMA, and then the subsequent step of disseminating this information to SAYMA MWG's. During the year we have lost one member due to his resigning from his Meeting and from SAYMA and from the Committee, and one member due to non-responsiveness to repeated attempts to contact.

We also urge MWG's to avail themselves of the wonderful resources for starting and strengthening Meetings at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/services/new-meetings-project>. The New Meetings Project is led by Brent Bill, a Quaker Minister with a background in books and conferences aimed at helping deepen spiritual life.

Joyfully submitted,

Hank Fay

Peace and Social Concerns

Near the end of last year's sessions, our Peace and Social Concerns committee of four or five members met to plan how to circulate among our Monthly Meetings the Swannanoa Valley minute calling for a boycott of Israeli products produced in the Occupied Territories. We divided the Meetings and Worship Groups among us and made plans to work with them during the year to encourage seasoning of the minute in preparation for this year's business sessions. But immediately following Yearly Meeting, our convenor resigned and our committee fell apart. I contacted the Meetings on my list and asked them to consider the minute, but I did not know whether anyone else on the committee was engaged in the work. We had no leader and no communication among us.

During the year I learned that the Nominating Committee was working on forming a new Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and I accepted their nomination that I become the new convenor of the Committee. So at this moment, as our 2014 business sessions begin, Friends must decide whether and how we should deal with Swannanoa Valley's minute since our Peace and Social Concerns Committee was not present during the last year to guide its seasoning. We do know that because of Swannanoa Valley's active circulation of the minute and related materials among our Meetings, a number of our Meetings have given the minute careful consideration.

Despite our committee's absence during the year, several of our Meetings have passed minutes related to peace and social concerns and are bringing them forward for SAYMA's consideration. Birmingham Meeting has minuted a request that our Peace and Social Concerns Committee encourage Monthly Meetings to study FCNL's new document Shared Security; Birmingham has a special concern that we focus on the issue of the unchecked war-making powers granted to the President following 9/11, powers which remain in effect. Berea Meeting has minuted their support of a fair wage campaign aimed at raising

the salaries of workers who pick tomatoes; this concern was brought to them by the young people in Berea Meeting who learned of the campaign on a recent visit to Atlanta.

Clearly we are ready and eager for Nominating Committee to help us form a SAYMA Peace and Social Concern Committee which will be active during the coming year, and hopefully even during this yearly meeting.

Bob Welsh, Convenor-to-be

Personnel Committee

With the resignation of the SAYMA assistant clerk, who serves as clerk of the personnel committee, the SAYMA clerk began serving as interim clerk of the Personnel Committee in the Spring 2014.

The only action taken by the Personnel Committee has been approval of a cost of living raise for the two SAYMA employees. This recommendation has been sent to SAYMA's Finance Committee.

The SAYMA clerk, as supervisor of SAYMA's Administrative Assistant, completed the evaluation of Liz Perch and rated her performance as excellent.

(by carol nickle)

Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

American Friends Service Committee
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Quaker House
Right Sharing of World Resources

American Friend Service Committee

March 6-8 of this year, Friends Lee Ann Swarm, Free Polazzo and Arnold Karr represented Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) at the annual meeting of the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Philadelphia, PA. On balance, we were favorably impressed by the programs and the staff with whom we had contact.

The staff members we met are clearly impassioned about their work and committed to doing good things in a good way. The programs were dynamic, engaging and focused on local situations. Of course, what we saw was no doubt a presentation of the best AFSC has to offer, but it was also clear that, as a wider Quaker organization, the responsibility to instill Friends' process and values in staff to whom the way of Friends may seem strange, even counter-intuitive, is taken very seriously.

Most impressive and compelling was the spirit of worship that infused the entire weekend's proceedings – not only of the Corporation, which is entirely composed of Friends – but of the Board of Directors in its meeting of March 9. Would that all Meetings of Friends were so gathered. That AFSC does not require its staff to follow the faith and practice of Friends is not an abandonment of its Quaker roots; rather, it follows the example of early Friends who might well have said, with the prophet of Islam, that in religion there can be no compulsion.

As one of the principal representatives of Friends to the wider world, AFSC manifests a commitment to bridging the gap between Friends and our fellows everywhere. We would exhort those Friends of SAYMA who believe AFSC has ceased functioning as a Quaker organization to reflect that one can only answer that of God in those to whom one attends with mutual love and respect. We are not ashamed to call ourselves Friends, but neither may we grasp at the name as a badge of superiority. The surest way to effect the change we oppose is to arrogate to ourselves the role of defenders of the faith and judges of our fellow workers.

WE RECOMMEND that, at the least, SAYMA continue its past support of AFSC, both financial and collegial, and hope that, as the Spirit leads, we shall walk more cheerfully with them in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Swarm, West Knoxville
Free Polazzo, Atlanta
Arnold Karr, Columbia

AFSC Report to SAYMA, Presented by Lucy Duncan

Here is an excerpt from Shan Cretin's letter which opens the latest issue of QuakerAction:

“Bayard Rustin lived with remarkable integrity – he never hid the fact that he was gay, never bowed to the judgments others made about his sexuality. He said, ‘My activism did not spring from my

being gay, or, for that matter, from my being black. Rather, it is rooted fundamentally in my Quaker upbringing and the values that were instilled in me by my grandparents who reared me. Those values are based on the concept of a single human family and the belief that all members of that family are equal.’

Rustin lived the life he did because he was Quaker. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), though including people of many faiths and of none, does what it does because it is Quaker. Our work embodies principles that arise from Quaker faith. When we enter a community, we listen first before we take action. We meet people where they are, and we are led by the people with whom we work because we see that of God in each of them. We understand that personal circumstances arise within larger systems, so we work on multiple levels. We seek heart change, community change, policy change, and system change, knowing that peace and justice depend on harmony at all levels. Our experience has confirmed the power of love to transform lives – not just the lives of those with whom we work, but our own.

In every community, we encounter people like Bayard Rustin, letting their lives speak and inspiring others to take risks in the belief that together, we can create just and lasting peace.”

Please read *Quaker Action* (available in the display area) and take a look at Acting in Faith, www.afsc.org/friends, and the AFSC website, www.afsc.org, to find many stories about AFSC’s work. We recently launched a new key issues section of the website, which has many resources about the work that we do and that can support you in working on issues in your own community. Kamau Franklin has been appointed the new South Regional Director and I hope he will be able to visit SAYMA next year.

I wanted to tell a story about the AFSC Quaker Meeting/Church liaison program and invite you to join in. There have been two liaisons, John and Gail Fletcher, from Norman, Oklahoma Friends Meeting who have been working with AFSC since the inception of the program in 2011. They have been on program calls, taken the workshop AFSC offered at the FGC Gathering on mass incarceration last year, they have come to the Corporation and participated in our workshops on healing justice. Norman, Oklahoma Meeting has been focused on working to end mass incarceration for several years. They have a booth they take to community events to raise awareness and have worked at the state level to shift policy.

Their yearly meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting, has had an interest in prison concerns for several years. They have prison worship groups and have done some AVP work. Gail and John and others decided to bring the concern to the yearly meeting and worked with AFSC as a support and resource for doing so. Their main plenary speaker was Lewis Webb, who works for AFSC and is the organizer of New York’s Campaign to end the New Jim Crow. The yearly meeting threaded the theme throughout their sessions, with multiple workshops on the issue, Lewis’ plenary and deliberations on the floor of business session. They created a working group at the yearly meeting level to carry the work forward. It has become a primary spiritual commitment of the yearly meeting and has gathered them together in holy work.

This is an image of the vision for the AFSC Liaison program. Working together mutually, what might we accomplish? What if 10-15 yearly meetings were all focused on the concern of mass incarceration? What impact might we have. What if 10-15 yearly meetings were focused on the concern of creating peace with justice in Israel-Palestine ? What an impact we might have. What if 10-15 yearly meetings were focused on immigrant justice? What an impact we might have. What if all yearly meetings in the United States were focused on shifting the narrative of militarism toward a narrative of shared security? What an impact we might have.

We invite you to join the AFSC Meeting/Church liaison program and discover what AFSC and SAYMA might accomplish together. The benefits are not only the work itself, but the spiritual unity and connectedness that arise from the work.

As John Fletcher says in a recent blog post he wrote for Acting in Faith, “Does the spirit drive the work, or the work feed the spirit--or are they one?”

Friends Committee on National Legislation

We are pleased that Maiya Zwerling, Middle East Policy Program Assistant for FCNL is visiting our gathering this year. We hope that Friends will take this opportunity to speak with her, in particular about opportunities for moving forward non-violently in Iran, Syria and Israel/Palestine.

As your SAYMA Representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, we attended the sessions of FCNL’s annual meeting in Washington, DC, November 14-17. The theme: Driven By Faith, Grounded in Policy, Focused on the Future. After much prayerful process, we developed and approved a new Policy Statement to direct the work of FCNL – the first in a decade. This coming November we will be travelling to Washington again, to finalize FCNL’s legislative priorities for the 2015-2016 sessions of Congress.

The new Policy Statement is available here: <http://fcnl.org/about/govern/policy/>

In the past year, FCNL has worked zealously on a number of urgent issues. Some highlights: joining a multi-faith coalition to demand action on campaign finance reform, averting war with Iran and Syria, partnering with diverse groups to find new approaches to global climate disruption, and the repeal of the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) which has provided the legal basis for permanent global warfare, weaponized drones, and indefinite military detention. Please see the attached 2013-2014 Program Report for additional campaigns and details. Friends wanting to work on these or other legislative actions, you can find abundant resources for the citizen lobbyist at the FCNL website: **www.fcnl.org** . Please visit, learn, and take action.

We also want to bring to your attention **Shared Security: Reimagining US Foreign Policy**, a joint working paper from FCNL and AFSC. Seeking to look beyond *War Is Not The Answer*, Shared Security is a vision of nations acting on recognition of mutual security and natural resource needs. As a result, responsibility for international security is decentralized and cooperative instead of resting on the shoulders of a small number of competing adversaries. The four pillars of Shared Security are: peaceful ends through peaceful means, global cooperation and rule of law, planetary imperative and restorative approaches to heal a broken world. *Learn more at Workshop #8 on Friday!*

For an organization approaching its 75th anniversary, FCNL’s endowment is quite modest: only \$3.5 million – most of which is earmarked for the Education Fund. Through its five-year, **\$15 million Capital Campaign**, FCNL hopes to add \$9 million to the endowment and develop the 205 C Street property into meeting and living space. This campaign is in addition to the Annual Fund, which is projected to remain on a path of steady growth. The endowment enhancement will provide reliable long-term funding for young adult programs, the Friend in Washington program, in addition to lobbying.

The first year of the Capital Campaign has ended, with over \$6 million (40% of goal) raised from leadership gifts. The second year will be focused on obtaining 100% participation from General Committee members. The public phase of the Campaign will begin in 2015. Contributions from monthly and yearly meetings will be solicited in 2016. We urge each of SAYMA’s constituent meetings and worship groups to think and plan for a special Capital Campaign contribution to FCNL at that time. **We urge SAYMA itself to**

keep this campaign in mind when doing budget planning. *Note that once a Capital Campaign pledge has been made, the donor will have five years to fulfill that pledge, allowing for more substantial gifts.*

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hiles (Birmingham) and Charlie Wilton (Berea)



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FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

... a Quaker lobby in the public interest

2013-2014 Program Report to Yearly Meetings

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. For more than 70 years, FCNL has carried on this witness of the Spirit through action on Capitol Hill. Governed by a General Committee of 184 Friends that includes representatives of 25 yearly meetings and seven Quaker organizations around the country, FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital.

Driven by faith.

At FCNL's Annual Meeting in November 2013, the General Committee approved a new statement of legislative policy entitled *The World We Seek*. Revised every ten years, the new document was the product of an 18-month process of prayerful discernment involving more than 240 Friends meetings and churches. The statement sets forth FCNL's broad objectives for public policy and is the foundational document for FCNL's legislative priorities, which are set every two years. Meetings and churches have been invited to participate in setting the new legislative priorities, which will be approved at Annual Meeting this November, just after the congressional elections.

Grounded in policy.

In 2013 FCNL welcomed a record 271 people to our Annual Meeting. During Quaker Lobby Day prior to the start of Annual Meeting, 200 people visited 140 congressional offices to urge Congress to invest in our communities and impose budget discipline on the Pentagon. In the last year alone, Friends in FCNL have made more than 300 personal visits to lobby congressional offices in Washington and in their local districts. Our national FCNL network has also sent 126,000 issue-related messages to Congress, and in the first two months of 2014, Friends in FCNL published 60 letters to the editor in newspapers around the country.

Focused on the future.

A record number of young adults attended FCNL's Annual Meeting, providing energy, innovation and leadership for the future of Quaker advocacy. As I write this report, FCNL is preparing to host Spring Lobby Weekend, at which more than 150 high school and college students from around the country will learn, through skill building and policy seminars, about Quakers and government, public policy advocacy and how Congress works. This year our young adults will be lobbying Congress for repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force. By creating opportunities for young people to engage in peace

and social justice policy during the formative years of their lives, FCNL is ensuring that Friends' values will help shape public policy for years to come.

We are thankful for the meetings and churches, yearly meetings and individuals who provide FCNL with sustained and vital support. We are convinced by our faith and experience to continue building the peaceful, just, equitable and sustainable global community we seek. Above all, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.

DeAnne Butterfield, Clerk
FCNL General Committee, March 2014

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war
We seek a society with equity and justice for all
We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled
We seek an earth restored

FCNL's staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of thousands of people to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, care for the earth and good government. The following is a list of some of the issues that have been the focus of our work in 2013-2014:

Words into Action in Central African Republic: FCNL played a behind-the-scenes leadership role in connecting on-the-ground relief groups and conflict prevention experts with members of Congress and the administration. FCNL coordinated and drafted a policy document signed by nine colleague organizations urging a comprehensive U.S. government strategy to address the violence in the Central African Republic. The document was used by FCNL staff, who worked closely with the administration to help form the White House response to this ongoing crisis.

Campaign Finance: Last month, the 18 faith communities of the Faith and Democracy Working Group, including Quakers, sent a letter to Congress urging support for a Constitutional amendment to repair the damage done by the Citizens United case. FCNL co-convened the group that last fall finished brief reports on three topical areas where money in politics has skewed or prevented congressional debate on issues of importance to faith groups. The selected topics were climate change, gun violence and private prisons.

Hope for Averting War: FCNL's persistent and strategic lobbying on Capitol Hill has helped keep the door open for diplomacy with Iran. The historic first-step nuclear deal with Iran is significant movement toward a final agreement to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. FCNL lobbyists in Washington have worked closely with administration officials and congressional offices to support negotiations with Iran. Grassroots advocates have been in regular contact with members of Congress to support these steps toward peace and security in the Middle East. We believe that these new diplomatic talks are the best opportunity in more than 30 years to end the cycle of confrontation between our countries.

Advocating for Rebalanced Federal Budget Priorities: The FCNL community worked very hard on the \$850 billion reduction in Pentagon spending over 10 years that Congress approved. Yet the military budget is still far too bloated at a time when funds for necessary domestic programs are dwindling. We continue to press assertively for better budget priorities that serve human and community needs.

A New Approach to Climate Disruption: FCNL is partnering with faith, citizen, diversity and youth communities on the local, state and national level to ask elected representatives to acknowledge the reality and impact of climate disruption as a moral issue. FCNL advances the shared concern for and commitment to Creation and lifts the voices of people of faith, young people and people from communities directly affected by climate disruption. Through this lens of a shared future, the initiative strives to minimize partisanship and create political space for meaningful legislative solutions.

Repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF): We have the best opportunity in more than 12 years to roll back the law that has kept our country in an endless war since 2001. Passed immediately after the 9/11 attacks, the AUMF has been used to justify not only the war in Afghanistan but also everything from indefinite detentions at Guantanamo Bay, to a growing number of drone attacks, to widespread warrantless wiretapping. This year we are working hard to repeal the AUMF in the House through intensive Hill lobbying and a focused mobilization around the country.

Friends World Committee for Consultation-Section of the Americas

Geeta Jyothi McGahey and Michael Galovic

In a departure from the tradition of holding an annual meeting every March, the Section of the Americas offered four open consultations between February and April 2014 in High Point, NC, Sacramento, CA, El Salvador and Bolivia. Continuing with the theme *"Let the Living Water Flow! Friends serving God's purposes"*, all four conferences offered workshops for Friends to develop our intercultural communication skills for intra-Quaker dialogue and our everyday lives, and for supporting Quaker leadership in the 21st century. In High Point, there was a session on conflict resolution. All were weekend-long, residential conferences that included worship, plenary addresses and small group discussion. Each consultation featured intervisitation by Friends from outside the area and country. At the program in High Point, NC, Michael Galovic and Geeta Jyothi McGahey attended as SAYMA reps, and Tim Lamm, clerk of FWCC Nominating Committee, also attended. Rachel Weir came as an invited interpreter and did a lovely job in translation into English of the First Day message during the joint worship with High Point Friends Church.

These consultations helped Friends to:

- learn new skills from one another to sustain and grow our meetings;
- affirm our mutual Quaker identity;
- consider the future of Friends as a whole over the next century;
- commit to practices to foster a thriving Religious Society of Friends.

Ashley M. Wilcox, a member and recorded minister of Freedom Friends Church in Salem, Oregon, and a graduate of the School of the Spirit Ministry's program "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" class of 2011, gave a heartfelt and bridge-building opening talk.. She as well as many other young adult Friends provided leadership during the sessions.

We had the opportunity to share with Indiana Friends about the pain of their meetings' separation from Western Yearly Meeting and formation of the New Association of Friends. Friends from Wilmington Yearly Meeting are hoping to avoid a similar schism. Piedmont Friends fellowship is in the process of becoming a yearly meeting. We wished that there was more balance in participation---probably two-thirds of those in attendance were from liberal unprogrammed Yearly Meetings.

Noteworthy is the increased effort of the Section of the Americas to bring Latin American Friends into leadership and full participation in section activities. Other programs of FWCC include the youth pilgrimage and the WQF/Voices of Friends.

FWCC has a new schedule:

- International representative meetings every four years – Next in Arequipa, Peru in 2016 (Formerly known as the FWCC Triennial)
- Section of the Americas representative meetings every two years – March 2015 in Mexico City

FOR ACTION: SAYMA is entitled to three representatives for International meetings, five for Americas Section. **We encourage our YM to appoint at least three, similar to our number for FGC and AFSC.** Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

Quaker House

Lynn and Steve Newsom, Directors

During this last year at Quaker House, we sponsored many activities and programs to reach out to the Fayetteville and Ft. Bragg communities; worked to build bridges and establish connections within the military; established a Domestic Violence Victims' Support Program for military related; counseled active military service members, AWOL service members, and veterans; traveled to present programs at many Meetings, churches, and conferences; wrote articles for newspapers and magazines; developed presentations for children; and sponsored or co-sponsored peace and social justice events.

Forums we sponsored included the subjects of human trafficking, drones (featuring Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink), torture, and domestic violence. The Baptist Peacemakers of North America came to Quaker House for a "Friendship Tour," and we were featured in their newsletter.

We attend Chaplains' Meetings at Ft. Bragg and the chaplains came to visit Quaker House for the first time in our history. We are members of 4 groups that are alliances of community and military members: Community Blueprint, Behavioral Health Professionals Association, the North Carolina Spiritual Wellness Alliance, and the Bragg Region Behavioral Healthcare Collaboration Meeting.

We continue to work with QUIT (the Quaker Initiative to End Torture) and North Carolina Stop Torture Now to work against torture and for accountability. We created postcards supporting John Kiriakou and sent postcards to Senators Burr and Feinstein and President Obama to release the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report on torture. We were co-sponsors of a vigil outside Senator Burr's office. NC Stop Torture Now has been credited with being most influential in getting the report approved to be released. John Kiriakou has offered to do a fundraiser for Quaker House after he is released.

Our counselors, Lenore Yarger and Steve Woolford, continue to be very busy with soldiers who need help. There is an increase in Conscientious Objection applicants and soldiers who are being released involuntarily from the military on incorrect charges such as "personality disorder" when they actually have PTSD and/or TBI. Such less than honorable discharges strip soldiers and their families from vital medical and mental health benefits. We are blessed to have a psychiatrist who volunteers her time to diagnose these soldiers correctly. Steve and Lenore have been contacted by the media for information on these cases. We are helping many service members receive the medical benefits they deserve.

We continue to offer Mindfulness classes which are helpful to soldiers suffering from PTSD and TBI and their spouses. We also continue to host music concerts and jams which attract diverse community and military members.

Our Alternatives to Violence Project training included military and Veteran's Association social workers and a chaplain. The Ft. Bragg Family Advocacy program director sent out the information on it to all the social workers on base. The North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina asked to co-sponsor these trainings and provide CEU's. We believe we now have enough people trained in AVP to have the first successful program in North Carolina.

Our Domestic Violence Victims' Support Program provided counseling to many victims, several of whom come regularly each week for therapy. Our therapist, Joanna, attends events in the civilian and military communities to speak about our program and raise awareness about issues of domestic violence in the military. She and Lynn were interviewed on a local radio station. The interview can be heard on our website.

We co-sponsored with the North Carolina Council of Churches, many churches, veterans and mental health organizations, a 2 day conference in Raleigh titled, "Carolina Soul Repair Journey: Recovering from Moral Injury after War." This was the first conference on this important issue in the Eastern United States. The VA is now recognizing moral injury as a type of PTSD, which will hopefully open new doors for us in our work to help service members get Conscientious Objection status. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, co-author of the book Soul Repair and founding Co-Director of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School in Texas, was the featured speaker. Quaker House was the registrar and fiscal agent for the conference, so everyone who registered used our website. Since the conference, Lynn developed a presentation on Moral Injury and has been asked by Army OneSource to give this presentation throughout the state.

It has been a very busy, but extremely rewarding, year. Our new connections with military personnel are very valuable and helpful. We feel that we are able to support more effectively our wounded service members at a time when they badly need our help. We are committed to reaching out to the larger Quaker community as well as other faith communities to help others understand the struggles and pain that our service members, veterans and their families are suffering. We believe that faith communities need to minister to them and help them heal in spirit as well as body. "That of God" in them has been damaged by the 12 years of the war machine; we need to help them recover their Spirits.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

This year, when we gathered for our Steering Committee meeting in Chicago, two questions were asked as the foundation of how we might be evaluating our work as an organization.

How are we serving Spirit?

How are we serving one another?

This past year QEW reaffirmed its original purpose statement. It roughly outlines the focus of our work and it will inform us as we select our specific actions. It is these actions that will define us to the world beyond. It is in support of these actions that we will seek donations. It is up to us to be true to our definition of "contemplative action". We are responsible to promote what we are accomplishing, to lift our bushel and reveal the Light of our work, our Light.

The Purpose of QEW

To search and to help others to search for that life which affirms the unity of all creation.

To apply and to help others to apply Friends' practice to live in deep communion with all life spirit.

To be guided by and to help others to be guided by the light within us to participate in the healing of the earth.

To provide resources, networking, and support to yearly and monthly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends, and to others of whatever persuasion; to help them in their search for effective ways to achieve the above objectives.

To provide a reflective and energetic forum that will strengthen and deepen that spiritual unity with nature which values the integrity, diversity, and continuity of life on earth.

The term “contemplative action” comes from a tri-fold that was produced last year and sent to all members of the QEW family as part of our fundraiser appeal. A lot of work went into that document and we as an organization are still in the process of discerning how it will inform our work. It can have great meaning for Friends as they look to take their faith into effective action in the world.

One of the things that we are working on how we might respond to Charles Schade’s article in Friend’s Journal that speaks to organizations being clear about what they are raising funds for, how the money will be spent and lastly a follow up on how successful was the outcome of the action/program that raised the funds. This information could then be promoted to a wider audience.

As we answer these questions we will begin to know how we can be serving each other better and in turn with a renewed clarity we will be able to serve spirit better also.

Roy Taylor
Clerk and SAYMA Representative to QEW

Right Sharing of World Resources

Submitted by Karen terHorst Morris, SAYMA rep to RSWR

(Much of this report is based on the history and recent newsletters of RSWR, as found on their website.)
“God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burdens of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God’s love, to work for equity through partnership with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.” RSWR Mission Statement

Right Sharing of world Resources (RSWR) was formed in 1967 to carry out the intention of a Minute approved at the Fourth World Conference of Friends of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Guilford College, North Carolina in the same year. The title of the Minute, “People Food, and the Sharing of Resources – A Vision of the Future” appealed to Friends worldwide to contribute 1% of their income or that of their organization toward right sharing. RSWR soon became a committee of Friends World Committee for Consultation and developed plans to use the funds in countries experiencing extreme poverty. Recognizing that most of the world lives in poverty, this appeal was also aimed at increasing the general awareness among Friends that they needed personally to address the inequity of wealth in the world. By 1999, RSWR had organized into a board-governed non-profit with 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status as we know it today.

RSWR projects are led in 3 countries, Sierra Leone, Kenya and southern India by field staff in each country. Through a Board-approved process micro-loans are awarded to women, many of whom earn less than one dollar/day, to begin or sustain their own businesses. The projects must be income generating, improve the quality of life for the community and follow three funding principles, be sustainable in a variety of ways, such as environmentally, economically, fiscally, and socially, be locally-based and self-reliant, and be governed by a group which offers support and accountability to its members.

The most recent newsletter describes conditions in Sierra Leone, which is one of the poorest countries in the world. General Secretary, Betty Tonsing, and Board member, Chris Siegler, write about their visit and changes that will be made between RSWR and the women of Sierra Leone through the convening of a National Advisory Committee to go beyond economics, and support full educational, political and cultural equality.

The first page of the website reports that Betty Tonsing, who visited SAYMA last year, has resigned and a search is underway to fill the position. Check the site for an announcement of the opening and deadline for applications. The recent June blog reports that the Board is looking to implement a new impact assessment and accountability process for evaluating its projects, one that relies on more than anecdotal records of project participants or RSWR visitors.

Attachment F: State of the Meeting Reports

- ❖ Asheville
- ❖ Athens
- ❖ Atlanta
- ❖ Berea
- ❖ Birmingham
- ❖ Boone
- ❖ Brevard
- ❖ Celo
- ❖ Charleston
- ❖ Chattanooga
- ❖ Cookeville
- ❖ Crossville
- ❖ Greenville
- ❖ Huntsville
- ❖ Memphis
- ❖ Nashville
- ❖ Oxford
- ❖ Swannanoa Valley
- ❖ West Knoxville

Asheville

Our Meeting continues to experience robust attendance on First Days. We have welcomed a baby, Cormac Johnson, saw Friend Gita Larsen officially transfer her membership to our AFM, and welcomed long-time attender Alan Robinson as an official member. Our community was sad to lose longtime member Virginia Redfield, and we held a memorial for her in the fall. We have seen an increase in attendance by youngish Friends, singles and couples with young children, many of whom join us for 9:30 a.m. pre-Meeting singing. The latter group uses the combination library / nursery (space created last year, signage added this year), as well as space with childcare in our upstairs area. Our Meeting often shares meals together, and the Hospitality Committee ensures that we have snacks after rise of Meeting for Worship. We were also excited to change from a Meetinghouse landline to a Google number, and we plan to move the bulk of our financial assets from a bank to a credit union. AFM was also able to provide hospitality for SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) and high school aged students from New Garden Friends School.

Religious Education Friends have been busy with our annual Secret Pal gift exchange, with over 40 intergenerational participants this year. We have held two youngish Friends events, and held our annual intergenerational Youth Celebration cookout in May. Our First Day School has benefited from the participation of both RE members and weekly volunteers from the larger Meeting, which has proven beneficial to all. The Youth Group (middle and high school students) meets bi-monthly, with regular attendance of 2-6 young people. Their recent activities have focused on interviewing Meeting attenders about their spiritual and larger lives. Our youth and adults have participated in various SAYF retreats throughout our region.

The House and Grounds Committee has been active in improving our Meetinghouse property. They have organized bimonthly work days (6 total) on the property, bringing the larger group into active participation in this important work. In addition, two of the First Day School classroom doors have been outfitted with windows as a child-safety measure, landscaping has been added, and porch furniture has been painted. Ministry and Counsel meets monthly and is confident that our Meeting continues to be strong and Spirit-filled. The quality of our worship continues to be a strength of our meeting. We have gifted ministers among us and still often have completely silent meetings for worship. This year, we sent a member to the Pendle Hill Clerking Workshop.

Peace and Earth has sponsored letter-writing opportunities at the rise of Meeting, participated in the International Day of Peace, is supporting the work of Veterans for Peace, and joined a group of local faith groups in asking our power company to close its coal-fired power plant (as part of the “Beyond Coal Initiative”). With the help of others in our Meeting, Peace and Earth has continued to contribute on a quarterly basis to the Sunday morning breakfast at Pritchard Park for Asheville's hungry population. Our Meeting also has a Hope to Home team, supporting a woman as she transitions from homelessness to

permanent housing. Our Hope to Home person reports that this is the first time in 8 years that she has had stable housing, and that having a place to live has allowed her to begin searching for employment. Finally, we provided housing for members of the National Conference of War Tax Resisters (May 2013).

Our Meeting has sponsored activities of one of our attenders, Stephanie Gossett, a Peace Corps volunteer now working in Swaziland. In December 2013, Friends approved fully funding the Vusumnotfo Reading Project in Swaziland, a project to provide a home for the several thousands of books that have already been donated to promote a love of reading and learning among Swazi youth. Over \$6000 was given.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee, in keeping with its stated mission, nourished adult spiritual sharing and growth in our meeting. They have sponsored second hour discussions on Quakerism, as seen through the pages of the new Guide to Our Faith and Practice.

Our year was not without challenges. Our meeting spent considerable spiritual and emotional energy in a matter that forced us to consider how to compassionately uphold our boundaries. This took up much time in Meeting for Business, and was the focus of committee work as well.

We are looking forward to 2014; with the many contributions of members and attenders we expect to continue our growth in Spirit and in numbers.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Maynard Lane and Jen Rhode Ward, co-Clerks of Asheville Friends Meeting

Athens

In reflecting over 2013, we feel a strong sense of individuals connecting to one another through their personal lives. By sharing joys, sorrows, and other experiences, we've grown as individuals and as a Meeting community throughout the year.

As a small Meeting, averaging eight people attending each week, Meeting size affects us both positively and negatively. As a small group, we are able to get to know one another well through discussions, potlucks, and group activities. The "second hour" reflective discussions we schedule each week, which follow silent worship, provide a wonderful atmosphere for sharing our experiences (the heart of Quaker process). During this time, people have felt comfortable sharing from the heart knowing that fellow seekers will listen and reflect. This has allowed us to discuss issues that may cause contention in other religious groups, e.g., What does the Light within mean, whether a theist or non-theist attender?; What makes us Quaker?; What is the role of clerks and committees?; The Peace Testimony and military drones. As you can see from the short list of topics shared here, we discuss topics of the spirit, of Quaker process, and of political nature, among others. Each discussion encourages personal and Meeting growth.

As a group, in 2013 we supported the Athens Human Rights Festival, a local childcare organization and an education organization, the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Madison County Bands, and some local families by providing Christmas gifts and food baskets. We were also neighborly and helped Casa de Amistad, with whom we share physical meeting space, with their Latino music and arts festival and by participating in one of their fundraiser dinners. Additionally, individuals participated in activities such as MLK and Trayvon Martin rallies that occurred in Athens. Discussions in 2013 about Compassionate Cities and the Charter for Compassion led us to sign the Charter for Compassion (<http://charterforcompassion.org/>) in January of 2014.

We've heard comments from people that have attended other Meetings that the average attender age of people in the Athens Meeting (more college/professional attenders than retired attenders) may help

provide energy for our small Meeting to be as active as we have been (we don't distinguish between "Members" and "attenders," so "attenders" refers to all who participate in Meeting). We rely on "committees of one" to volunteer to open/close the Meeting building on Sundays, keep up with birthday cards for attenders, provide First Day activities when the need arises, and organize second hour activities, as well as individuals that act as treasurer and clerk. We feel as if Meeting spirit grew stronger throughout the year, especially as we interacted with a number of new attenders and visitors. We averaged one new visitor a month, and were excited to have folks that moved to Athens become regular attenders – which enriched our Meeting by adding the experience of Friends from other Meetings and by bringing international perspectives as well.

We continue to discuss appropriate methods for outreach; currently, we continue to rely on our website, road sign, Facebook page, campus map, newspaper second hour notices, and public activities (while wearing Meeting t-shirts) as our main ways advertising (see t-shirt logo at end of report). The website seems to be the way most people find our Meeting, and we are happy with how updates to the website this past year have made it more reflective of who we are as a Meeting (athensga.quaker.org). We have been a bit frustrated that Quaker.org is "down" often and we are unable to access the website (which we also use to post our activities calendar), especially since our website is the way most people find out about our Meeting.

To meet Meeting needs, we have an ongoing discussion about our schedule and format, modifying our Meeting time and activities depending upon the sense of the Meeting. For example, this past year we did not do any singing prior to silent worship unless we had children that came for First Day school. Additionally, later in the year we also began Meeting an hour later, at 10:30 am, in the hopes that it would encourage people who are use to Athens' late night lifestyle to be more apt to attend; the success of this change is still to be determined. In 2013 we had very few weekends where children attended, which decreased our preparedness for First Day School. In fact, we may have lost out on families attending Meeting because we didn't have a vibrant First Day program (a downside of being a small Meeting).

In summary, while we have had ups and downs, as we assume every Meeting does, overall, our spirits seem lifted by the trust we have in one another, which allows us to be open and grow from our shared experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Lang, Clerk
Athens Religious Society of Friends
Athens, Georgia

Atlanta

We have felt a deepening in the quality of worship in our gathered body this year. We continue to struggle to find the right balance between the disciplines of preparation and promptness and the desire to be welcoming and sensitive to the many demands our members feel. We are encouraged that Friends are participating in a variety of small group activities during the week - spiritual nurture groups, Bible study, singing before worship, mid-week meetings and the Adult First Day program – which provide opportunities for us to "know each other in that which is eternal." We provide opportunities monthly for Friends to share their spiritual journeys and have found both the delivery and the listening to be a rich and intimate experience. Clearness committees continue to flourish in our community and we anticipate continued education on their use and spiritual nature.

We have experienced great richness in the last year as leadings for new ministries have emerged in our community. We are experimenting with ways to support and recognize these ministries more formally so

that they may deepen in faithfulness. We are encouraged both by Friends who take up new ministries as well as those who sensitively lay down those ministries for which the call has ebbed.

In seeking to treasure the spiritual richness, we have struggled as a community to balance the desire to share through announcements the many activities of our meeting with the desire to sustain the deep spiritual centeredness of our worship. We are experimenting with new practices to serve our community.

AFM was pleased to welcome three Friends into membership (one by transfer) in 2013. In addition, we approved two Friends' requests to be sojourning members of AFM while they are away from their home meetings and worshipping with us. We were also blessed with the birth of two new babies into our community.

The Care and Counsel Committee (C&C) had 10 committed members, which made their tasks manageable. They greatly enjoyed a half-day retreat early in the year at which they shared personal journeys and set priorities for the year.

Recognizing those who have contributed to our Meeting was an important theme. C&C presented beautiful cards to persons who played significant roles in fostering the Meeting in its early years. These cards contained a beautifully designed text expressing appreciation for the role these "pioneers" played in creating the Meeting we share today. In addition, they contacted persons whom we had not seen for a while and one member promptly followed up with newcomers who signed our list. The Meeting also prepared and approved a "Minute of Recognition and Appreciation of Service," to acknowledge all those who share their gifts with the Meeting in formal roles.

To better coordinate care concerns, C&C updated its list of care volunteers. They also designated a monthly point person to receive requests for assistance from the Meeting community, sometimes addressing the requests directly and other times with assistance from others on the committee or persons who expressed willingness to help.

C&C presented a forum on financial planning and elder law and began planning for future forums on other topics related to the elder years. The committee also managed "Friendly 8s" groups.

C&C, with the Ministry and Worship Committee, helped to arrange memorial services for long-time AFM member Janet Ferguson; for Don DeBra, husband of long term attender, Dee DeBra and father of Elizabeth DeBra; and for Elva Mae Stanley Moore, the mother of attender Kelli Moore.

Quaker Quest was a wonderful experience for our community in 2012, and from it we have further deepened our connections with one another and continued to be enriched by new attenders. As we seek to invite and encourage the participation of newcomers, we are keenly aware of our continuing need to help these new friends develop an understanding of our faith community and a deepening sense of belonging.

We completed the first year of Quaker Voluntary Service volunteers in our community. We actively nurtured the seven volunteers in the program and were enriched by their presence within the Meeting. Fortunately, many of them have stayed in Atlanta and continue to be active in the community. We are now enjoying the presence of the second year's volunteers who are working in the larger community and participating in the life of the Meeting.

This year, the high school class noticeably increased in size, nearly exponentially at some points. We came to have a shortage of drivers to SAYF retreats, and all volunteers were lovingly accepted and appreciated. Their classes mostly had queries or discussion topics themed on sexuality, retreat planning,

views on drugs/alcohol, and spirituality in relation to their friends, family and daily lives. Early in 2014, they will host a SAYF retreat at AFM, and begin to volunteer occasionally to do the First Day volunteer jobs for the Meeting.

In response to concerns for the wellbeing of all children who participate in the life of the Meeting and to assure compliance with new State laws on child protection, AFM approved Guidelines for Child Safety. The job responsibilities for the Young Friends Coordinator were revised to include clear leadership in protecting all our children.

The spiritual life of the Meeting was further enhanced through our annual Gathered Meeting Retreat. Fifty adults and 15 children attended; the theme was "Playing in the Spirit." Further, we held a Couple Enrichment weekend retreat to nurture spiritually the bonds between committed couples in the Meeting.

To bridge differences in language and worship style, meeting attenders from the U.S. and Burundi prepared a 142-page spiral-bound booklet of hymns and carols in English and Kirundi, Burundian Friends' first language. We find common ground and individual meaning in singing before meeting for worship or carol singing at Christmas when each person can sing the same hymn in his or her own language.

Living the testimony of equality remains an important spiritual concern for AFM. In 2013, the Meeting reinvigorated its efforts to undo racism through supporting personal change, making AFM a more welcoming spiritual home for all, and addressing racism in our society. Through our discernment, we formed Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE), which replaces Our Roles as Individuals in America's Racial History (ORAIARH) and works in tandem with the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). We held an "Understanding Racism through Understanding White Privilege" workshop and the Adult First Day group discussed the pamphlet, *Living Our Testimony of Equality: A White Friend's Experience*. QRE also staffed a weekly literature table on issues related to racial equality, and once a month offered a Listening Ear for concerns about racism. QRE committee members gave a workshop at the Southern Appalachian Young Friends retreat and offered Religious Education classes on equality and justice for our middle school Friends. QRE also surveyed young friends to select listeners and developed guidelines for offering a Listening Ear for Youth.

In the area of societal change, racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has been the main focus. QRE and the AFM Prison Reform group co-sponsored a half-day introductory workshop on the Alternatives to Violence Project, which has been used successfully with prisoners and youth. Members of QRE also participated in the New Jim Crow Action Group. Our action goals are to end mass incarceration, racial bias in the justice system, and barriers to reintegrating into the community. We feel renewed by joining with others in striving to make racial equality a reality in our personal lives, faith community, and society.

On a larger scale, at the behest of Green Friends the Meeting approved signing on to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-justice that emerged from the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya. Green Friends continued significant involvement with like-minded community groups focused on urgent climate change issues. Four Friends went to Washington, DC to be part of the National Climate Rally protesting the XL Pipeline. A number of Green Friends worked monthly with Citizens Climate Lobby pressing for strong measures to promote clean energy rapidly with legislation enacting a revenue neutral carbon tax on fossil fuels. This strong concern has been shared with AFM Friends over several years.

A quest for spreading work among us has brought heartening results with new young activists joining the Committee. Though Green Friends wishes it could reach out to more Friends and others with Earthcare concerns, the feeling of the group continues positive and strong.

AFM continued to be challenged with finding sufficient Friends who felt led to serve in the many roles we have created to meet the needs of the Meeting. The Nominating Committee stayed busy throughout 2013. Its work also included writing or revising position descriptions where changes in roles and responsibilities had occurred.

An ad hoc committee brought to Social Concerns the Israeli-Palestine Minute from SAYMA (presented by Swannanoa Monthly Meeting) calling for the boycotting of goods produced by Israeli corporations on Palestinian lands. The ad hoc committee presented the Minute at a Meeting for Worship for Business, which asked for more deliberation by the whole community. The ad hoc committee worked to thoroughly consider and clarify the Minute and then approved it in committee. When the Minute was discussed again at an open forum, it was clear that there was not unity on the Minute. When this was reported back to the Meeting, an invitation was made for someone who felt led to facilitate further discussion and search for a way forward.

In October a group of nine SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee members met for a weekend at AFM. Hosts were found so that each had a bed for one or two nights. On Saturday, refreshments and lunch were provided by the Hospitality Committee. Some of the hosts joined the group for dinner at a nearby restaurant. The SAYMA Committee minuted its appreciation for being warmly welcomed and well cared for. We were also enriched as we hosted Rachel Bewley-Bateman, the FWCC clerk for the Europe and Middle East Section.

The Administration Committee focused on developing solutions to a more complex organization and addressing situations brought on by the larger number of attenders and the increased use of our physical space. We are increasingly a resource to our neighborhood and rent our space to a variety of organizations and educational programs. We are dedicated to equality and the non-judgmental use of our space. In part, the expanded use has led to increased complexity in our finances, which in turn led to the decision to hire a part-time bookkeeper.

The Administration Committee is dealing with the maturity of the physical plant and grounds. The positive side of growth is that we have more resources to distribute, as we discern our stewardship of the existing physical plant. We remain mindful that the day-to-day maintenance of our space is also a spiritual journey. We need to be prepared to move promptly to care for our building, our renters' spaces and our own spaces, so that the spiritual and practical needs of all meetinghouse users can be met in an efficient and respectful manner.

The Ferguson Cabin Committee finished building the new Cabin with the hard work and financial support of many Friends. To this end the Committee conducted several successful fundraisers. After much deliberation, the addition was christened "Irene" in honor of Irene Ferguson. Once declared complete, an open house was held to introduce "Irene" to the Meeting. The new cabin was well received, and now having the relative luxury of an in-house half bathroom in addition to a full bathroom (with hot shower!) located in the ground floor and accessible from outside, the facility was rented by 77 people (individuals and groups) throughout the year. In addition, the other structures, land, and dock were maintained and improved through Friends' efforts and still more financial support.

The Atlanta Friends Meeting is blessed by the abundant gifts of its many members and attenders. These gifts give vibrance to our Religious Education programs for children and adults, to the work of our various committees that attend to the life of the Meeting and meetinghouse, and to our work in the larger community. We are further blessed that AFM staff are skillful and dedicated in caring for their particular responsibilities, which helps the Meeting operate more effectively and lightens the load for many volunteers.

Even so, Friends continue to feel that they are stretched too thin, and as a result, there are insufficient members to fill many vacant committee positions. Additionally there are insufficient numbers of volunteers to help with weekly tasks, religious education, and hospitality. The Meeting may need to thoughtfully consider the long-term sustainability of the many obligations that have been undertaken. There is a sense that because there is so much going on simultaneously that our busyness reduces our spiritual center and reduces our genuine connections, particularly with newcomers.

We aspire to be a welcoming spiritual home for all and there is a deep desire to faithfully discern a spirit-led path toward making this an ever increasing reality.

Berea

Berea Friends Meeting continues to be a spiritually healthy and dynamic community of seekers. We regularly welcome between five and seven children, between five and seven teenagers, and between fifteen and twenty adults at Meeting for Worship. Visitors frequently join us. The participation of new regular attenders in all aspects of Meeting life invigorates and energizes us. We have frequent First Hour discussion sessions that are well attended and which provide fertile soil in preparation for Worship.

We have seen some changes in our community this year. Several Friends have returned and reinvigorated their participation in the life of the Meeting. But sadly Nancy Lee-Riffe, a cherished member of our community who had recently relocated to Texas to be near one of her sons, passed away. Her family asked the Meeting to host her memorial ceremony this summer. Many of her friends and family traveled great distances to attend.

Our group of teenagers remains dynamic as well, with one graduating and moving on to college, and a younger brother joining the community. They continue to cherish their participation with Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) retreats and there is new energy among the adults to participate more deeply in those experiences as drivers and Friendly Adult Nurturers (FANs).

Early in the year, we hosted our biannual Visioning Retreat at which we reevaluated the priorities and possibilities we see for the Meeting for the next two years. Our analysis indicated that approximately 50 adults, teens, and youth regularly participate in the life of the Meeting. Of these, the vast majority of those who can contribute do so in important ways – either through participation on committees, actively nurturing the community, or contributing monetarily. We identified several priorities including:

- Being visible in Berea and Kentucky as Quakers around peace and social justice issues;
- Increasing attendance;
- Sharing the value of spiritual listening with the community (beginning with educating ourselves on conflict resolution and forgiveness);
- Fostering intergenerational relationships between adults & teens, and older & younger teens;
- Developing a sustainable financial plan; and
- Continuing maintenance of the Meetinghouse.

We have made significant progress on several of these priorities, but have yet to discern how to make progress on others.

Our Outreach Committee participated in the annual “God on the Quad” event for new students on the Berea College campus. During the fall, we hosted a meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) nominating committee. Also this year, we finally accomplished a goal that had been in place for some time – we purchased a banner to display when we are hosting a booth at a public event or when we are marching in support of a concern. Plans are being formed to continue with discussions

and activities related to helping individuals articulate who we are as Quakers and how to address questions from other seekers about Quaker beliefs and practices.

While our spiritual focus continues to be primarily inward, we have begun to take more outward steps. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee organizes letter writing at our monthly potlucks, and are experiencing success building relationships with our local, state, and national elected officials. In line with this, the committee has worked to reenergize the Quaker Committee on Kentucky Legislation (QCKL). They have also spoken out in favor of a local fairness ordinance and have organized a panel discussion at the Berea Public Library entitled "Not in our Names: Victims' Families Speak Out Against the Death Penalty" at which several members of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty shared their experiences and perspectives. Consequent to our lobbying efforts, one of our state legislators has decided to cosponsor a bill to abolish the death penalty in the state.

And yet in spite of this energy and engagement, our budget continues to fluctuate. We continue to struggle to realize a budget that can support our local community and wider Quaker organizations. While these are temporal matters, they impact our spiritual lives and continue to present spiritual challenges for us. We have continued to make significant headway on our large projects, however, by finishing the work to replace our HVAC system and repainting the roof. We are beginning a process of reflection, attempting to discern if we want to invest in an elevator so the Meeting room can be moved upstairs. This discussion encompasses many other aspects of the Meeting, both spiritual and practical.

We value many long-cherished aspects of our meeting: the opportunity to worship regularly in a space where mind and body can be still, a home where we can experience our Quaker identity, a safe and welcoming community committed to listening, discerning, and seeking unity, and our vibrant youth program which models problem solving and respect for self and others. We actively nurture a community that provides gentle correction and guidance.

We walk together on a journey illumined by The Light, striving to support and nurture each other on that path. We work to share the value of spiritual listening with those both inside and outside the community, and to serve as examples of what we believe by living what we believe.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Saderholm
Clerk, Berea Friends Meeting

Birmingham

How has the spirit moved in your meeting during the past year? From the looks of the meetinghouse parking lot on Sunday mornings, it is evident that attendance has increased. But what is going on in the meeting for worship? Comments from new attenders and familiar tell the story: "I had an 'Aha' moment." "I have achieved clarity through Friends." "The environment is non-judgmental. I have felt brave enough to express my opinions." "I appreciate the models I have found for how to live according to Quaker values." During 2013, we joyfully celebrated the approval of a new member. Due to the number of new attenders, we read "Letters to a Young Seeker" by Steve Chase.

Perhaps inspired by an in-depth study of mysticism, Quaker mysticism, and the Gnostic Gospels, augmented by Quaker Quest and mystical poetry, Friends engaged in energetic and heartfelt discussions on their own beliefs and questions, how they arrived at what they believe, what is firm, what is open for further searching. There has been an abundance of new vibrancy and deep sharing. Our two young children are being introduced to a First Day curriculum and are taught by many eager volunteers. We welcome the children to meeting during the last ten minutes, after which they share with the adults what

they have done during the first hour.

Other second hour discussions have focused on local social concerns. We have learned about ACLU activities in Birmingham, research on health services by the Jefferson County Health Department, tutoring programs in local schools, the Birmingham Human Rights Coalition, and a new youth shelter project.

Some of our outreach activities include participation in Alabama ARISE (a legislative advocacy group), volunteering with Greater Birmingham Ministries, supporting a concert sponsored by PFLAG at a local college, and being a sponsor of a public awareness program on BESA, a code of honor deeply rooted in Albanian culture and incorporated in the faith of Albanian Muslims. This program told the story of the Albanian Muslims who rescued Jews during World War II. Our members also attended rallies and events related Martin Luther King Day, the death penalty, and predatory lending practices. We donate the amount of our real estate assessment to our neighborhood school. We are also active in WQOs: AFSC, FCNL, and several positions in SAYMA.

Our community life during the week is strengthened through Simple Suppers held once a month, a book discussion group, a film series during the summer, and periodic work days to maintain the house and grounds.

We have responded with care and assistance to those who face ongoing health challenges, and hold in the Light other members with family and other concerns.

The big event for us as a meeting was the All Alabama Friends Gathering held at Royal Worship Group in Blountsville, in September. Friends from Royal, Huntsville, Montgomery and Birmingham met on a very rainy day for get-acquainted activities, worship sharing on how it feels to be a Quaker in Alabama, a discussion on ecological concerns, and excellent food. The day ended with a damp scavenger hunt, a tour of the Common Ground Community there, and fond memories of the day. We will do this again.

As we look toward the coming year, one specific challenge may be space. We smile when we say this. Our growing edge is to keep the living spirit flowing in us, and to expand our visibility in. Part of that process includes strengthening the children's program. A First Day School volunteer said: "Young people challenge us and we shepherd them."

Connie LaMonte, Clerk 2013
Birmingham Friends Meeting

Boone

Boone Friends is still meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sanctuary, First Day 1:00 pm. A core of four or five Friends attend on a regular basis. Discussions are continuing as to how to increase attendance. These will continue over the summer focusing on publicity and creating a Quaker presence in Boone.

A pleasant surprise was the creation of a Quaker student club on the campus of Appalachian State University, "SPICE Quaker Student Community". This was accomplished solely by a group of Quaker students from diverse Quaker backgrounds in North Carolina. SPICE is committed to worship, service and activism around the Quaker testimonies. The major event of the semester was attendance of four students at Friends Committee on National Legislation's Young Adult Spring Lobby Weekend. John Geary is the faculty adviser and Judy and John attend most of the meetings on campus. Tommy Wrenn, First Friends Greensboro, and a graduating senior at ASU has

been chosen to work as an intern for FCNL for the coming year. Planning has started for the next academic year.

Brevard

As in years past, we continue to meet every First Day at College Walk Retirement Center.

While adult forums continues to be an important spiritual and intellectual focus of our Meeting, we have recently decided again to use an organized format for our discussions where everyone reads the same material. We have begun by reading FCG pamphlets.

A significant event in the past year was the death of Frances Kind, our senior member, at age 104 and ten months. While Francis had not been able to attend Meeting with us for many years she was present in the hearts of all attendees who have known her.

This year our Meeting suffered the loss of some half dozen attendees through moves or attrition, including our longtime recording Clerk and our Treasurer. This loss was balanced by the appearance of three Quaker families, from other Meetings, who have joined us. These new attendees have brought a vitality and energy which has enhanced the spirit of our Meetings. Attendees have stepped forward to fill the posts of Recording Clerk and Treasurer since we know that in a small meeting such as ours everyone must play a role to assure our continuance.

One notable morning at adult forum our first Annual Christmas Carol Sing was led by one of the new attendees with expertise on the piano. Everyone had a lovely time singing the traditional carols, and we are looking forward to next year's sing.

One of the attendees who moved was the editor of our newsletter. We are presently in discussions to revive the newsletter with a new format.

Since we are, in the main, an elderly group, pastoral care has been in the past and continues to be, an important aspect of our Meeting. Our attendees have * are and special help to those in need due to medical problems.

There have been no weddings, no births, and one death throughout the year.

In summary, our Meeting continues to be a deep spiritual reservoir from which all members and attendees find refreshment and renewal.

/s/ Richard Zelman
Clerk
Brevard Friends Meeting

Celo

The life of Celo Friends Meeting continues to spring from our silent worship on First Day mornings. We continue to provide a spiritual center for our community. A core of members and regular attenders is often augmented by visitors passing through, seasonal residents, and local neighbors who appreciate the chance to occasionally join in silent worship. The committee for Ministry and Care has helped to deepen the worship experience by preparing a query to be presented at the beginning of silent worship, once each month. This query often leads to vocal ministry. Other ministry this year has included a memorial service and a wedding. We take turns for monthly "parlor meetings" with some of our older members who are home bound. At the suggestion of some of our new attenders we tried offering an extended worship day, on a Saturday. This provided a chance for a longer worship period and a worship time at a different point

in the week. It also included a silent meal. This was appreciated by many in our community who don't usually attend on First Day morning. We have had one Spanish speaking only family attend occasionally. Having a long time attender with skills in simultaneous interpretation has led us to experiment with providing interpretation of vocal ministry. We are still seeking the best way to provide interpretation without disrupting the worship experience of others.

Our program for children continues to be a major part of the outreach of Celo Meeting. Thanks largely to one devoted Friend, we offer an enriching lesson each First Day for a steady but varying group of children who attend. This often includes a nature walk and learning to sit quietly in nature. Seasonally, larger events are planned that draw in many more children and their families. They included a Valentine's food drive, an Earth Day trash pickup, and a petting zoo and burrito lunch fundraiser for Heifer International. The most successful this year was a Christmas play fundraiser that raised money for the local charity Feed-a-Child that provides take-home food packages for children in the schools. There is a strong core group of teens that have been participating in SAYF. They are mostly students from Arthur Morgan School. The most recent SAYF retreat in Atlanta called them to unite in making the world a better place by marching for Fair Food. They are getting excited to host a retreat here in Celo in April 2014.

The Arthur Morgan School is a boarding school for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. It has a long connection to Celo Meeting and was founded on many Quaker principles. After many years of deliberation, the school is in a discernment process to decide whether to formally associate with other Friends schools through Friends Council on Education. Several members of our meeting are participating in this discernment.

Celo Meeting doesn't have a standing committee for peace and social concerns. We have found our best path is to support individual members in pursuing their leadings to be active on issues they feel strongly about. This year members of the Meeting joined with AMS students and staff for the largest historic climate rally in Washington in February 2013. We marched sequentially with IMAC and Quaker Earthcare Witness. Two of our members joined the week-long March for Our Grandchildren from Harper's Ferry to the White House in July. It was conceived by elders from Asheville as a means to awaken the government to the imminent dangers of climate change and stir the President to action in preserving a livable world for our grandchildren. Members of Celo Meeting have been active in getting a local branch of the NAACP organized and have attended Moral Monday gatherings locally and statewide to protest recent legislation concerning health care, education, and voting rights.

Internationally we continue to support education and human rights projects in Africa where two of our members have visited. We send financial support to the Samburu Education Project "Nurturing Knowledge". A Kenyan meal was served at the Charlotte Friends Meeting, with help from Charlotte Friends. This event raised enough money to fund the project through the current year. One of our members is in regular contact with the young women receiving scholarships as well as with the Friends Pastor coordinating the project. Another member traveled to Mutaho Burundi to join a work camp sponsored by the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams. After the workcamp she traveled to Kigali Rwanda for an international training in HROC, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities. Her hosts, the Evangelical Friends, have developed and used the HROC workshops as a necessary tool in trauma healing and community development.

We have continued to be led to respond to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice. One response is a Bible study group that has formed using [Say to This Mountain](#) as a study guide for the book of Mark. The Adult Education committee worked with a member and her clearness committee to develop a game on Samburu culture to be part of fundraising events for education projects in Africa. Recognizing that Celo Meeting has new attenders since our event on basic Quakerism, the Adult Education committee decided to focus on the testimonies in the spring of 2013. We covered Integrity and Community. Ministry and Care committee and a monthly worship-sharing group coordinated queries to cover the same topics during

this time. Adult Education is exploring ways to hold an event focusing on membership. It is a challenge to plan an event that will attract newer attenders but also be meaningful to seasoned Friends who are the majority of the participants. A recent successful event was a program called Conversations on Quakerism. It was based on the concentric circles game from Quaker Quest and was adapted for our smaller group including some with hearing difficulties.

We continue to enjoy the worship space and fellowship building that we completed several years ago. There were several maintenance and improvement projects that required our attention in 2013. Along with a new load of gravel, we needed to buy a vacuum cleaner, a wood rack, and replace a furnace. Two large dead trees were taken down. We finally retired our auxiliary sanitary facility (AKA outhouse) for safety reasons and await construction of its replacement. The loveliest improvement was the addition of a beautiful cherry mantel on the Meeting House chimney that was fashioned from locally harvested wood. It was installed just in time to be adorned with Christmas greenery.

Approved at a special called meeting for business, March 23, 2014.

Co-Clerks, Gib Barrus George Brasington

Charleston

How does the Spirit fare among you? In meeting for worship?

Silence is an important and central part of our worship as it connects us with the Spirit. Spoken messages are not frequent, but heartfelt and thoughtful when they occur. More individual Friends are discovering the gift of ministry, whether it be a spoken message in Meeting or a quiet word with a Friend in need. A second channel for worship is our periodic worship sharing, which helps develop our capacity for ministry while allowing us to reflect and share deeply about our individual spiritual journeys. During 2013, topics included integrity, love, and finding Light in times of darkness.

In meeting for business and committee work?

Our Meetings for Business can be prolonged, but this is a good thing because our involvement strengthens our sense of community. Everyone is willing to serve in some capacity on committee work, which further binds us as a Meeting. The number of Friends at Meeting for Business is not appreciably different from attendance at Meeting for Worship, suggesting Friends take satisfaction in laboring together on spiritual housework.

Among other business addressed at length this year was Charleston's endowment, money gathered over the years originally to support purchasing a meeting house. We decided in a previous year that we would invest some of the endowment in charitable work, and this year decided to invest the remainder in socially responsible mutual funds while we decide additional good works to support. The decision to spend some of the endowment has been both a blessing and a disappointment for some. We are an aging group, and divesting the endowment indicates that we don't foresee the future need for a meetinghouse, as our efforts at outreach have not yielded many new or younger people. On the other hand, it feels good to be able to contribute to various groups in the world, country, and community that help others.

We spent considerable time and energy planning for the annual West Virginia Friends Gathering. At one point, nearly everyone in the meeting was involved, from site selection to program planning. Although the Gathering fell later in the fall than usual due to logistical issues and cost more than it has in previous years, the theme of reconciliation resonated with many Friends and attendance (36) was over 1/3 greater than the prior year.

In building the blessed community within the meeting?

2013 was a difficult year for many of our members and attenders. Two experienced serious illness and needed prayer and practical support. The aging of our membership has increased the likelihood of infirmity in all of us; we see it as an opportunity to be of service to each other. We have accepted that challenge and look forward to continuing to be able to do that. Deaths and illnesses in family members and close friends outside the meeting provided additional occasions for offering comfort and love. Sometimes all we can do is hold one another in the Light in the face of mysteries we can't understand; sometimes that is enough.

We build our community through group activities including second hour discussions, potlucks, Bible study, and book club. This year we completed discussing *Exploring Quakerism*, a Friends General Conference resource, and began reading John Woolman's journal. We admire his ability to live consistently with his leadings, listen thoughtfully, and minister lovingly. In Bible Study, we finished reading Ecclesiastes, studied Paul's letter to the Galatians, read favorite psalms and psalms we'd never encountered, and started the Apocrypha with readings from Maccabees. Our group study is enriched with multiple translations and participants who can share Greek and Hebrew texts, etymology, archeology, and Biblical history. One common remark in our group is paraphrased as "So *that's* where that came from!" as we discover more and more the origins of Biblical influence on our lives and culture.

Our community is less rich because of the absence of children, both ours and our children's. We rejoice whenever one or more of our wandering youth comes for a visit, and delight in tales of accomplishments, whether it's a new job, a completed education, or finding a place to live with more opportunity. We are content seeing that the circle is truly unbroken as we watch our children becoming parents and their children becoming little people. We welcomed three babies into that extended circle this year. New life blooms in the spaces of those who are gone.

In witness and outreach to the broader community?

We are a small meeting. We do what we are able through an active Peace and Social Justice Committee. Each year we produce a dinner for a local men's shelter on Super Bowl Sunday. We provide a home cooked breakfast and Christmas gifts for residents of a women's shelter. We adopt a family and help the parents share Christmas with their children.

Charleston is very pleased with the growth and development of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) programs in our state. More than 20 years ago, our meeting helped establish the West Virginia Economic Justice Project, which provides support for struggling communities and individuals in the harsh economic climate of this state. We continue as a program committee, offering guidance, support, and person power to the various activities, and we have taken on a support role for the rejuvenated Appalachian Center for Equality that is working to encourage and empower youth in southern West Virginia. We view this association as a potential model for other Friends Meetings wishing to have first hand knowledge of and direct involvement in AFSC work. One of our members has recently been appointed to the Board of the AFSC Southern Region, further strengthening these vital ties.

In addition, we have supported the Friends Committee on National Legislation by thoughtfully reviewing proposed FCNL legislative policy during an extended discussion. We financially support our host organization (the Religious Committee for Community Restoration) and other charitable groups in our community and among the wider Quaker community. This year, we added support for the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund as a result of information and inspiration two members brought back from SAYMA.

Finally, we continued our consideration of various forms of outreach, sending two Friends to a Quaker Quest retreat, experimenting with newspaper advertising and evaluating the impact on website traffic, and updating our visitors brochure in an effort to be as welcoming as we can.

In what ways has your Meeting found to support both the individual and Meeting in seeking Truth?

We have a well-established but less well used tradition of providing financial support to Friends who want to study at Pendle Hill, the Quaker retreat in the Philadelphia area. We encourage and support Friends who are led to participate in other wider Quaker activities; this year we have supported Friends' participation in Quaker Quest, as noted above. We have hosted SAYMA committees in the past, and hope to host a Representative Meeting in the future; we have scholarship funds available for Friends to attend SAYMA.

This past year, we have had less contact with the Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group, under our care, than we would have liked, though they were well represented at the Friends Gathering and have an active presence in SAYMA. We hope to remedy that with at least one visit in the near future.

Probably the most important way we support both the individual and Meeting in seeking Truth is simply by being a community. We are small, we are getting older, but we care for and support one another.

Approved at Meeting for Business
9 February, 2014

Chattanooga

For Chattanooga Monthly Meeting, the year has been a year of consolidation, with few new ventures, some turmoil, steady attendance, and some concern about the meeting's ability to maintain its aging meetinghouse—the latter a challenge to members' spiritual and financial commitments.

Attendance has remained unchanged, averaging about 15 to 22 people at Sunday worship. First Day School has stabilized with numbers ranging sometimes from two to five, and we easily found an enthusiastic teacher. With the benefit of our "Helping Fund," established in January by an anonymous person who started it with \$10,000, we were able to assist two regulars meet their financial needs. The Memorial Garden Committee has taken a more active role. We lost a committed couple, still not formally resigned, but others have started attending. Second Hours have revitalized somewhat with challenging topics like a series on the testimonies, race relations in Chattanooga, and how to deal with conflict within the meeting; likewise, we gave some attention to how each person might assist in maintaining a worshipful atmosphere in meetings for worship. We contracted for the painting on our meetinghouse and replacing some southern exposed outside window frames. We added our meeting to a listing of Tennessee churches that welcome all persons, including homosexuals.

We have struggled to find ways to sensitively confront and handle behavioral problems and styles, especially when borderlines between acceptable and unacceptable are not always starkly obvious; our active Ministry and Oversight Committee tries to handle these in a Quakerly fashion. On most Sundays ministry during worship seems to be elevating and led by God's spirit; those who attend occasionally find themselves emotionally moved—even to the point of tears—by the testimonies offered. Still as a meeting we have not been moved to put the fullness of these experiences into actions in the broader world. Our periodic and continuing concern with outreach often leads to an awareness of our small meeting's lack of outside involvement, something we generally recognize as having to grow out of a deep spiritual commitment ultimately nourished by our meetings for worship. We anxiously look forward to capturing such a vision.

Cookeville

We are few in number, yet we still feel the Spirit among us. We occasionally enjoy visitors. Vocal ministry is rare. We remain conscious of those of us who have passed on and miss their presence.

We seek the Spirit in meetings for worship with a concern for business, which are usually peaceful and productive. We usually find ourselves of one mind on issues.

We continue reaching out in the community. We participated at what we hope will be the first annual ecumenical picnic of progressive churches in Cookeville. Individuals among us support various community organizations such as PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), SOCM (Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment), and the Tennessee Equality Project (an advocacy group for the FLGTB community). One of us is a stalwart at the High School peace alternatives (to military service) table, visits prisons to help counsel death row or maximum security inmates, and has appeared on national media as a spokesman for forgiveness.

One of us has very limited financial resources. We have been helping explore possibilities for public support and health insurance. Another of us has suffered a serious accident and been confined to hospital, rehabilitation center, and assisted living. We have been visiting and helping to arrange his affairs.

We have recently volunteered as a meeting to adopt a section of heavily-travelled roadway in town, and have cleaned up litter along it. We continue to monitor and empty the recycling bins at the Wesley Foundation, where we rent meeting space.

Our annual retreat is scheduled for February. This year the focus will be on revival of the Spirit in our Meeting and in our lives.

In an effort to reach more young people and encourage them to think about peace issues, we have expanded our third Peace contest this year to include many of the visual arts and other written forms beside essays. We have opened the contest to all students of high school age. Prizes have been significantly augmented by contributions from several other Cookeville churches and Veterans for Peace. We have named this year's contest after Deanna Nipp-Kientz in honor of her commitment to peace. We hope the contest proves to be an effective ecumenical outreach in the community, especially among youth.

We miss young people in our meeting. We believe our practice and testimonies should appeal to them, but so far we have not experienced much success reaching and holding young people. We continue to derive strength from each other, however, and explore ways to listen to and support our leadings of the Spirit.

Crossville

Crossville Friends Meeting has chosen to change the location of its activities from the former location of the Meetinghouse on Hood Drive to a more central location in Crossville: Common Ground on 4th Street. Although we still have an average of six to eight attending Meeting for Worship, there is a strong bond among us which sustains us despite the paucity of our numbers. We enjoy the potluck dinner which follows our monthly business meetings, and treasure the tradition of our annual Easter weekend retreat to a cabin at Cumberland Mountain State Park.

At this point, commitments of individual lives and medical challenges preclude our active outreach for new members, although we continue to live out of our convictions on a daily basis. Sharing our experiences of this is often the stuff of our weekly discussions. We continue to deepen our connections with Spirit and with each other, often with a generous dash of humor – the levity adding to our ability to weather the trials and tribulations of daily life with thanksgiving and joy. The comfort and courage that our connections

afford help us to not feel so alone as we face these turbulent times from our “peculiar” persuasions and perspectives. We know there are many like-minded souls in our world, and we feel solidarity with them wherever they may be – often leading us to ask “How can we keep from singing?”

Jeff Strain, Clerk
Susan Stark, Assistant Clerk

Greenville

We continue our internal growth as a small meeting with responsibilities for leadership and fulfillment of purpose shared as evenly as human endeavor gifted by merciful inspiration will allow.

A meeting small in numbers we gather for worship in “The Meeting Room” on the ground floor of Daniel Chapel, on the campus of Furman University, where we enjoy both setting and facilities in the stillness and quiet of greater silence.

This year we welcomed one attender of long-standing into membership. He and his wife currently also co-clerk of the Palmetto Friends Gathering, a yearly statewide meeting hosted by Columbia Friends at the Columbia Friends Meeting House. Into sojourning membership from The Atlanta Meeting has come yet another Friend. General attendance has been supplemented by visitors, both local and regional, including seekers, guests, and Friends.

We aim to greet and welcome stranger and guest in both new and customary ways: - through the construction of a website, now underway, with the assistance of the Friends General Conference, together with the creation of a Facebook page, but through the use of guestbook and printed descriptive as well.

Of note the following we remember:-

The budget for this year increased our contributions by 100% while giving has remained stable and unchanged.

Furman University senior sociology major (and occasional visitor) Carrie Seigler presented her study-away experience in Africa with a focus on poverty and economic development. Out of her experience she offered insight of a bright spirit into the lives of her hosts and into her own life, comparing those of rural poverty and isolation and urban achievement.

We celebrated the ninetieth birthday of Friend Bertie Cooper by participating in her family get-together and in the careful way we found words to express our devotion to the pattern and example she set us.

We supported the involvement of Friend Scott Henderson in the work of social justice, including his talk this spring “McCarthyism, the Cold War, and the Politics of Sexual Orientation” at Greenville’s Warehouse Theatre.

At the invitation of Swannanoa Valley Friends we have begun a study of the Kairos Document and watched/discussed the DVD “Life in Occupied Palestine”.

Through the power of gentle suggestion by Furman professor of studio art who became our guest we began to look at conventional meanings of the light,- its expression and structure, our apprehension and acknowledgement of it, through the life and work of Quaker artist James Turrell, and also, within our daily use.

We have begun a study “Holding One Another in The Light” authored by Marcelle Martin, on the illuminating and healing qualities of prayer. We continue to meet with our one family with children once a month and shall endeavor to strengthen the bond of religious education between us and these two ten year olds in unified and uplifting activity to which all may contribute wholeheartedly.

A recent Pendle Hill interview quotes Marcelle Martin as saying this:-

“Someone said that there are two kinds of prayer: “Help!” and “Thank you.” I would say there are three: “Help!” “Thank you,” and “Here I am.” All of them are part of my prayer life and my practice in meeting for worship. I call the third kind “Here I am,” because that’s what the Hebrew prophets said when God called them. It’s about offering ourselves for God’s purposes. It’s about offering our whole self—not just our minds, but also our bodies, our feelings, how we live, everything.”

For Our Meeting

Janet Reddy, Scott Henderson, Denny Webster, Alan Johnson, Laura Townes, Tom Fallaw

Huntsville

This year, our meeting reached a carefully seasoned and difficult decision to remain in our current location. Our Treasurer provided us with budgetary information, allowing us to make a realistic and hopeful decision to renew our lease. As we worked through this decision, we felt spirit moving through us, nurturing our community.

Many Friends have contributed to the movement of spirit and vitality of our meeting:

- We are thankful for the nominating committee’s work, which led to the Meeting’s approval of a new Meeting House coordinator; Library Coordinator; Finance Committee clerk; new member of the Earthcare Witness Committee; and a new position for our meeting, the AFSC contact person, who updates the meeting about AFSC activities and ways we can be involved. For the first time in 7 years, we have a new clerk and a newly-formed Clerk Support Committee, which has provided caring support and gentle guidance for the new clerk. A minute of deep appreciation was passed for the former clerk’s faithful, good-humored, deeply caring, and long service.
- Because we are a small meeting, members often serve for a protracted period. These additions and updates permit dedicated, long-serving Friends a reprieve from service they have long energetically attended to and allow those Friends to pursue other areas of interest within our Meeting. We are indebted to Friends who have served long term in HAFM positions.
- The Friends’ First Day School (FDS) committee encouraged intergenerational activities this year. We all look forward to this connection among Friends of all ages. Led by young Friends and the FDS committee, we have acted out the testimonies, sung Christmas carols, and made stone soup.
- The FDS committee reallocated spaces in our meeting house to accommodate young Friends of varying ages.
- We have welcomed several new attendees amongst us, including more children and added one new member through a clearness committee process.
- Spirit moved one member to adopt a homeless neighborhood cat, who had graced our Meetings for Worship with her outside entreaties for shelter. Subsequently, our landlady gave us one month of free rent for providing a home for the cat now know as Spice. (This month of rent provided a Cat Scholarship for the clerk to attend a Pendle Hill workshop on Clerking with Confidence and Joy.)

- The Ministry and Nurture (M&N) Committee embraced new members this year and has met frequently to plan multiple ways to meet the needs of Friends and encourage movement of Spirit among us.
 - M&N led us in Friendly Bible Study (FBS) once a month for the last year. Members greatly value our FBS and appreciate the skilled leadership M&N provides for us.
 - M&N began a new Friendly Nurture Ministry providing spiritual nurturing and listening support to Friends one-on-one.
 - HAFM Clerk and M&N provided a “second hour” using the Pendle Hill Pamphlet “Spiritual Hospitality.”

In reach:

- Several members participated in the local “Eco-Film Festival,” promoted by the Earthcare Witness Committee.
- Several members have attended wider Quaker events this year.
 - Some attended a Nashville Friends Retreat and a HAFM group participated in the the Alabama Quaker Gathering at Common Ground.
 - The Meeting sent the new clerk to a Pendle Hill workshop, “Clerking with Confidence and Joy” led by Arthur Larabee. The clerk was nourished by this workshop and has gratefully used what she learned to add to the nourishing process present in this Meeting.
- We formed an ad hoc planning committee to host SAYMA Representatives’ Meeting to prepare for our first time hosting this gathering in March 2014.

Outreach

- Our Meeting held an Open House on August 11, 2013, inviting those living around our meeting house to join us for refreshments and conversation. Though we had few visitors, the process of planning and implementing this event created greater community within our Meeting.
- Friends welcomed a *Huntsville Times* writer who experienced a meeting and Friendly Bible Study with us, and who then wrote a wonderful article about Huntsville Area Friends in the newspaper. This article increased our Huntsville profile and brought one new attender to our meetings.
- Several members have attended Huntsville City’s Inclusive Communities Initiative meetings. A member has become part of the Compassionate Huntsville Organizing Committee.
- Our Meeting swiftly determined we needed to offer support to local homeless individuals during the extremely cold winter. In unbelievably short (for Friends) amount of time our Meeting agreed to donate a sum of money and members volunteered to deliver goods and money to the Rose of Sharon.
- A member spoke about Quaker Testimonies to the local “Knowledge-Sharing Forum,” a group comprised primarily of Hindu and Muslim members of the Huntsville community.
- HAFM began a Facebook page in 2013.

Memphis

Gathering to consider our annual State of the Meeting report, Memphis Friends had fun watching the music video “What Does the Fox Say?” and its Quaker version, “What’s George Fox Say”? The clerk hula hooped along with “George Fox,” then offered these queries: “What do Memphis Friends say? How has the Spirit led us in 2014?”

A Friend who sojourns with two meetings said, “A spirit of friendliness and connection abides among Memphis friends.” Indeed, in last year’s report we set an intention to focus on hospitality. How has the Spirit led us outwardly into the community, guiding our hospitality to strangers? Friends have led a series of Meetings for Learning to explore issues of diversity and community life. We hosted FWCC’s Living Waters workshop, and found that it taught a surprisingly simple Quaker approach: lead from the heart, not just the head. The workshop helped us develop more wisdom to follow our real leadings, discerning and growing our leadings with passion and life-giving spirit. When we faced two upsetting break-ins to the meetinghouse, we dealt with them in light of this ongoing conversation.

Food issues have been close to our hearts this year. For some time, we have been contributing food and money to the nearby United Methodist Neighborhood Center. This year, we followed the leading of one Friend to purchase two refrigerator/freezers for the organization. Friends were excited to step up their donations of food and other items. Meanwhile, one of our young couples used the meeting house as a distribution hub for their farm’s CSAs and helped our children plan and plant a garden. Then the meeting purchased two CSAs to supply a local veterans’ hospice with fresh vegetables, augmented by contributions from the children’s gardens and other folks. The children have been excited about these projects; they also organized a breakfast muffin fundraiser to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for eighty Thanksgiving baskets.

Friends hosted an Alternatives to Violence Project mini-workshop and are seeking way to open for AVP to take root in Memphis. A Friend’s leading to plan an event for Memphis Iraqi Student Project was taken up by many others. The meeting supported another Friend’s work at the nearby Carpenter Art Garden, bringing art and fun to kids who might not otherwise have those experiences. A relatively new Friend was led to attend Quaker Quest workshop at West Knoxville Meeting and shared her experience with us in a Meeting for Learning.

Within our meeting, we feel a deepening of Quaker process. During Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, we have begun to approve our proceedings as we go, and find that it nourishes worship. When uneasiness arose around monthly singing at the end of Meeting for Worship, one musician surveyed Friends and a happy solution was discerned. Having a Nominations committee which met over the course of the year shifted our focus from the urgent task of filling the roster to discerning friends’ spiritual gifts and giving support to committees; our clerk and some committee clerks found that the slower, more inviting process helped them say yes. Three long-time Friends who became members this year reported rich clearness committee experiences. When a Friend requested that we post prayer requests, a slow, mindful discussion followed over four months; we decided to test a “Please hold in the Light…” board, and felt our connections had been strengthened by this prayerful Quaker process. Later, a spiritual nurture group formed to explore what we can say about the Light.

Life’s transitions are always a huge part of the life of the meeting. We feel good about being there for each other, and honored when a Friend invites us in to share joys and sorrows. One of our young friends was married under the joint care of our meeting and Evergreen Presbyterian Church this year. We celebrated with Kristi Estes and Marjean Liggett after they were married in Maryland and also celebrated their 24th anniversary. Samuel Liggett, our faithful teenage assistant to First Day School for many years and an associate member, graduated from high school and is now attending UT Knoxville. Dan Hankins invited Friends to be with him in his last days, and many celebrated his life with his family. Several Friends lost

parents or siblings this year and we mourned with them. Many other Friends have needed help and support as they have experienced accidents, health difficulties, or family problems; individual Friends have reached out to those in need, and the Ministry and Nurture Committee has organized the support of the Meeting more formally and in a sustained manner.

Memphis Friends definitely like to spend time together. A dream group and a writing group sprang up. We meet to work, play, garden, do yoga and tai chi, contra dance, make music. We gather for dinner and candlelight worship one weeknight a month. As we talked about hospitality recently, a Friend made the connection between the word *hospitality* and the word *hospital*. We are aware that many friends find healing when they come to worship regularly and get involved in our community. We find that they often keep in touch, come back, and even sojourn. Spirit leads us towards wholeness as we seek to be a Quaker community together and a Quaker presence in Memphis.

Seasoned in Meeting for Learning and February 2014 Meeting for Business
Approved at March 2014 Meeting for Business

Nashville

Nashville Friends Meeting experienced growth in several areas during 2013, and although we experienced some growing pains along the way we are grateful for the promptings of Spirit and hope to respond ever more faithfully to those promptings. In the past year, we have welcomed five new members (Joseph and Deena Neimat, Jack and Martha Willis, and Sylvia Hurdle) and celebrated the marriage of Todd Hughes to Ernesto Vargas. We shared joy with attender Anita Niyokizera, on the birth of her daughter Jeanelle and with attenders Keely and Daniel Showalter, who welcomed their son Gideon into the world. We were saddened by the loss of our beloved Friend Polly Coe in December, though our sadness was tempered by the fellowship we experienced in sharing memories of Polly's indomitable spirit with the Meeting community and with Polly's family and friends.

Our Meetings for Worship continue to be well attended and rich in expectation, even as many of us see room for improving the depth of our vocal ministry. It is not uncommon for an hour to pass in unbroken silence, though sometimes the messages flow more freely. On occasion we have been blessed with deep messages. The entry of our youngest Friends shortly before the rise of worship brings a simple and recurrent joy to our weekly gathering. Twice a month, and the second and fourth First Day, we gather for an hour of worship sharing before regular meeting; attendance has varied, but the sharings have been rich, generally leavening our fellowship. In addition, a weekly program of bible study and hymn singing, led by Mark Wutka and Mary Linda McKinney in their home, has provided Friends with an opportunity to become better acquainted with one another outside the Meeting setting and to share their spiritual growth with people from different faith traditions and perspectives. We have continued to hold quarterly Meetings for Healing in the tradition of Friends, which have been a source of solace and comfort to our members and attenders.

Our meetings for business have been well attended and productive. We have continued our practice of incorporating consideration of business into Meeting for Worship and have found this helpful in seeking unity on difficult decisions. During the past year we have had to deal with weighty issues of money and property, notably around the purchase of a house ("Quaker Cottage") and adjacent lot across the street from our Meeting House. Our discernment around this issue was aided by several called meetings and threshing sessions. We gratefully acknowledge the work of an ad hoc committee, clerked by Jessica Van Regenmorter, that gathered and presented information on loan options, property taxes, repair costs, and similar matters. In November, Friends approved the purchase of the properties, which will be financed without external loans.

Completion of the Meeting House kitchen last winter marked the culmination of a decade of effort and investment to adapt the Meeting House to the needs of our community. We acknowledge the hard work of many Friends but especially the vision, leadership, and tireless service of Dick Houghton. In addition to completing the kitchen, Friends spent multiple weekend work days at the meeting house and at Quaker Cottage repairing, cleaning and painting. The Meeting House continues to function as a link to the wider community in Nashville, utilized by classes in yoga, African dance, traditional Chinese arts and other pursuits. The Nashville Peace and Justice Center has its offices in our basement and regularly hosts events in our space. Music City Friends, a meeting under the care of Wilmington, Ohio, Yearly Meeting (FUM), holds regular Sunday evening worship in our space.

Our religious education continued to be bright spot for us. We feel blessed by the presence of several young families and by the engagement of parents and others in developing Spirit-centered curricula and improving the physical settings for First Day school. A highlight of our Children's Religious Education program in 2013 was a Godly Play workshop led by Melinda Wenner Bradley. Second Hour offerings included discussions on education in Nashville, a local Church of Christ's ministry of providing tent space for homeless people, and a series on Robert Barclay's *Apology*, among other topics. Hector Black of Cookeville Monthly Meeting spoke of his prison ministry and other topics at our Spring Gathering, and we enjoyed a weekend of deep fellowship at our annual Fall Retreat.

Nashville Friends have continued to seek a balance between respect for individual privacy and autonomy and our responsibility to know and care for one another in community. We have convened numerous support, care, and clearness committees in 2013 offering care on issues ranging from aging to divorce to career challenges to recovery from illness and accident. Friends have provided day care, meals, and transport to medical appointments when need has arisen. In addition the meeting community encompasses a web of relationships that provide personal support outside the formal committee structure. Some of those bonds have occasionally been strained, and we have seen a falling off in attendance by a few longstanding members and attenders. Many of us share a sense that we could be more effective in reaching out to our community and in welcoming visitors and newcomers. One aspect of outreach and in-reach that has undergone a major change is our web site, which we moved to the FGC sponsored "Quaker Cloud."

Nashville Friends were led in 2013 to increase our engagement with the local community and especially the issue of homelessness in Nashville. As resident of Quaker Cottage, Kandance Martin has continued to act as our neighborhood ambassador. Activities and clothing/necessity item drives with the Room at the Inn shelter and tutoring at the Salvation Army shelter through a Nashville Schools program aimed at homeless students were a strong part of this ministry. Our most direct effort to help homeless people in Nashville was to provide housing to a couple for several months. In retrospect, we can see that we might have better seasoned and tested the leading before making this commitment. The experience has forced us to acknowledge our own limitations in addressing complex problems.

The Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) was highly active in 2013. Nashville Friends conducted workshops for the Somali community in Nashville and at the Room at the Inn homeless shelter. The Somali sessions were an eye-opening experience, as the facilitators had to rely on translators and accommodate the norms and expectation of this Muslim community, including the role of women and dietary restrictions. In addition, our AVP committee initiated a training series for Atlanta Friends Meeting in October.

Beyond Nashville, our witness toward the plight of tomato pickers denied fair wages in Florida continued in 2013. Nashville Friends took part in several demonstrations urging the Publix supermarket chain to sign on to the Fair Food agreement developed by the Coalition of Imokalee Workers (CIW) and approved a public minute of support for CIW, one of four public minutes approved by Nashville Friends in the past 25

years. In addition, we sent a letter to President Obama opposing U.S. funding and support for an expanded naval base on Jeju Island, South Korea, a UNESCO-registered World Heritage Site.

In the coming year, we hope to strengthen the internal cohesion and mutual care of the Meeting community, improve the depth of our vocal ministry, and more effectively engage our neighbors and the wider world.

Oxford

We're still here! The Oxford meeting remains a very, very small meeting. However, our numbers are growing slightly with the addition of two new faithful attenders. We have a core group of 5-6 members and faithful attenders and have adopted the practice of ending each meeting with a group hug. We are a tight, happy little band.

We continue to have the good fortune to meet at the Powerhouse community arts center. It is a comfortable and welcoming environment that provides the feel of a church. We appreciate the generosity of the Powerhouse who provides its space to the meeting without charge.

A new attender is developing a web site for the meeting: oxfordmsquakers.com. Our members and attenders appreciated participating in an opportunity new to us this summer: purchase of very high quality extra virgin olive oil from Palestinian small farmers.

Leadership: during 2013 there were two officers: a clerk and a treasurer. Although the meeting only has these two formal officers, we have an appointed SAYMA representative and SAMYA Ministry & Nurture representative, as well as an Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM) representative. In 2013 the meeting's treasurer left town to pursue a career opportunity. A member has generously agreed to serve as the new treasurer in 2014.

Adult education: The meeting has begun offering an opportunity for the meeting members, attenders, and community members to learn more about Quakerism through a lecture series nicknamed, *Quakerism 101*. Approximately once a month, the meeting's SAYMA representative introduces the participants to a Quaker topic. The topics so far have been the truth testimony and the peace testimony. Plans are being made for future topics.

Starkville Monthly Meeting: We continue to correspond with the Starkville Meeting via email although we have not visited them in the last year. However, the co-clerk of the Starkville Meeting asked two members of the Oxford meeting to serve on a clearness committee to address a perplexing personal problem.

Participation in the community: We have remained active in ICM, with two volunteers, one of them a member of the ICM Board of Directors. A number of our members and attenders support ICM financially through the meeting. We have continued to support ICM through the Win and Cora Jordan Memorial Fund. One of our faithful attenders travels a great deal for her business. When she travels she collects all of the toiletries provided by the hotels and regularly brings in a sack of toiletries to donate to the ICM. The ICM is very grateful for these small, but expensive, items that they use in backpacks for the homeless.

An individual member has continued to maintain a ministry for a death row inmate at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The inmate that the member has supported was one of three scheduled to die at Parchman Penitentiary during the spring of 2011. His lawyer made a successful appeal to stay the execution until experts of the inmate's choosing could determine his mental status, and a new appeal is in progress. The original appeal was successful only because the inmate suffered a major head trauma and brain injury, possible from a fall in his cell. The meeting as a whole stands in opposition to the death penalty. The individual member who has maintained the ministry has done so for approximately five years and will

invite the meeting's individual members and attenders to join her in maintaining the ministry as the appeal continues.

Submitted by Pam Coe, clerk, and Joanne Gabrynowicz

Swannanoa Valley

Our forum to discuss the State of the Meeting was as valuable as actually producing this report. We evaluated and even speculated on what is going well and where we could improve and perhaps set goals! Our themes during this discernment process often returned to going deeper and connecting more intimately.

Our meeting for worship nourishes us. At times it is fed by our vocal ministry, which enhances the spirit of the silence that we feel among us. Some do not find Christianity compatible with their spiritual journey, while others resonate strongly with the Christian roots of our Quaker heritage. A respectful tension creates a safe space for expressing these divergent views, yet we seek ways to better address varied needs. We listen deeply to one another for way to open. We have found ways to include children, both in the first fifteen minutes of meeting and at the end of worship. Those people new to Meeting express feeling welcomed. Some attenders have become members.

Much maintenance on, and some improvements to, the meetinghouse, have required significant deliberation, cost and effort. Despite few volunteers we have enhanced the quality of meeting and assured the future integrity of the building. This work drained our Property Reserve and we are working to replenish it. Heavy rains turned our focus to flood control. Our Memory Garden has evolved with ever increasing beauty. Our Meetinghouse Use Committee ensures that our building is used well by others.

The spiritual depth of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business has deepened as a result of our care for the quality of our discernment as a community.

Threshing sessions, such as how to approach restoring our Property Reserve Fund, have deepened our discernment process. Our financial situation is sound and well-managed even with the unusual number of building issues that have needed our attention.

Faithful teachers have worked to engage our children with the foundations of our Quaker faith and other traditions that embrace Quaker values. Teachers use a wide-ranging curriculum within the context of our challenging and diverse culture. The children bless us with their sharing every First Day.

We connect with each other through Spiritual Friendship Circles, reading groups, Experiment with Light, movie nights, workdays, potlucks and many individual efforts to support one another. Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture Committee has organized regular forums, informal sharings and one retreat. We have expanded our connections to several local organizations through forums. We deepen our level of intimacy as we celebrate and mourn together. This year there were two births, one marriage and three deaths.

We remember Kay Parke, Bill Ratliff and Anne Nothelfer whose illness and dying brought us to a deeper appreciation of their lives and of life itself. We supported many others in meeting who had losses this year. Ministry and Counsel tends to those in need as well.

We have increased our connections to the wider Quaker world. Several community members studied at Pendle Hill, one attended FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas), and others participated in SAYMA meetings, Earthcare Witness and Quaker Quest. There is a desire to hear more about the work of FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation).

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee raises funds for, and tends to, those in need in the local community. They also fostered our connection with our Group Home neighbors at Christmas. We provided funds for a water purification system in Vietnam for the My Lai Project and passed and published two minutes, one on ending gun violence and the other on boycotting products made by Israeli-based companies in the occupied territories of Palestine. The latter was presented to SAYMA for consideration, and two of our members helped facilitate a workshop on the topic.

We have some work to do to learn how to celebrate these accomplishments and be mindful that a donation is a connection to be nurtured and kept alive.

Ministry and Counsel has completed a detailed handbook for the Meeting and has posted it on the Internet. An ad hoc group was appointed to explore the best way to improve communications by creating a website with both public and private components. We are challenged to learn and keep track of all that the community and individual members are doing.

We are grateful for our many and varied gifts of ministry, nurture, accounting, archiving, stewarding, educating and leadership. Still, too few of us are doing the work of our Meeting.

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We remember Kay Parke, Bill Ratliff and Anne Nothhelfer whose illness and dying brought us to a deeper appreciation of their lives and of life itself. We supported many others in meeting who had losses this year. Ministry and Counsel tends to those in need as well.

We have increased our connections to the wider Quaker world. Several community members studied at Pendle Hill, one attended FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas), and others participated in SAYMA meetings, Earthcare Witness and Quaker Quest. There is a desire to hear more about the work of FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation).

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee raises funds for, and tends to, those in need in the local community. They also fostered our connection with our Group Home neighbors at Christmas. We provided funds for a water purification system in Vietnam for the My Lai Project and passed and published two minutes, one on ending gun violence and the other on boycotting products made by Israeli-based companies in the occupied territories of Palestine. The latter was presented to SAYMA for consideration, and two of our members helped facilitate a workshop on the topic.

We have some work to do to learn how to celebrate these accomplishments and be mindful that a donation is a connection to be nurtured and kept alive.

Ministry and Counsel has completed a detailed handbook for the Meeting and has posted it on the Internet. An ad hoc group was appointed to explore the best way to improve communications by creating a website with both public and private components. We are challenged to learn and keep track of all that the community and individual members are doing.

We are grateful for our many and varied gifts of ministry, nurture, accounting, archiving, stewarding, educating and leadership. Still, too few of us are doing the work of our Meeting.

West Knoxville

2013 was an active year for West Knoxville Friends Meeting. The death of one of our founding members, Don Newton, affected all of us and encouraged many of us to examine our roots and foundations. We grieve Don's death and celebrate his life with gratitude.

Our inclusion on a website of churches that support same-sex marriage and our listing as a Christian church on that website led us to examine our beliefs and attitudes. We held second hours to discuss whether we are indeed a Christian organization and were able to listen to each other and build our sense of community. As a group we hold a number of different beliefs about our status as a Christian church but we were comfortable leaving WKFM with other Christian churches.

While we continue to be a small meeting, we do have regular attenders and visitors who are willing to work on committees and help keep our meeting running. We still have trouble finding enough individuals to take key roles in the meeting and our nominating committee is working hard to make sure that we do not get stuck in comfortable roles or in ruts that lead to burn out. We feel that we equally share the work and

responsibilities of keeping our Meeting functioning but unfortunately at present, we do not have anyone ready to be clerk or assistant clerk for the coming year.

We have had a long-time attender become a member and we are in the process of taking a marriage under the care of the meeting. We have contacted absent members to see if they wish to continue their membership and as a result, some friends have withdrawn their membership and others have asked for it to be maintained, even if they are unable to attend regularly. Other members and regular attenders have stopped attending and we are left with the puzzle of why they left. Because of the distance of the meeting house from their homes a group of young adult friends has begun meeting to worship together on Monday nights at another location and we are very supportive of these additional meetings.

We have an active theology discussion group that meets before meeting for worship several times a month and we continue to search for ways to deepen our spiritual practice as a community. As always, we are challenged by the physical distance that separates us during the week, the busyness of life, and the difficulties of having diverse views and attitudes. We desire to be a spiritual community and are very aware of the challenges inherent in that desire. Friends have stated that the meeting is a safe place to work through difficult issues. We respect diversity and are open to change and growth. In addition, the adults at the Meeting have been very supportive of our children (young kids through high school teens). Our business meetings have been harmonious and we have been able to come to unity on many decisions. We feel we are moving in a positive direction.

In material terms we have completed a garden shed with funds from a QEW matching grant and we renovated our plumbing. We are planning to upgrade our heat and air system. The committees involved have worked diligently to provide the Meeting with good information and we have been able to weigh our options with care and make spirit-led decisions in a timely fashion. At the same time, we have been without a listserv for the meeting for over a year and we struggle with not having good communication within the meeting. We recently migrated our website to the Quaker Cloud and are hopeful that we will have a listserv in the near future.

Several non-Quaker groups have asked to use our Meeting House and we see this as a valuable form of outreach. A meditation group has used the Meeting House on Sunday afternoons for many years and we continue to host SAYF and SAYMA rep meetings as often as we are able. For several months a yoga group met once a week and a drumming group is meeting once a month at the Meeting House. In addition we have had other such requests for use of the meetinghouse. Thus we need to draft a plan for such requests in the future. For some time we have been discussing ways to bring more people to the meetinghouse and to share our space and it seems that the way is opening for this type of community outreach.

As a group we are find our meeting to be a place of companionship and spiritual vitality. Many of us continue to be confused and bewildered by the ongoing war in Afghanistan and the continuous state of war in which we find ourselves. We are searching both as a group and as individuals for a spirit-led response to this crisis. At the same time we are hopeful that the strength and flexibility of our meeting will help us find answers and continue to grow.

Attachment G: Traveling Minute for John Meyer, FGC

4/01/2014

Loving greetings to Friends at Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association from Friends General Conference! We commend to your loving care Friend John Meyer, who is attending your annual sessions as the Yearly Meeting Visitor for FGC.

John Meyer is a long-time attender of Friends Meeting of Washington DC, Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He has served three years on FGC's Central Committee. He currently serves as a member of FGC's Committee for Nurturing Ministries.

John has previously served on FGC's Nominating Committee, as the Recording Clerk for Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) and as a member of FLGBTQC's Nominating and Ministry and Counsel Committees. He has also been a past clerk of the American Friends Service Nobel Peace Prize Nominating Committee. John Meyer lives and works at Pendle Hill, serving as the Coordinator of Short-Term Education Programs.

As a visitor to your annual sessions, John will be attending your business meetings and other yearly meeting community events and will be looking for opportunities to worship, listen and share with you. He will share his experiences at yearly meeting with FGC in the form of a written report. Reports from all yearly meeting visitors will be reviewed and summarized by the YMVP Committee and distributed at Central Committee at its fall annual meeting.

We hold you and John Meyer in the Light of God's love and trust that your time together will be richly blessed.

On behalf of the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee of FGC,



Eric Evans, FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee:
Janice Domanik, ILYM (Clerk); John Meyer, BYM
Eric Evans, Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Attachment H: Nominating Committee Report

New (and new terms) appointees in 2014 appear in boldface. Blank lines indicate appointments needed. Note: All terms are two years – WQOs are three years. Terms begin & end after YM each June.

Officers

CLERK	Larry Ingle	14-16	Chattanooga (TN)
ASSISTANT CLERK	Carol Nickle	14-15	West Knoxville
RECORDING CLERK	Susan Phelan	14-15	Huntsville (AL)
TREASURER	Charles Schade	14-16	Charleston (WV)
ASST. TREASURER	Roger Wise	13-15	Charleston (WV)

Standing Committees

Ministry & Nurture Committee

CLERK	Sharon Annis	14-15	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Thais Carr	14-16	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Christine Sears	14-16	Huntsville (AL)
MEMBER			
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mary Kedl		West Knoxville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kristi Estes		Oxford
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kim Saterholm		Berea
MEETING APPOINTEE	Edie Patrick		Asheville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mary Morgan		Birmingham (AL)
MEETING APPOINTEE			
MEETING APPOINTEE			

Finance Committee

CLERK	David Ciscel	14-16	Memphis (TN)
MEMBER	Lee Ann Swarm	14-16	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	14-16	W. Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Wood Bouldin	14-16	Greenbrier WG (WV)
Ex officio	Roger Wise		Charleston (WV)
Ex officio	Charles Schade – Treasurer		Charleston (WV)

Personnel Committee

CLERK	Carol Nickle	14-15	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	13-15	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Tobin Russell	14-16	Athens (GA)
MEMBER			
SUPERVISOR OF Adm. Asst.	Larry Ingle		Chattanooga
SUPERVISOR SAYF Adm. Asst.	Wren Hendrickson/Mari Ohta		Chapel Hill/Celo

SAYF STEERING COMMITTEE

CO-CLERK	Wren Hendrikson	14-16	Chapel Hill (NC)
CO-CLERK	Mari Ohta	14-16	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Mary Linda McKinney	13-15	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Chuck Jones	13-15	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Kathleen Mavournin	13-15	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Adrienne Weir	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Mark Wutka	14-16	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Jonathan Schinhofen	14-16	Lexington (KY)
ex officio	Jonah McDonald		Atlanta (GA)

JYM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

CONVENER	Rose Black	13-15	Cookeville (TN)
MEMBER	Marcie Thaxter	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Beth Ensign	13-15	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER			
MEMBER			
JYM Coordinators	Michael Kramer & Jennifer Dickie	12-15	Atlanta (GA)

YEARLY MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

CLERK	Carol Ciscel	14-15	Memphis (TN)
ADULT PROGRAMS	Hank Fay	14-15	Berea (KY)
WORKSHOPS	Judy Guerry	14-15	Huntsville (AL)
CO-REGISTRAR	Laura Seeger	14-15	Chattanooga (TN)
CO-REGISTRAR	Lissa West	14-15	Cookeville (TN)
RECORDING REGISTRAR	Chris Berg	14-15	Greenville (SC)
BOOKSTORE	Chris Berg	14-15	Greenville (SC)
ASST. BOOKSTORE	Judy Geary	14-16	Boone (NC)
LOCAL ARRANGMNT	Bob Welsh	14-15	Swannanoa (NC)
JYM COORDINATOR	Michael Kramer & Jennifer Dickie		Atlanta
YAF REPS	Samuel Leeman Munk	13-14	Chapel Hill (NC) & Memphis (TN)
WORSHIP CO-ORD.			
LAYOUT EDITOR	Carol Ciscel	14-15	Nashville (TN)
SAYF Coordinator	Wren Hendrickson	14-16	Chapel Hill (NC)

Young Adult Friends

CLERK	Samuel Leeman-Munk		Chapel Hill (NC)
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Nominating Committee (named by the Naming Committee at SAYMA YM)

Co-CLERK	Jane Goldthwait	13-15	Celo (NC)
Co-CLERK	Pam Beziat	14-16	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Kathleen Hardie	13-15	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Ann Welsh	14-16	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	Mark Gooch	14-16	Birmingham (AL)
MEMBER	Beth Myers	14-16	Lexington (OVYM)
MEMBER			

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

CLERK	Bob Welsh	14-16	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	Florence Yaffe	14-16	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Christopher Easton	14-16	Athens (GA)
MEMBER	Roy H. Taylor	13-15	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Patti Hughes	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	RD Flowers	14-16	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Arnold Karr	14-16	Columbia (SC)
MEMBER	Pat Williams	13-15	Atlanta (GA)

Earthcare Action Network

CLERK	Lisa Rose	13-15	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	Chris Berg	13-15	Greenville
MEMBER	Pat Johnson	13-15	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Kathy Johnson	13-15	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Roy Taylor	14-16	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Bob McGahey	13-15	Celo (NC)

Southern Appalachian Friend

EDITOR	Beth Ensign (to be approved 9/14)	13-14	Atlanta (GA)
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Web Support

WEB MANAGER	Charlie Wilton	13-15	Berea (KY)
MEMBER	Robyn Josephs	14-16	Swannanoa (NC)
CLERK	Steve Livingston	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Sig Christensen	14-16	West Knoxville

Outreach

CLERK	Hank Fay	14-16	Berea (KY)
MEMBER	Roger Wise	14-16	Charleston (WV)
MEMBER			
MEMBER			
YAF MEMBER			

Operational Handbook

CLERK	Carol Ciscel	14-15	Memphis (TN)
ARCHIVIST	Missy Ivie	14-16	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	14-16	W. Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Charlie Wilton	14-16	Berea (KY)

Ad Hoc Committee

Faith & Practice Revision

CLERK	Free Polazzo	Began 14	Atlanta
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	Began 01	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Wood Bouldin	Began 12	Greenbrier WG
MEMBER	Edie Patrick	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER	Beth Myers	Began 14	Lexington (OVYM)
MEMBER	Thais Carr	Began 12	Nashville

Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corporation	Free Palazzo	12-15	Atlanta (GA)
	Lee Ann Swarm	12-15	West Knoxville (TN)
	Arnold Karr	13-16	Columbia (SC)
	Janine Bruton	13-16	Chattanooga
FCNL	Charlie Wilton	12-15	Berea (KY)
	Jane Hiles	13-16	Birmingham (AL)
	Christopher Easton	14-17	Athens (GA)
FGC	Christina Van Regenmorter	13-16	Nashville (TN)
FLGBTQC	Susan Phelan	13-16	Huntsville (AL)
FWCC	Geeta McGahey	12-15	Celo (NC)
	Michael Galovic	13-16	Swannanoa Valley
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	Adrienne Weir	12-15	Asheville (NC)
QEW	Lisa Rose	13-16	Swannanoa (NC)
QUAKER HOUSE	Anne Welsh	14-17	Swannanoa (NC))
RSWR	Pat Williams, Co-Rep	14-17	Atlanta (GA)
	Steve Olshewsky Co-Rep	14-17	Berea (KY)
WM. PENN HOUSE	Bonnie Isaacs	14-17	Lewisburg WG (VW)

Attachment I: Proposed FY2015 Budget

SAYMA Draft Budget FY 2015

Budget Category	FY 2013		FY 2014		FY 2015
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
INCOME	81,888	91,127	84,525	79,369	88,467
Withdrawals from reserves	5,413	4,900	7,575	5,169	8,267
Prior year carried forward	4,900	4,900	5,169	5,169	240
Reduction in reserves	513		2,406	-	8,027
Assessments	42,900	44,775	40,000	38,000	40,000
Bank Interest	500	336	250	200	200
Contributions	1,200	200	500		
Publication Sales	275	394	200		
YM Total Receipts	31,600	40,523	36,000	36,000	40,000
YM Receipts	28,600	38,791	33,000		
YM Scholarship Donations	1,000	586	1,000		
YM Bookstore Sales Income	2,000	1,800	2,000		
EXPENSES	81,888	91,127	84,525	79,369	88,467
SAYMA Operational Expenses	69,373	73,543	75,310	69,914	79,377
Yearly Meeting	31,600	40,101	36,000	36,000	40,000
Facilities and Services	24,000	32,766	25,000		32,000
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	1,500	1,173	4,000		1,000
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	3,100	3,105	4,000	-	4,000
Coordinator	1,800	1,800	-		
Ass't Coordinator	1,000	1,000	-		
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	300	305	-		
Scholarship WQO Reps	1,000	-	1,000		1,000
YM Bookstore	2,000	3,057	2,000		2,000
SAYF Operational Transfers	2,000	1,000	2,000		2,000
Delegate Expenses	5,000	2,992	3,600	2,460	4,100
Rep Mtgs	100	53	100		100
Del to WQOs	4,900	2,939	3,500	2,460	4,000
Committees	2,150	90	1,500	-	600
Ministry and Nurture Committee	500	18	1,000		600
Ecological Concerns Committee	50	-	-		
Faith and Practice Revision Committee	500	-	-		-
Finance Committee	50	-	-		
Nominating Committee	50	-	-		-
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	-	72	500		-
Outreach Committee	500	-	-		-
SAYMA Liability Insurance	1,225	1,283	1,400	1,418	1,500
SAYMA Personnel	23,348	24,112	25,590	25,636	25,967
SAYMA Staff Training	-	-	-		
SAYMA Office Administration	2,350	2,946	3,000	3,080	3,410
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses	-	402	-	360	360
Postage	-	220	-	300	300
Duplication	-	131	-	220	250
Misc. Office	-	2,193	-	2,200	2,500
SAYMA Newsletter	750	678	750	1,200	1,200
SAYMA Directory	150	209	150		100
SAYMA Treasurer	550	29	200		50
SAYMA F&P	250	-	200		
SAYMA Website Hosting Service	-	103	120	120	200
SAYMA Other Expenses	-	-	800		250

SAYMA Draft Budget FY 2015

Budget Category	FY 2013		FY 2014		FY 2015
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
Yearly Meeting Projects	12,515	12,415	9,215	9,215	9,090
Transfers To Funds	2,915	2,915	2,915	2,915	2,440
Spiritual Development Fund	300	300	300	300	300
Released Friend Fund	300	300	300	300	600
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	1,325	1,325	1,325	1,325	250
FWCC World Conference Fund	700	700	700	700	1,000
Youth Enrichment Fund	250	250	250	250	250
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	40	40	40	40	40
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	9,600	9,500	6,100	6,300	6,650
AFSC	1,050	1,050	700	700	700
FCNL	1,050	1,050	700	700	1,000
FGC	1,050	1,050	700	700	700
FWCC	1,050	1,050	700	700	700
Right Sharing of World Resources	1,050	1,050	700	700	700
Quaker House	1,050	1,050	700	700	700
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	300	200	200	200	100
Quaker Earthcare Witness	1,050	1,050	800	800	800
Friends Peace Teams	900	900	200	200	
Wm Penn House	300	300	200	200	200
Friends Journal	300	300	200	200	300
Guilford College Archiving	150	150	100	100	150
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	300	300	200	200	
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund			200	200	600
Other					
Surplus		5,169		240	-

Attachment J: Treasurer's Report

Prepared June 1, 2014

This report consists of an explanation of the new format of SAYMA budget reports, a summary of income and expenses to date for our current fiscal year, a balance sheet, and observations on historical patterns and trends. Our 2014 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

1. Revised budget report format. In consultation with the Finance Committee, the Treasurer has made several changes to the format of budget reports. Previously, SAYMA's budget reports showed proposed (or actual) expenses and anticipated (or actual) revenues, and a "bottom line" indicating a surplus or deficit when the expenditures and revenues were not equal. While this was satisfactory for showing actual data, it was not as clear as it might have been when presenting a budget. In recent years, Finance Committee has presented budgets that have not been balanced, and Friends rightly asked if we could afford deficits.

We are now presenting the budget with two additional revenue lines that are used to balance deficits and show the source of funding. One, "Prior Year Carried Forward," captures any surplus of revenue over expenses from the previous budget year. The second, "Reduction in reserves" is money spent from SAYMA's savings to balance the budget. The report has one added expense line as well, "Surplus," which represents excess of revenue over expense at the end of a fiscal year (if any).^{*} For partial year budget/actual reports, this line may be misleading because of yearly meeting income not offset by expenses.

2. The Budget vs. Actual report is Attachment 1. It shows SAYMA's budget as approved at Representative Meeting 131, with expenditures to date. Total expenses excluding yearly meeting and carried over amounts currently exceed revenue by about \$4,500; if assessments are paid at the expected level, this transient deficit will be eliminated by year's end.
3. Receipts from assessments are approximately as budgeted. We are about 2/3 of the way through the fiscal year and have received about that proportion of expected assessments. Details of assessments received to date are in Attachment 2. We have received assessments this fiscal year from 16 of our 21 monthly meetings to date.
4. We have paid all yearly meeting project expenses including contributions to wider Quaker organizations and transfers to set-aside funds. Committees are still spending very little, raising the question of whether it is due to frugality or inactivity. Delegate expenses are also lower than expected. It's not clear whether fewer delegates actually attended national meetings this year, or more delegates absorbed the costs personally than in previous years. On the other hand, the newsletter may exceed its budget because of increased costs of printing and mailing. Insurance was slightly more expensive than we expected.
5. SAYF's financial report is not available at this writing. This information will be available at Yearly Meeting and will be presented verbally.
6. SAYMA's current balance sheet is Attachment 3. The overall total line represent net worth of \$42,220, after SAYMA pays yearly meeting costs. SAYMA's budgeted operational expenses exclusive of yearly meeting are \$39,310 this year. The Finance Committee believes that SAYMA

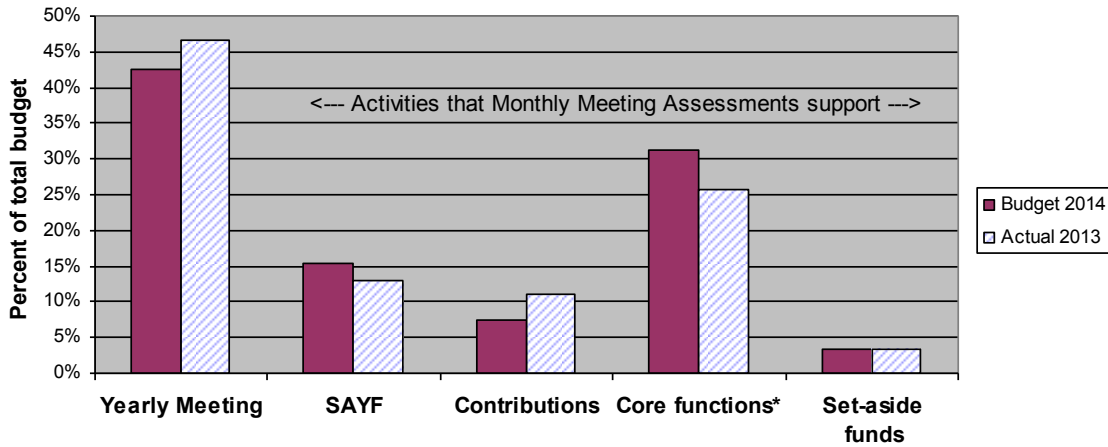
^{*} For additional details on the restructured budget format, please see Attachment 4 of the Treasurer's report presented at Representative Meeting 132, available from the Treasurer.

needs reserves of *at least half* that amount or \$19,655. SAYMA's effective reserves at the start of the fiscal year were \$41,559.

7. Year to date activity in the set-aside funds is Attachment 4. There have been no expenditures in FY 2014; balances grew by \$2,915. Balances are shown in Attachment 3.
8. Budgeted (2014) and actual (2013) expenses by major category are shown in Figure 1. Just over half of SAYMA's expenditures are for ongoing operations, which meeting assessments support. Individual fees pay for the yearly meeting. SAYF participants and monthly meetings also help pay for SAYF programs.

Figure 1

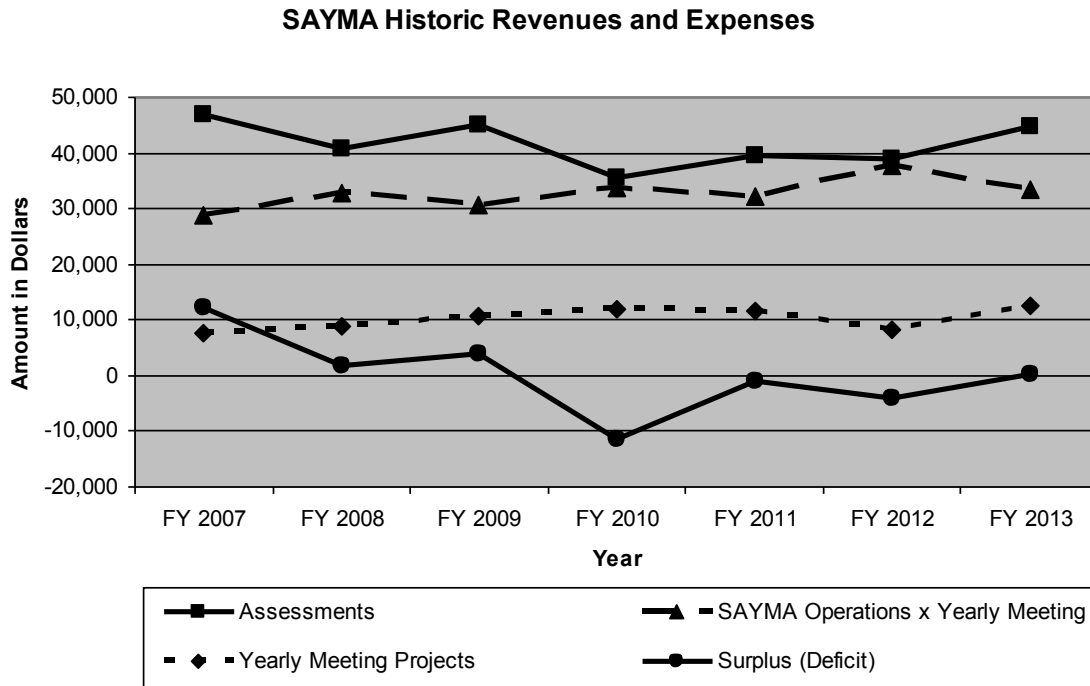
SAYMA Expenditures By Major Purpose



* Includes: SAYMA committees, WQO representative travel, new sletter, other communications, administrative office, insurance

9. Historical operational revenues and expenses are shown in Figure 2. SAYMA's assessment revenues have stabilized, though they are not yet at levels seen prior to 2009. However, operational expenses continue to trend upward, and the deficit in operational funding continues to trend higher.

Figure 2



Treasurer contact information and financial procedures

Accounts payable

Individual Friends, meetings, and committees with requests for payment for budgeted expenses should send the request with appropriate documentation to Charles Schade (c.vmbra@frontier.com; Treasurer@SAYMA.org). E-mail is preferred with documentation in electronic form. Friends may also submit expenses via postal mail to 4100 Virginia Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304.

Accounts receivable

Meetings should send assessment payments to SAYMA's administrative assistant Liz Perch at PO Box 5848, Savannah, GA 31414. Other payments to SAYMA should be sent to Liz for deposit to SAYMA's account..

SAYMA Budget vs. Actual Report 10/1/2013 through 6/1/2014

Budget Item	Budget FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Percent of Budget
INCOME	\$ 84,525.00	\$ 60,123.14	71.1%
Withdrawals from reserves	\$ 7,575.00	\$ 5,169.00	68.2%
Prior year carried forward	\$ 5,169.00	\$ 5,169.00	
Reduction in reserves	\$ 2,406.00	\$ -	
Assessments	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 28,460.00	71.2%
Bank Interest	\$ 250.00	\$ 129.26	51.7%
Contributions	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.0%
Publication Sales	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0.0%
YM Total Receipts	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 26,364.88	73.2%
YM Receipts	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 26,364.88	79.9%
YM Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
YM Bookstore Sales Income	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
EXPENSES	\$ 84,525.13	\$ 60,123.14	71.1%
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$ 75,310.13	\$ 25,477.81	33.8%
Yearly Meeting	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 1,579.13	4.4%
Facilities and Services	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 742.50	3.0%
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 836.63	20.9%
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	
Ass't Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	\$ -	\$ -	
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
YM Bookstore	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
Delegate Expenses	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 1,543.37	42.9%
Rep Mtgs	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0.0%
Del to WQOs	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,343.37	38.4%
Committees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 48.00	3.2%
Ministry and Nurture Committee	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
Ecological Concerns Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
Faith and Practice Revision Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
Finance Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
Nominating Committee	\$ -	\$ 48.00	
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.0%
Outreach Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,418.00	101.3%

SAYMA Personnel	\$ 25,590.13	\$ 17,529.50	68.5%
SAYMA Staff Training	\$ -	\$ -	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,451.46	81.7%
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses	\$ -	\$ 294.00	
Postage	\$ -	\$ 152.51	
Duplication	\$ -	\$ 129.07	
Misc. Office	\$ -	\$ 1,875.88	
SAYMA Newsletter	\$ 750.00	\$ 569.52	75.9%
SAYMA Directory	\$ 150.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYMA Treasurer	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYMA F&P	\$ 200.00	\$ 67.14	33.6%
SAYMA Website Hosting Service	\$ 120.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$ 800.00	\$ 271.69	34.0%
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS	\$ 9,215.00	\$ 9,215.00	100.0%
Transfers To Funds	\$ 2,915.00	\$ 2,915.00	100.0%
Spiritual Development Fund	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	100.0%
Released Friend Fund	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	100.0%
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	\$ 1,325.00	\$ 1,325.00	100.0%
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	100.0%
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	100.0%
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,300.00	100.0%
AFSC	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
FCNL	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
FGC	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
FWCC	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Quaker House	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	100.0%
Friends Peace Teams	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Wm Penn House	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Friends Journal	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Guilford College Archiving	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	100.0%
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Other	\$ -	\$ -	
Surplus		\$ 25,430.33	

Income and expense except for Yearly Meeting

OPERATIONAL INCOME	\$ 28,589.26
OPERATIONAL and PROJECT EXPENSES	\$ 33,113.68
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (4,524.42)

SAYMA-Assessments Received Current Year - YTD

10/1/2013 through 6/1/2014 Using SAYMA-FiscalYear

Assessments	Amount
Asheville	2,860.00
Athens	580.00
Atlanta	7,650.00
Berea	2,160.00
Birmingham	750.00
Boone	-
Brevard	550.00
Celo	720.00
Charleston	-
Chattanooga	1,440.00
Columbia	1,000.00
Cookeville	-
Crossville	-
Foxfire	300.00
Greenville	270.00
Huntsville	500.00
Memphis	1,080.00
Nashville	3,600.00
Oxford	-
Swannanoa Valley	3,300.00
West Knoxville	1,700.00
TOTAL Assessments	28,460.00

SAYMA Balance Sheet - As of 6/1/2014

Assets

Checking	\$48,115
Self-Help CD	\$17,430
Self-Help Money Market	\$23,915
TOTAL Assets	\$89,460

Liabilities

FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	\$3,300
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$2,702
Released Friend Fund	\$9,000
Spiritual Development Fund	\$3,577
Young Adult Friends Scholarships Fund	\$1,429
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$2,446
Subtotal set-aside funds	\$22,454
Obligated funds for Yearly Meeting	\$24,786
TOTAL Liabilities	\$47,240

Balance \$42,220

SAYMA Multi-Year Funds Spending FY - YTD

10/1/2013 through 6/1/2014

Date	Account	Description	Memo	Amount
BALANCE 9/30/2013				19,539.00
10/1/13	FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 131	1,325.00
10/1/13	FWCC World Conference Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 131	700.00
10/1/13	Released Friend Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 131	300.00
10/1/13	Spiritual Development Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 131	300.00
10/1/13	Young Adult Friends Scholarships Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 131	40.00
10/1/13	Youth Enrichment Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 131	250.00
BALANCE 6/1/2014				22,454.00
EXPENSES				.00
CONTRIBUTIONS				2,915.00
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)				2,915.00

Attachment K: SAYF Report

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) held 6 retreats during the past year. We have averaged 39 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 68 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all 6 retreats and others attended only one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. All retreats this year were hosted at Meetinghouses. Atlanta and West Knoxville Meetings each hosted us twice. We also had retreats at the Durham Friends Meeting and at the Arthur Morgan School in Celo, NC – two places we had not visited in several years. We are deeply appreciative to Friends for allowing us to use their facilities.

We also held two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats, using the Asheville Meetinghouse both times, and those too are detailed below.

This has been a year of fairly dramatic growth for SAYF. We have welcomed many new teen participants from Atlanta, Durham, Celo, and Asheville and have had steady participation from Berea, Nashville, and Chattanooga teens. We are seeking more adult participation in the program, particularly Steering Committee members from Berea and Chattanooga.

We also welcomed a group of six teens from Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) to our January 2014 retreat. This group of teens led a workshop and protest march that helped raise our awareness about the unfair wages being paid to migrant farm workers.

We have changed the term we use to describe our adult volunteers from FAP (Friendly Adult Presence) to FAN (Friendly Adult Nurturer).

And we have been working hard to institute a background check policy to help us come into compliance with new insurance rules. For the most part, this process has gone smoothly, though we now have procedures in place for discernment in case an applicant's background check turns up something unusual.

SAYF Retreats:

1. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat September 13-15, 2013

Theme: *Seeking & Experiencing Your Spirituality*

of YFs: 56

of full-time FANs* 10

(*Friendly Adult Nurturers)

Activities included: Workshops on Massage and Shamanic Journeys and a talent show

2. Durham Meetinghouse Retreat October 11-13, 2013

Theme: *Durham is a-MAZE-ing*

of YFs: 49

of full-time FANs: 7

Activities included: Labyrinth Workshop, Presentation on International Peace Work, Walk to the Duke Gardens

3. West Knoxville Meetinghouse Retreat November 15-17, 2013

Theme: *Tolerance*

of YFs: 48

of full-time FANs: 6

Activities included: Community-building games and outdoors activities

4. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat **January 17-19, 2014**

Theme: *Music for Movement, Movement for Change*

of YFs: 68

of FANs: 16

Activities included: Music workshops, a contra dance, and a march to Publix Grocery Store to protest for fair wages for farm workers

5. West Knoxville Meetinghouse Retreat **March 21-23, 2014**

Theme: *Childhood Joys*

of YFs: 36

of full time FANs: 7

Activities included: Workshops and activities related to thinking back on childhood

6. Arthur Morgan School (Celo) Retreat **April 25-27, 2014**

Theme: *Outside Indie*

of YFs: 62

of full time FANs: 8

Activities included: Hiking, soccer, wildflowers, a bonfire and service to the Arthur Morgan School

Nurturing/Steering Committees Retreats

1. Asheville Meetinghouse **August 23-25, 2013**

of Nurturing Committee Members: 18

of Steering Committee Members: 7

Nurturers approved new Sleeping Guidelines, created a phone tree, and approved a new acronym for adult volunteers (FANs). Steerers finished the retreat schedule for the year and then worked at length on creating a background check process.

2. Asheville Meetinghouse **February 28 – March 2, 2014**

of Nurturing Committee Members: 14

of Steering Committee Members: 6

Nurturers worked on developing processes to fully integrate and welcome new members of the community, even as numbers grow. They created a list of Nurturer Responsibilities. The Steering Committee worked for many hours on the background check policy and procedures and finally approved a background check process.

Attachment L: Web Manager's Report

Monthly meeting representatives and clerks are urged to provide me with updated contact information, location, worship times, and meeting photos to keep the individual monthly meeting pages current. The website especially needs your photos! If you have images of Friends at this annual gatherings or other SAYMA meetings/events, SAYMA-affiliated meetinghouses, etc., that you are willing to share for use on the SAYMA website, please email the images to **photos@sayma.org** . *Do not send photos here if you do not want them used on the website.*

For several years, most SAYMA officers and committees have had aliased email addresses (such as clerk@sayma.org) that are used to forward emails. This turns out to be somewhat clumsy and inefficient but there is now an improved system: instead of our web host automatically forwarding emails, your own email utility can be set up to retrieve email from the host. This sounds like a subtle distinction but it can improve performance and utility. Most importantly, spam filtering will be improved, and fewer legitimate emails will be blocked or delayed due to suspected spam. If you are a current sayma.org email user, I will be touch with you this summer to help make the transition.

I welcome input from all quarters of SAYMA on how the website can better serve the needs of the yearly meeting, its committees, monthly meetings or individual officers and members.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Wilton, Web Manager
web@sayma.org

Attachment M: Quaker Youth Letter to Publix and Berea Minute

Berea Minute 2014.2.a

We are in unity with the letter presented to Publix at the January SAYF 2014 retreat in Atlanta. The Fair Food Agreement demands better working conditions for laborers by asking institutions to pay one cent more per pound of tomatoes. We encourage SAYMA to approve and disseminate this letter

Letter

Dear Wendy's

We are the Quaker Youth. We encourage you to support the Coalition of Immokalee Fair Food Campaign.

The people of Immokalee face many hardships including low pay, physical and verbal abuse, no access to clean drinking water, bathrooms, and no breaks. Workers only earn 50 cents for every 32 pounds of tomatoes, the wage that has stayed the same for many years even through inflation. A worker must pick 2 1/2 tons of tomatoes to earn minimum wage each day. These workers earn less than \$12,000 each year! Not only are the working conditions terrible, but the workers live in cramped trailers with up to 15 people. There are so many people in a trailer because they have to make the ridiculously expensive rent, \$400 each week.

However by committing to the fair food campaign you will help provide farmworkers with more humane labor and living conditions, as well as increasing their wages. This will give them the rights & respect they deserve.

We urge you to join the top fast food corporations by signing the Fair Food Agreement and paying an extra penny per pound of tomatoes.

Sincerely,

Quaker Youth

Attachment N: Epistle

To Friends Everywhere, from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association meeting at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina, June 19-22, 2014:

Our theme of “Spirit Rising: A Revolution in Practice” was woven into our plenary sessions, workshops, business sessions, and worship sharing. We attempted to fly by asking ourselves how tuning into the Spirit can help lead humanity safely out of our impasse. Can diving deeper into the Inner Light open our eyes to our connection with the entirety of life, move us to a new understanding of our place in nature, and liberate us from complacency and confusion over how to meet the challenges of the 21st Century?

Our first plenary speaker, Ronald McDonald, reminded us that God sneaks up on us (wow), God is important (that's peculiar), and that we can emphasize God in what we do (silence). Our spirits rose in amazement as Ron played the William Tell Overture on hammered dulcimer. We were asked to close our eyes, and enjoyed the Junior Yearly Meeting surprising us with their joy as a demonstration of these principles.

Our second plenary speaker, Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary of Quaker Earth Witness (QEW), shared her personal journey of discovering the Spirit, her Meeting's struggle to become aware of damage done to the earth, and ways in which she sees the wider Society of Friends evolving to take collective action related to eco-justice. We heard that while it was encouraging to find support from early Quaker prophets, we need to spread support amongst ourselves. It was suggested that living with Integrity to our shared values was about knowing where to start, and feeling supported. As individuals, as Monthly Meetings, and even as a Yearly Meeting, it was nice to be reminded that we are not alone.

Lucy Duncan, visiting from AFSC, asked us if the Spirit drives our work, or if our work feeds the Spirit, or if they are one in the same. Lynn and Steve Newsome, from Quaker House, Fayetteville, NC, told us that members of the military are prisoners, and this might explain their high suicide rates.

In worship sharing, we explored questions like “what does Spirit rising mean? How do we know when Spirit is leading us in everyday life? How does nature connect you to Spirit?”

The natural surroundings of Warren Wilson College, embraced by the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains, provided the hospitality we have come to enjoy with the added twist of changing the room numbers of our worship sharing and workshop locations. Soups and salads were fresh made with campus-produced organic meat and produce, plus there was plenty of ice cream. The cool, sunny days lifted our spirits, such that even mighty thunderstorms did not dampen them.

The Spirit rose to work in our business sessions as we wrestled with the ongoing concerns surrounding our relationship with AFSC about which we were unable to reach consensus, but we look forward to continued dialogue with AFSC. Spirit led us to seek more substance, and less argument by working more closely together as a family. We also revisited the desire for a Minute addressing the Israeli treatment of Palestinians. The Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF, our teenagers) asked that we take a Minute from Berea to our individual Monthly Meetings for further seasoning.

SAYF invited all ages to participate in their “fish bowl” where life's important questions were asked and answered. An inter-generational “let's get moving” choice of seven activities re-energized us in the late afternoon, and those of us doing Qi Gong enjoyed hearing Spirit rising from the drum circle across campus. Children of all ages (8 to 80) entertained us with a talent show before supper, and danced together afterward. We raised our voices in song, and sat in silence on many occasions.