

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND

Newsletter
of the
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association
of the
Religious Society of Friends

FALL, 2003



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Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups

Anneewakee Creek Worship Group
Douglasville, GA (770) 949-8079
Asheville (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 258-0974
Athens (GA) Friends Meeting
(706) 546-0056
Atlanta (GA) Friends Meeting
(404) 377-2474
Auburn (AL) Worship Group
(334) 887-9688
Berea (KY) Friends Meeting
(859) 986-9256
Birmingham (AL) Friends Meeting
(205) 595-5729
Boone (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 263-0001
Brevard (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 891-7793
Celo (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 675-4456
Charleston (WV) Friends Meeting
(304) 756-3033
Chattanooga (TN) Friends Meeting
(423) 629-2580
Clarksville (TN) Worship Group
(931) 647-9284
Clemson (SC) Worship Group
(864) 654-6680
Cleveland (TN) Worship Group
(423) 479-4877
Columbia (SC) Friends Meeting
(803) 254-0626
Cookeville (TN) Preparative Meeting
(931) 268-2592
Crossville (TN) Friends Meeting
(931) 277-5354
Foxfire Friends Meeting
Johnson City, TN (423) 283-4392
Greenville (SC) Friends Meeting
(864) 322-6208
Huntsville (AL) Friends Meeting
(256) 837-6327
Memphis (TN) Friends Meeting
(901) 762-8130
Murfreesboro (TN) Worship Group
(931) 389-6340
Nashville (TN) Friends Meeting
(615) 329-2640
New Moon Worship Group
Barnardsville/Weaverville, NC (828) 626-2572
Oxford (MS) Friends Meeting
(662) 473-3670
Royal Worship Group
Blountsville, AL (205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group
Sevierville, TN (865) 429-1807
Sewanee (TN) Worship Group
(931) 598-5031
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
Black Mountain, NC (828) 299-4889
West Knoxville (TN) Friends Meeting
(865) 694-0036

| Yearly Meeting Officers & Clerks | |
|---|---|
| Clerk: | Sharon Annis (West Knoxville), (865) 483-8783, Clerk@SAYMA.org |
| Treasurer: | David Ciscel (Memphis), (901) 272-9229, Treasurer@SAYMA.org |
| Administrative Assistant: | Mary Calhoun (Foxfire), (276) 628-5852, AdminAsst@SAYMA.org |
| Assistant Clerk: | Kristi Estes (Memphis), (901) 274-0833, QuakerKristi@aol.com |
| Recording Clerk: | Lee Ann Swarm (West Knoxville), (865) 579-6662, RecordingClerk@SAYMA.org |
| Nominating Committee Clerk: | Penelope Wright (Nashville), (615) 298-1385, pennywright@earthlink.net |
| Ministry & Nurture Committee Clerk: | Kathy Burke (Atlanta), (404) 373-6441 kathyburke302@yahoo.com |
| Ecological Concerns Network Clerks: | Kathy Johnson (Atlanta), (404) 371-4440, kathybjohnson@mindspring.com Susan Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley), (828) 626-2572, scarlyle@main.nc.us |
| Planning Committee Clerk: | Tim Lamm (Berea), (859) 986-9256, tlamm@chpl.net |
| Archivist/Historian: | open |
| Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Steering Committee Clerks: | Dick Houghton (Nashville), (615) 463-9512, dickhoughton@covad.net Jeremiah Gold-Hopton (404) 294-5850, jeremiah@world.oberlin.edu |
| Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Administrative Assistant: | Therese Hildebrand (Berea), (859) 986-5418, thildebrand@acer-access.com |

SAYF Calendar

11/07-09/2003: Retreat in Knoxville, TN; Theme: TBA; Program Planning: West Knoxville Young Friends; Contact: Sig Christiansen

01/17-19/2004: Retreat in Chapel Hill, NC; Theme: TBA; Program Planning: Chapel Hill Young Friends; Contact: Wren Hendrickson

02/20-22/2004: Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committee Meetings; Knoxville, TN; Program Planning: SAYF SC Co-clerks and NC Clerk; Contact: Kathleen Mavournin

03/12-14/2004: Retreat in Asheville, NC; Theme: TBA; Program Planning: TBA; Contact: TBA

04/16-18/2004: Retreat at Camp Meadowbrook in Collma, AL; Theme: TBA; Program Planning: SAYF Nurturing Committee; Contact: Bill O'Connell

06/2004: SAYMA Yearly Meeting; Program Planning: Wren Hendrickson and SAYF Co-Clerks;; Contact: Wren Hendrickson

SAYMA Calendar

12/06/2003: Representative Meeting
Atlanta, GA

01/01/2004: SAF Submission Due Date

04/03/2004: Representative Meeting
Nashville, TN

06/10-13/2004: Yearly Meeting
Warren Wilson College

**SAF Submissions—Next Due
Date: 01/01/2004**

Submit meeting or worship group news, original articles, poetry, opinions, announcements, humor, and recipes (include your name and phone number) to SAFeditor@SAYMA.org or by mail:

SAF c/o Susan & Kim Carlyle, PO Box 439, Barnardsville, NC 28709 (828) 626-2572

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For resource-saving, electronic delivery of the SAF, send your name, e-mail address and monthly

meeting or worship group name to SAFeditor@sayma.org

Correction

In the Seventh Month SAF State of the Meeting Report Excerpts, an extra digit crept into the news of Celso Monthly Meeting's successful meetinghouse fundraising effort.

The correct total for their realized goal was \$75,000.

We regret this transcription error and apologize for any inconvenience that this mistake may have caused.

SAYMA List-server

To subscribe to the SAYMA list-server sayma@kitenet.net, you can e-mail to sayma-request@kitenet.net writing only the word " subscribe " in the body of your e-mail message.

You can also subscribe on the web at <http://kitenet.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/sayma>.

You need to be subscribed in order to post messages to the list-server. In case of difficulties, you can reach a live human list-administrator at sayma-admin@kitenet.net

MEMO from the Ecological Concerns Network of SAYMA:

Need to get a new car? You can seriously reduce how much the emissions from your next car will harm people, including small children, if you will buy one of the gas-electric hybrid cars. These cars have been on sale in the United States for about three years already. They are the Toyota Prius, the Honda Civic Hybrid, and the Honda Insight. For more information you can use the World Wide Web, i.e. 'www.' on the internet, or contact Bill Reynolds at cisland@aol.com or (423) 624-6821.

From the Editors: Friends, Our yearly meeting newsletter depends upon your contributions — and we are not asking for money! While we regularly receive information from wider Quaker organizations (and we are grateful to receive and share their news), we would be quite pleased if more SAYMA Friends would send items for publication. Please support the SAF with your news, opinions, announcements, and anything else you might care to share with SAYMA Friends.

Nashville News

Nashville Friends Meeting is delighted to announce the location of their new home! As of September 13th we have been worshipping in our still-being-renovated meetinghouse at 530 26th Avenue N., Nashville, TN 37209; 615-329-2640; www.nashvillefriendsmeeting.org.

We meet for worship at 10:00 AM each First Day and offer mid-week worship Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. We feel it is no coincidence that we have moved into a former Methodist church that was built in the same year (1926) that the first Quakers arrived in Nashville. Further we are located in North Nashville, the neighborhood of Fisk University where that first Quaker family served for 20 years. We are excited at being in a more diverse community and have been grateful for the warm welcome long time residents have extended to us.

Each week we note amazing changes that bring us closer to the vision we hold. No longer do we worship among plastic protective drapes and scaffolding, but the dust and plywood sub-flooring are still with us. This week the flooring of renewable eucalyptus will be installed and the first phase of our vision will be completed. We have been led and supported in this endeavor by many faithful Friends, especially with lots of sweat equity. We still have a plentiful supply of sweat. Unfortunately, we have come to the bottom of our financial pool, with still more work to be done.

As we look at financing options, we ask that SAYMA Friends consider sending a financial contribution so that the debt we incur can be as little as possible, thus freeing our money for wider community projects. We also appreciate being held in the Light.

— Penelope Wright, clerk, Nashville Friends Meeting

FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas announces that the **2004 QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE** will take place in England, Germany and the Netherlands from July 16-August 14, 2004.

Young Friends who will be between 16-18 years at that time are invited to apply for the chance to explore Quaker history as they travel, among other places, to Woodbrooke and the 1652 country of England. As they carry out a service project, participants will form a community and lasting friendships, experience different Friends' traditions and forms of worship and gain an understanding of Quaker process. The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is an opportunity to begin a lifetime of spiritual growth.

FWCC is also looking for two adult facilitators to accompany the group.

For more information or to request an application form, please contact FWCC, 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA, 19102; (215) 241-7250 or email us at Americas@fwcc.quaker.org Due dates for applications are December 15, 2003 for adult leaders and January 15, 2004 for pilgrims.

— Louise Salinas, Associate Secretary

Eco-Inspiration from Swannanoa Valley MM

Kay Parke submitted:

This is especially for... possible use in Eco publications — but we might all think about it:

During World War II, there was a motto which I think ecological Quakers (and anybody else!) might brush off and use as a measure of consumption:

Fix it up, Use it up, Make it do!

(So I'd better get taps put on my shoes one more time!) — Kay

Anne Welsh added:

Great motto--or was it a poem? We heard Friend Worth Mackie of Friendship Meeting in Greensboro recite it many times. He claimed it was a boyhood poem —theme of his family.

*Fix it up,
Wear it out.
Make it do,
Do without!*

**Couples Enrichment Workshop
November 21-23, 2003**

You are invited to participate in a Couples Enrichment Workshop, hosted by William Penn House. The workshop is for couples in committed relationships.

There is overnight hospitality for 6 couples at William Penn House. For other couples who cannot be accommodated at William Penn House, we will arrange hospitality elsewhere. Commuting couples are invited to participate.

Space is limited to 16 couples. If there is a need for more, we will schedule another workshop at a later date.

Facilitators are Rich and Joan Liversidge of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting.

The cost for those staying at William Penn House will be \$220 per couple. For those staying elsewhere the cost will be \$100 per couple. Registration due date is November 12, 2003.

Contact: William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

(202) 543-5560 Fax (202) 543-3814

info@WmPennHouse.org www.WmPennHouse.org

***Pastoral Care Newsletter*
Published by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

Support for Caregivers

Do caregivers in your meeting sometimes find themselves called on to deal with situations that are outside their zone of comfort and experience? How can meetings deepen our capacity to respond to the needs of our members?

Friends' time honored process is to learn from more experienced Friends. For ten years *Pastoral Care Newsletter* has brought the wisdom of experienced Quaker caregivers to meetings around North America. In a recent reader survey one respondent wrote: "This is a very important resource for Care and Counsel in so many areas that come under its charge. It's the first resource we turn to when a new pastoral care situation comes up."

You can invite *Pastoral Care Newsletter* to bring the support of seasoned Friends to caregivers in your meeting.

Four issues per year. Single subscriptions are \$10.75, reduced if you buy copies for all members of the caregiving committee in your meeting. **Sample copy and subscription information:** PCN, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215)241-7068, or steveg@pym.org.

— Patricia McBee, Editor

Discussion in Atlanta

The Quaker Theological Discussion Group will meet in Atlanta, Friday evening November 21 and Saturday morning November 22. The sessions are free and open to anyone interested; no advance registration is needed.

This year, our Friday evening session will feature reviews of Arthur Roberts' two new books, *Exploring Heaven: What Great Christian Thinkers Tell Us About Our Afterlife with God*, and *Prayers at Twilight*. Saturday morning's program is titled "Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Quakers" and will include presentations and discussion.

For details, visit <http://theo-discuss.quaker.org/>.

In addition to the actual QTGD sessions, Steve Angell of the Earlham School of Religion will present and lead discussion at Atlanta Friends Meeting Sunday morning; Steve's topic will be "A Quaker Historian's Research on Atlanta's Bishop Henry McNeal Turner."

— Susan Jeffers, Quaker Theological Discussion Group

***What Canst Thou Say?*
An Invitation to Read (and Write)**

What Canst Thou Say? is a newsletter on Quakers, mysticism and contemplative living — a worship-sharing group in print, with each writer contributing his or her experience in response to a central theme. Themes for upcoming issues are as follows:

February 2004: On Being Open and Tender; Editors: Jennifer Elam with Patricia McBee; Due date: November 15, 2003

May 2004: Guidance; Editor: Kathy Tapp; Due date: February 15, 2004

August 2004: Precognition; Editor: Mariellen Gilpin; Due date: May 15, 2004

WCTS depends on its readers to write for the publication. Friends share from their personal experience of the Spirit. We'd love to hear from you. Articles can be from 350-1500 words long. For more information about topics and writer's guidelines, and for back issues, contact Mariellen Gilpin, 818 West Columbia, Champaign IL 61820, (217) 352-2082, m-gilpin@uiuc.edu. *WCTS* is \$8 for four issues a year, \$15 for two years. Subscriptions can be sent to *WCTS*, c/o Margaret Willits, PO Box 5082, Sonora, CA 95370

— Mariellen Gilpin, Urbana-Champaign Meeting, IL

Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly FCUN) Annual Meeting

As you might guess from the title of this article, the recent annual meeting of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature resulted in at least one significant event — an organizational name change to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

While Friends may be a bit surprised at this development, it actually has been in the works for years. Friends traveling on behalf of FCUN have been aware that the name presented a barrier for many folks. Some inferred that the organization was pantheistic or too “new age”; some simply thought that we sponsored hikes and bird walks.

The process that resulted in the name change is worth mentioning. First we sent questionnaires to all Friends meetings and churches throughout North America to get a feel for Friends’ perceptions of the organization. We followed that up with a variation of that questionnaire for supporters of FCUN. We had discussions and interest groups at FGC Gathering and then we polled our Steering Committee.

Based on all the comments and responses we gathered, we recognized that a revision of our statement of purpose was in order, and that an organizational name change would clear up misconceptions about our work and would facilitate our outreach efforts.

At our spring Steering Committee meeting at Guilford College, we approved a new Vision and Witness statement:

We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. **We work** to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God’s Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth’s ecological integrity. **We promote** these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship with the Earth.

This new action orientation underscored the need for a name change — and this became a major agenda item for the annual meeting in October.

Annual Meeting was held at Sierra Friends Center in Grass Valley, CA. On hand were four of the five Steering Committee members from SAYMA: Alice Wald (Columbia MM), our newest YM Representative; Joyce Rouse — aka Earth Mama (Nashville MM); Susan Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley MM), Finance Committee clerk; and me. [Judy Lumb (Atlanta MM), lead editor of *Quaker Eco-Bulletin*, was unable to be there.]

FCUN’s (now Quaker Earthcare Witness’s) annual meetings blend worshipful business sessions with

programs, entertainment, fellowship, appreciation of God’s Creation, and general fun. Often this blending took place in the same session.

Program, entertainment, fellowship, and fun came together during our Earth Mama concert. And even agenda items in meeting for worship with attention to business were sometimes punctuated by song and dance, as when three SAYMA Friends offered an *a capella* doowop tune, *What’s Our Name?* (based on the 1959 classic of a similar name by Don and Juan). Yes, the Spirit works in mysterious ways.

But we did take our work seriously. The name change was considered in plenary discussion, in small group worship sharing, and finally in plenary worship. The resulting minute:

Friends approved changing our organization name, from Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, to Quaker Earthcare Witness, and in so doing approved related changes in bylaws and authorization of signatures. We expressed appreciation to those Friends who had held strong attachments to the old name or other proposed alternatives, but were willing to let go of them in the interest of unity. We are aware that adjustments will have to be made internally in our organization and externally among our supporting meetings and individuals. But we strongly believe that this action will greatly enable the communication of our vision and witness among Friends.

Other significant decisions were made as well. The bylaws were changed such that the new Vision and Witness statement replaces the old statement of purpose. And Quaker Earthcare Witness approved placing special emphasis on communicating our Vision and Witness through visitation, with the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop a project implementation plan.

This new project will require additional funding. We’ll need travel expenses and we’ll need funds to develop a video to help communicate the Earthcare message. We hope that SAYMA Friends will support this new initiative as individuals and through their meetings.

Quaker Earthcare Witness has enjoyed an exceptional year in 2003. Quaker Eco-Witness, our public policy project, began an ongoing consultation on economics and ecology that has spun off several exciting new projects. We have become a member organization of Friends Committee on National Legislation. And development of a curriculum for adult education is underway.

It has been a Spirit-led privilege and pleasure to be one of SAYMA’s representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

— Kim Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley MM),
Steering Committee clerk, Quaker Earthcare Witness

'Tis the Season...

Book Review Unplug the Christmas Machine : A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back into the Season. By Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. Morrow, 1991. 208 pages

Women are the Christmas magicians and men are the stagehands.

What drives women? Is it the promises of the women's magazines? Is it old habits? Is it an attempt to measure up to their mother's efforts at Christmas? Or is it a desire to hand down a legacy of love to their children?

What do women want? They want help and support from their families, for one. They want appreciation for their efforts.

What do men want? They want their mates to be more relaxed and flexible. They want their wives or partners to be more sensitive to the ways in which his family celebrated Christmas.

What do men and children really want?

They want a house full of love and acceptance — not a house decorated to perfection.

The four things that children really want for Christmas:

1. A relaxed and loving time with the family.
2. Realistic expectations about gifts.
3. An evenly paced holiday season.
4. Reliable family traditions.

Are you ready to take the Christmas Pledge? Here it is:

*Believing in the true spirit of Christmas,
I commit myself to:*

- Remember those people who truly need my gifts.
- Express love in more direct ways than gifts.
- Examine my holiday activities in the light of my deepest values.
- Be a peacemaker with my circle of family and friends.
- Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth.

This a gentle and practical guide for learning what you really want and how to go about putting your deepest values into practice.

— Susan Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley MM)

Mindful gift ideas for family and friends:

- Give Certificate of Time or Service
- Make a favorite meal for a friend
- Go on a walk in your neighborhood
- Donate to a non-profit
- Give a gift of a membership to a non-profit organization
- Volunteer
- Make a gift
- Give something that is precious to you
- Give "Fair Trade" items
- Share a favorite book, movie or poem
- Go dancing together or hiking, sledding or singing
- Give a massage
- Sing a song
- Have an art date together
- Listen
- Give necessary clothing or food
- Care for children
- Share cars
- Tell a story & much more..

What can I do?

- Give mindfully.
- Let family and friends know you do not need material goods to know you are loved and good.
- Use handkerchiefs, newspaper, cloth bags or closed eyes to wrap gifts.
- Read *Mindfulness in the Marketplace* and other resources to increase your understanding of the impact of consumerism.
- Be willing to look at yourself honestly and how many resources it takes to sustain your choice of lifestyle.
- Talk with your friends about how you can work together to support each in living more sustainably.

The tips above were taken from the new flyer, Mindful Living, Mindful Giving, from Quaker Earthcare Witness

New from Earth Mama

Christmas Heart

Tired of the same old "ho-ho-hum" Christmas music? CHRISTMAS HEART, the new CD by Earth Mama, offers a fresh new perspective on the holidays!

Featuring 11 new songs about peace, simplicity, and loving one another, this music is guaranteed to bring a smile to the Scrooge in your family!

So give yourself a Christmas Heart today! Includes two beautiful Quaker Christmas carols from *Worship in Song*, and sing along booklet.

1-800-BUY-MY-CD or www.cdbaby.com/earthmama