

Jon Saderholm, clerk
clerk@sayma.org

Liz Dykes, administrative assistant
adminasst@sayma.org

SAYMA

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association

AN INVITATION TO YEARLY MEETING: JUNE 15-18, 2017

Carol Nickle, YMPC clerk

You are invited to SAYMA's Yearly Meeting at Warren Wilson College in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with Friends from monthly meetings and worship groups in TN, NC, SC, KY, MS, WV, GA, VA, and AL. We will have interesting programs, participate in workshops and activities, sing, worship, conduct business, eat delicious food, and just "hang out" together in a lovely place.

The theme this year is "Weaving Our World Together: Lifting up Racial Justice." It grew out of evaluations received from Friends who attended Yearly Meeting 2016, and leadings and discernment by SAYMA's Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. This expands our 2016 theme, which was "Unraveling Racism." Because racism cuts across and underlies other injustices, a broader emphasis will allow us to delve deeper and wider as we lift up our concerns and seek answers. We want to spiritually seek environmental justice, economic justice, gender justice, justice for Native Americans and other native peoples, justice for LGBT people, justice for those with disabilities and the elderly, and global justice.

Thursday evening's multi media presentation will present different aspects of our theme and invites our participation. SAYFers please come join us for this! You will enjoy it. Folami Prescot-Adams and Tara Doyle, both from Atlanta Friends Meeting, will bring our message on Friday evening. They will speak from their experiences in spiritual seeking and in working with others to resolve problems resulting from injustice.

If you feel led to facilitate a workshop, go to the SAYMA web site and fill out the form (or get a form

that will come to your meeting with an invitation). Workshop forms must be received by February 28th. We hope that the workshops this year will include a variety of topics. If you want to lead an activity during the Friday afternoon "Let's Get Moving", let us know that too.

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business is the center of Yearly Meeting. All Friends in SAYMA are part of the community that comes together to discern how the Yearly Meeting shall proceed, by sitting in expectant waiting on the Spirit while considering the budget, hearing reports from committees, updates from Wider Quaker Organizations, opportunities for service in the Yearly Meeting and beyond. Decisions made during Business sessions guide and determine SAYMA's work in the future. You are encouraged and urged to attend our Business sessions. You are needed whether you are a member of the Religious Society of Friends, an attender, or just came to Yearly Meeting.

The Advance Program and Registration Form will be on the SAYMA.org web site in early April. Your monthly meeting will also receive printed copies. Please note that with a few exceptions, everyone must mail their registrations and include a check for the deposit. SAYMA is not able to accept credit cards.

Thanks to the generosity of those who are able, SAYMA has scholarship funds available for those who cannot afford the full cost of the meeting. When requesting SAYMA scholarship funds, you should first ask your meeting for assistance. Please check with your meeting's clerk or treasurer in advance so that you know what is

available. **No one should stay away from Yearly Meeting because of the cost.**

We will have an expanded Junior Yearly Meeting program this year, including childcare for the youngest children.

Yearly Meeting 2017 will have something for everyone! If you haven't been to Yearly Meeting before, come! If you have been before, come back! We want this year's Yearly Meeting to be the biggest and the best ever!

SAYMA is hiring for 2017 & 2018 YM

The Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee of SAYMA is happy to announce that we have committed to expand our child care options for families at SAYMA in the coming years. To support this endeavor we are hiring for two child care positions this year and next.

Please share the following notice in your newsletter, weekly announcements, online announcements, or any other forum you have for connecting members and attenders to such opportunities.

WANTED: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Coordinator AND Play-care Coordinator (for children ages 2-5)

Qualifications for both positions include:

- Membership or regular attendance at a SAYMA monthly meeting or worship group for a minimum of 6 months
- Compliance with the SAYMA child safety policy
- References from your SAYMA affiliated Quaker meeting
- Two year commitment

Job descriptions with compensation information are available at SAYMA.org or the following links

- <http://tinyurl.com/JYM-Job-Description>
- <http://tinyurl.com/Playcare-Job-Description>

Interested candidates may. . .

Complete the online application at SAYMA.org or use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/SAYMA-JYM>

Or

Submit a letter of interest to: Jennifer Dickie, JYM committee clerk

via email: michaeljen@bellsouth.net

via mail: 1367 Ormewood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. *Questions may be directed to: Jennifer Dickie, JYM committee clerk, michaeljen@bellsouth.net, or [404-313-8770](tel:404-313-8770)*

Submissions wanted!

The deadline for submissions for the next *Southern Appalachian Friend* is March 25, 2017. Please send articles, stories, poems, or artwork to Beth Ensign, SAF editor: h.e.ensign@gmail.com OR 173 Flora Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307.

NEWS OF MEETINGS

Compiled by Errol Hess. <errol@kitenet.net>

Include your meeting in this column by sending minutes or newsletters to errol@kitenet.net or, preferably, by asking a member to prepare an article for each issue of SAF.

ATHENS: A member will donate a more informative meeting sign. Volunteer opportunities at LatinoFest. Imam of local mosque addressed meeting in November. Lease future uncertainty leads to renewed discussion of location options. Plans for MLK Day of Service. Searching again for meeting location.

ATLANTA: Fifth year of Quaker Voluntary Service begins with arrival of seven interns. Members march in October Atlanta Pride parade. Meeting supports a member's ministry forming Policing Education and Action Through Civic Engagement project. Ad hoc committee on sexual harassment adopted by meeting. FGC Long Range Planning Committee invited to meet there in March. Minuted support of Standing Rock Sioux.

BEREA: Tabling for new students at college. First hour in July 2016 Meeting for Weeding. Trick or treat for UNICEF. Alternatives to Violence basic workshop offered. Active with Kentucky Council of Churches.

CELO: Long Term Tree Management committee will plan tree cuttings for the next 3 years. November meeting for Prayer and Support for Standing Rock. Worship sharing on concerns about the recent election.

CHARLESTON: M&N met with Huntington Quakers. Greenbriar WG hosted All WV Gathering. Meeting

considers donating property to a land trust or similar organization. Carry-On campaign for donations of backpacks and luggage so foster care children don't have to move in garbage bags. Several members attended rally welcoming Syrian refugees.

COLUMBIA: Racism discussion continues. Summer camp did not pay for itself but will be continued. Hosted November Carolina Peace Center Refugee Taskforce for the "Meet Your Neighbor" potluck. Follow-ups organized with people who have dropped out or disappeared for three weeks in a row.

COOKEVILLE: The meeting responded to FWCC's minute on Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth. December Wine-tasting fundraiser for SOCM. Interfaith Peace Project has 50-60 entries.

MEMPHIS: Black Lives Matter invited to hold monthly steering committee meetings at Meetinghouse. Website transition to Quaker Cloud. 18 Friends participated in September Gay Pride parade. Memphis Friends has three publications: *The Living Spirit*, *Looking Back*, and *In the Light*. Meeting has Racial Justice Working Group. Friends will march with banner in MLK Day parade. Meeting receiving contributions thru Paypal.

WEST KNOXVILLE: SAYF will use the meetinghouse in February, 2017. 10:30 time for MFW continued.

REMEMBERING BETTINA WOLFF

Friends, we have learned through her husband, Jack Donovan, of Lake Lure, NC, that our Friend Bettina Wolff died on October 27, 2016, at their home. She was assisted by Hospice. She was 89 and had suffered failing health for many years.

Bettina was born in 1927 in Amsterdam, NY. She had been an active member of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting in the early 2000s. Earlier, she had attended Asheville Friends Meeting.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children: Eric, Doug, and Jennifer Wolff. Before coming to North Carolina, Bettina and family spent many years in Ohio, where she was active in Olney Friends Meeting and Olney Friends School.

Her special Quaker interests included Powell House, in NY State, the Alternatives to Violence program, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends General Conference, and SAYMA. She will be remembered by her steadfast and passionate devotion to these causes by all who knew her.

According to her wishes, a memorial service has not been planned. Please hold her family in the Light as they mourn their deep loss.

--Anne and Bob Welsh, Swannanoa Valley MM

NEED OR GREED: GAS PIPELINES IN WV

Deni Elliott, Greenbrier Worship Group, WVA

Our need for energy independence is real. What type of energy source and how we dispense it should be up to us to decide. However, the current push to build several large interstate natural gas pipelines running through West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, and our National Forests will guarantee that gas will be the energy choice along the south-eastern seaboard for many decades to come. Two developers, Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline, maintain there is an increased future demand for natural gas that cannot be filled by existing pipelines. They will each clear a 125-foot swath, digging a 10-foot trench hundreds of miles long, through personal property, national forests, and watersheds. They each want to build 42-inch diameter pipelines (larger than the Keystone XL) to carry 2 billion cubic feet per day of high-pressure gas. They will use eminent domain when property owners object. They will amend National Forest Standards (that promote and protect healthy forests) to suit their needs. And they will do it all with the government's blessing, because they claim we need the gas to heat our homes.

But do we actually need all these new mega-pipelines? Using the same source of information that the pipeline developers used, (Energy Information Administration), an independent study by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., showed the increase could easily be covered by existing pipelines. So why would these developers want to jeopardize water supply, risk environmental disasters, and remove property rights to build a pipeline that moves fracked gas to an area that is already supplied by other pipelines? Some suggested answers can be viewed in the independent study, under "Pipeline Economics." Most interesting are three points. First is a secure return on investment: legislative, utility, or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval to recover expenditures from customers guarantees returns that are higher than other investment opportunities. Second is a commitment to future natural gas. These pipelines would further entrench public energy infrastructure in gas. And third are overseas exports. These pipelines are slated to provide gas to Virginia and the Carolinas. However, the gas could also be sent to existing export terminals. And since there is a predicted rise in U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas, they could easily gain permits necessary to export this extra gas.

As part of the approval process the pipeline companies must present an Environmental Impact Statement that

assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation for the proposed facilities. The public was then given a duration of time to make comments on the draft statement (DEIS). The DEIS for the Mountain Valley Pipeline is 781 pages long. Panels of experts have gone through these pages and weeded out areas of concern for geological, wildlife, and water issues that the DEIS has not addressed. Local legal groups, advocacy groups, environmental groups, and watershed organizations have connected in order to disseminate this information, offer financial support, define legal terms, and suggest avenues to voice opinions and comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas). They have used local meetings and the internet to develop a full understanding of the environmental, monetary, and personal issues surrounding the development of the pipeline and to assist the general public in maneuvering through the regulatory process.

It has been wonderful to see so many people involved in the environmental discussion. Every member of the Greenbrier Friends Worship Group has been active in letter writing, disseminating information, attending meetings, or all of the above in answer to our Call.

The period for comments to FERC is now closed and the public is waiting for the response from the pipeline companies regarding how they are going to address those concerns.

While many other countries are investing in renewable energy sources, we are supporting the old systems. Oil and gas are outdated energy sources. They bring in big returns to investors, but at what cost? Where is our energy choice? Where are our investment dollars going? If you are concerned about the cost to yourself, your children, or the environment, please take a moment to comment to your representatives. Below are some important links. And please keep all the environmental guardians, especially the Native Americans in Standing Rock, North Dakota, in the Light.

<http://www.appalmad.org/our-work/natural-gas/pipeline-overbuild/> on the right is a menu that includes the New Study: Proposed Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Not Needed
<https://ferconline.ferc.gov> search for DEIS Mountain Valley Pipeline

ECO-CORNER, FROM SAYMA EARTHCARE ACTION NETWORK

Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, SEAN will host a review of eco-news from our meetings. We consider earthcare a testimony, one which rests upon and expresses all the others. So we want your testimonials. Please send any items you have, large or small, to rmcgahey@main.nc.us in time for each quarterly issue. Those dates will be published on the SAYMA discussion list and shared with the SEAN contacts for each meeting.

Celo held a prayer vigil for the water keepers at Standing Rock the day before the Army Corps of Engineers had given a camp-clearing deadline – Monday December 5. Late that Sunday afternoon, the Corps removed permission for Dakota Access to build the pipeline through their sacred territory and ancestral burial grounds near the Missouri River in the Sioux lands of North Dakota. Over two thousand veterans had arrived to act as a shield between the police and the protester-guardians. We met in prayerful solidarity with the resisters, fully aware that the risk of serious violence was great. The announcement of the cancellation of the permit came about two hours before we met. We celebrated the decision quietly, and messages of solidarity and commitment to the longer struggle ahead were spoken, as were several statements of gratitude for all our abundant gifts. We acknowledged this was a watershed moment in the effort to resist the continued carbonization of our energy needs. We also hope to re-institute our dime-a-gallon fund, to be used for earthcare concerns.

Asheville the Green Team will meet soon to discern our vision and goals for this year and longer term. We're working closely with House and Grounds to implement some of the recommendations from our Energy Audit earlier this year. They are gathering leaves to mulch our ground to improve the soil and we are pursuing building a pollinator garden and working with a nearby church to build a community garden. A couple of ideas are to use cloth napkins and towels rather than paper and to see how we can help Green Works organization with their public housing tree project. They plan to plant fruit and nut trees in all of the local public housing developments so that some of our "food deserts" will have access to healthy free food.

Brevard has integrated multiple earth-care practices into how we live and do business as a meeting. Brevard Meeting chooses to structure-share with another organization as a way to conserve natural resources. By structure-sharing rather than maintaining our own separate structure, we are able to use less electricity/gas and water as well as fewer nonrenewable resources that are required to build and furnish separate structures. We continue to use reusable dishes, utensils and serving ware for potlucks and refreshments, with different people taking turns washing the dishes at home and bringing them back. We also consciously carpool whenever possible to diminish the amount of fossil fuels used in participating in meeting activities.

Swannanoa Valley is in the process of initiating a weatherization project in partnership with the Energy Savers Network in Asheville. Our goal is to help local families who have trouble paying their electric and heating bills to reduce energy costs through weatherizing and other energy efficiency measures. We are responding to an overwhelming interest in local needs, along with a call for attention to environmental concerns, Latino concerns, and hands-on, community-building activities within the Meeting. This project brings all those concerns together in a meaningful way.

Atlanta We are still focusing a great deal on global warming and supporting Citizens Climate Lobby in that effort. We have showed films after worship over the past year and before, and we plan to continue to do so - about 4 every year. During the past two years we got a composting program at our monthly potlucks established which continues well. In the fall of 2016 we supported the Standing Rock protest in ND by sending two sizable donations from the Green Friends and Social Concerns budgets.

MINUTE OF SUPPORT

Approved by Chattanooga Monthly Meeting in solidarity with those seeking to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee unanimously endorses the action of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all allied Native American tribes in their protest of the installation of any pipeline for transport of fossil fuels. We express deep concern for the destruction of religious sites of the Standing Rock Sioux. We

encourage all other Friends (Quakers) to join in opposing this pipeline, which is a serious threat to our nation's health and the survival of future generations.
--Chuck Jones, Clerk, Peace and Social Justice Committee, Chattanooga MM

WHAT'S A QUAKER TO DO?

Free Polazzo, Atlanta Monthly Meeting

Decades of progress in bringing peace with justice to marginalized communities are about to be undone by our new President-elect. What's a Quaker to do? One message that spoke to me is from a long-time trusted source, The Southern Poverty Law Center based in Montgomery, Alabama. They say that "In the coming years we will have to work harder than we ever have to ensure our vision of a nation where there truly is equal justice and equal opportunity for all."

<http://tinyurl.com/j6fn5ap>

Can my monthly meeting be the place where I can "work harder than I ever have"? Can my monthly meeting do more than it already does? Atlanta meeting has a large group addressing racism within our meeting as well as how it affects our local police force and judicial and prison systems. We have "Green Friends" who work to protect the environment (and more groups than fit here). Yet mostly it is individuals who volunteer to help bring peace with justice to our communities. It's not like we are twiddling our thumbs. I don't see us doing "more" as a meeting especially as so much of the damage we will suffer will be to our political system.

What about working with a Wider Quaker Organization (WQO)? Might some of them be up to the task of expanding their work to help us to meet the new threats we will face? Will I find a welcome mat or will I discover that there is no place for Quakers? The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a WQO that I can speak to from experience as I have been actively involved as a volunteer for over 20 years.

Like most WQOs, AFSC was created by Quakers as a way to DO something in the world. In this case it was to provide an alternative to imprisonment for those who could not in good conscience serve in the U.S. military during World War One. AFSC happily achieved this goal and then went on to find other concerns as way opened. (Friends do that, you know!) Over its nearly 100 years of service, AFSC has changed a lot.

Any organization is what the people who live and breathe it day in and day out make of it. If you look at how religiously based not-for-profit organizations are managed day to day you find that AFSC operates pretty much the same. Remember that AFSC is not actually a monthly or yearly meeting, even though they say they are "A Quaker Organization". That's actually a good thing because if they were a monthly or yearly meeting, very little would get done. That is because monthly meetings are not structured to do very much as a group outside of taking care of the spiritual needs of those who attend meeting and those who are members.

Most of AFSC's employees are not Quakers. That is because the Board of AFSC, which is Quaker, has been led to do work in marginalized communities. AFSC has learned that most of the people who lead the work in those communities need to be from those communities. Friends Meetings have few members who belong to the marginalized communities that AFSC works in. Since AFSC seeks to empower those without power, Friends can be helpful to AFSC's work, but not very often as program staff. As wonderful as AFSC staff is, we cannot expect someone who is not a Quaker to talk like a Quaker or live like Quaker or even pray like a Quaker.

WQOs like AFSC, are organized with top down management structures. SAYMA's Quaker Meetings are organized around our belief that we are all equal in our ability to discern the truth. I can't even say "bottom – up" because SAYMA's Quaker Meetings are as close to having a flat organizational structure as I've ever seen. We are truly equal when it comes to decision making. I believe this is a key part of why our meetings are so different from other spiritual organizations and why they are the treasures we hang on to for dear life.

This wonderful way of making sure EVERYONE is heard is also why it is so hard to "do" stuff together as a Meeting. We ALL have to agree to do whatever is asked of the Meeting or at least to "stand aside" so those who are so led can proceed.

For me, the essence of our peace testimony is that we put community ahead of "doing stuff". Community means EVERYONE because we know experientially that all are part of the Spirit. So what we do as we live out our Faith & Practice has to focus on KEEPING US ALL TOGETHER as one, life affirming and mutually supportive community. DOING stuff becomes less important than BEING together. If someone says that they cannot climb "THAT MOUNTAIN" where everyone else wants to go, that person's objection needs to be heard and recognized or else they will be left behind and the meeting will be diminished.

SAYMA's Guide to Our Faith and Practice is about "Faith" AND "Practice". I believe that what makes Quakers different from non-Quakers is that we agree on not just what our Faith is. We also agree on HOW we DO our faith journeys together. We reach decisions as a group only if nobody objects to what is offered because we have agreed that how we treat each other on the way is more important than where we are going. Quaker meetings are for the people who are led to sit and wait for the Spirit to move us, both individually and corporately.

I encourage Friends to consider that our Quaker way of “doing” may be to support the staff of the WQO’s to help them do whatever they can do to bring peace with justice to the world.

I know my journey has been deepened and made more joyful by the wonderful staff of all the WQO’s I have met, many of whom have been at SAYMA’s Yearly Meetings. Let us, in the trying times we see ahead, exemplify the best part of being Quaker and make our

Here are some places to begin:

AFSC: <https://www.afsc.org/friends/resources>

FCNL: <https://www.fcnl.org/action/advocacy>

AFSC: <https://www.afsc.org/key-issues/issue/building-peace>

FCNL: <https://www.fcnl.org/action/quakers>

circle big enough to include WQO’s. Without Friends becoming more active in WQOs they cannot grow larger and serve the growing needs we see appearing all around us.

Imagine! Just by showing up with your Light, you will be making a priceless contribution to an organization that brings peace with justice, in a Friendly manner, to many places where it would never have gone before.

This article was published in the December 2016 issue of the Memphis Friends News. Thanks to Janet Minshall and Carol Ciscel for improving my article with their editing gifts.

Have you heard that 2017 is the American Friends Service Committee’s 100th anniversary?

Here are 8 ways for individuals and congregations to celebrate 100 years of peace and justice work with us:

1. Host the traveling exhibit about AFSC’s values and current work at a Yearly Meeting annual gathering or in a monthly meeting—follow [this link](#) to reserve dates and to find out more information.
2. Use our first day school curriculum to tell the story of AFSC’s history and current work.
3. Visit peaceworks.afsc.org to read stories from donors, volunteer, staff members, and program participants about their time with AFSC. Then, share your own AFSC story on the website
4. Pick up the April 2017 edition of Friends Journal, featuring AFSC’s Centennial.
5. Attend Friends General Conference’s Annual Gathering in 2017, featuring a plenary address and workshops about AFSC.
6. Plan a trip to visit the “Wage Peace” museum exhibit about AFSC as it moves around the country, 2017-2019.
7. Attend the AFSC Centennial summit on April 20-23, 2017 in Philadelphia. (Registration opening soon)
8. [Donate to the Courageous Acts campaign](#) in honor of the Centennial and AFSC’s continued work.

Visit afsc.org/100 for the latest information and starcafe.org/service/centennial for more resources. We hope to see you at an event or send you more information soon! Please email Emily McGrew, emcgrew@afsc.org, with any questions.

SAYMA MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Aiken Worship Group	South Carolina	(803) 640-9650
Asheville Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 423-0714
Athens Friends Meeting	Georgia	(706) 309-0310
Atlanta Friends Meeting	Georgia	(404) 377-2474
Berea Friends Meeting	Kentucky	(859) 344-0406
Big Stone Gap Worship Group		(276) 546-5884 suekobak@roadrunner.com
Birmingham Friends Meeting	Alabama	(205) 592-0570
Boone Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 263-0001
Brevard Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 698-2862
Canton Worship Group	Georgia	(770) 720-4669
Celo Monthly Meeting	Burnsville NC	(828) 675-4456
Charleston Friends Meeting	West Virginia	(304) 756-3033
Chattanooga Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(423) 629-2580
Columbia Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(803) 780-4197
Cookeville Monthly Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 268-2592, (931) 268-9889
Crossville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 484-9033
Foxfire Friends Meeting of Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 202-8661
Greenbriar Valley Worship Group	Lewisburg, WV	(304)832-6020 wd.bouldin@gmail.com
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
Huntsville Area Friends Meeting	Alabama	(931) 484-9033
Macon Worship Group.	Georgia	(478) 227-8892 maconquakers@gmail.com
Memphis Friends Meeting	Tennessee	mfm@memphisfriendsmeeting.com
Nashville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(615) 329-2640
Oxford Quaker Meeting	Mississippi	(662) 473-0230
Sewanee Worship Group	Tennessee	(931) 598-5031
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 669-0832
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

SAYMA

106 Wax Myrtle Ct
Savannah, GA 31419