
SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND

Spring

The newsletter of

2013

Carol Nickle, clerk
clerk@sayma.org

Liz Perch, administrative assistant
adminasst@sayma.org



SAYMA

*Southern Appalachian
Yearly Meeting & Association*

UPDATE FROM SAYMA'S PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Jere Licciardello, clerk

Memphis meeting has conducted a workshop on the Kabarak Call entitled Living Waters. All are encouraged to contact Memphis to obtain the materials. They are still growing as they review this incredible one day gathering. Queries will be available once compiled.

Atlanta Green Friends has prepared a minuted response to the Kabarak Call, which is seasoning as yet. The queries from that response are worth sharing with you now:

How do we articulate our individual spiritual responses to global disruption?

What do we as a worldwide faith community have to say to ourselves and to the world?

As humanity turns to nourish ecological health through community, and not through conflict, what are we doing to keep conversations open with people who may differ from us on the care of the Earth, of Life, and of one another?

What are we doing to nurture healthy relationships and community as we are called to be examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice?

As you know, meetings are discouraged from spending undue effort to rewrite the call. This is because we are trying to discern how we as SAYMA are moved by the Call, and not by a rewrite, good as it may be. Charles Schade from Charleston WV meeting shares this concise statement from the Catholic Church that, upon reflecting on the Call, speaks to him

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge/>:

The St. Francis Pledge

I/We Pledge to:

PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.

LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.

ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.

ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.

ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

Peace and Social Concerns looks forward to SAYMA YM 2013, as SAYMA reaffirms and deepens its sense of what it means to be a Quaker in these times with respect not only to the Kabarak call, but in all respects. As the pieces of Quakerism are lived out by SAYMA members and collectively, the Call asks, among other things, for Quakers in all branches to reaffirm their Faith and their witness. To not only profess Quakerism but also to live the Quaker way, seek the truth in the Quaker way, be Quaker from the inside out to the world in all its blessedness, warts and all, is a daunting task. And to do it with deep and abiding love of all and oneself, accepting what is for what it is, and shine our light: can we? Will we?

QUERIES FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION FROM THE PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

How do we articulate our individual spiritual responses to global disruption?

What do we, as SAYMA, both as ourselves and as a segment of a worldwide faith community including all Quakers, have to say to each other and to the world as we respond to the Kabarak Call?

As humanity would do well to turn to nourish ecological health through community, and not through conflict, what are we doing to keep conversations open with people who may differ from us on their sense of proper care of the Earth, of Life, and of one another?

What are we doing to nurture healthy relationships and community as we are called to be examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice?

NEWS OF MEETINGS

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

To make sure that your meeting's news is included in this compilation, please add Errol to your newsletter's e-mail distribution list, and he will make sure to highlight events from your meeting, too!

Asheville

Asheville Friends underwrite \$8000 water well in Vietnam. In many villages in the mountainous regions in Quang Ngai province existing wells were dug only to bedrock. These wells dry up during the hot season. Therefore, the people must walk up to streams in the mountains to carry water on poles and small buckets back to their homes for their use. This project involves drilling for water through up to 120' of bedrock, where the water will then be pumped to various locations for community use.

Madison Quakers project coordinator Phan Van Do has been working with village elders and professional well diggers researching the engineering logistics of these projects. This research will allow Madison Quakers to dig these wells deeper once sufficient funds are raised. In addition to the drilling, donations will be used for the pumps, pipes, faucets, and the supplies for the basins.

Asheville Friends have been supporting Madison Quakers' Vietnam projects for several years with a modest annual donation. Several Asheville Friends heard Phan speak at Swannanoa Valley Meeting last year. *submitted by Steve Livingston*

Atlanta

Beginning Friendly Eights in April.

Athens

Outreach efforts include meeting T Shirts and pamphlets on the theme "You might Be a Quaker If...". Friends had an Easter sunrise service followed by a potluck at a

member's home.

Charleston

Greenbriar WG reports seven attendees. Provided Superbowl dinner for men's shelter. Statewide fall gathering will be Nov. 2-3 at Jackson's Mill.

Chattanooga

Received a substantial anonymous donation to establish a Helping Fund.

Cookeville

The meeting is considering endorsement of the Kabarak Call. The meeting will have a table at the May UC Gay Pride Festival.

Memphis

Allowing a CSA to use meetinghouse as a distribution point on trial basis. Meetinghouse has a guest room for visiting Friends. The meeting hosted Arthur Morgan School students and staff in late February.

Swannanoa Valley

Passed minute on Israeli-Palestine Conflict.

West Knoxville

The meeting has a Quaker Theology Discussion group before meeting twice each month. The meeting is in the process of discernment about whether to take Big Stone Gap worship group under its care. The meeting will continue its financial support of Compassionate Ministries Uganda.

"There is a place set for you at our table, if you will choose to join us..."

Alabama Quaker couple seeks live-in Friend(s)/farm help for 1 year Quaker presence. Room/board. Send CV to Sara and Daryl rivkah@otelco.net or call 205-429-3088.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

From around our yearly meeting

From the SAYMA Office: Charles Schade has assumed the role of Acting Treasurer. Procedures for financial transactions with SAYMA have changed as noted below.

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). E-mail is preferred with documentation in electronic form; Friends may also send 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. All payments to SAYMA should be sent to Liz for deposit to SAYMA's account.

Peacebuilders Camp at Koinonia Farm Receives a \$3,000 Challenge Grant

Peacebuilders Camp at Koinonia Farm is a camp run by Atlanta Friends Jonah McDonald and Erica Schoon.

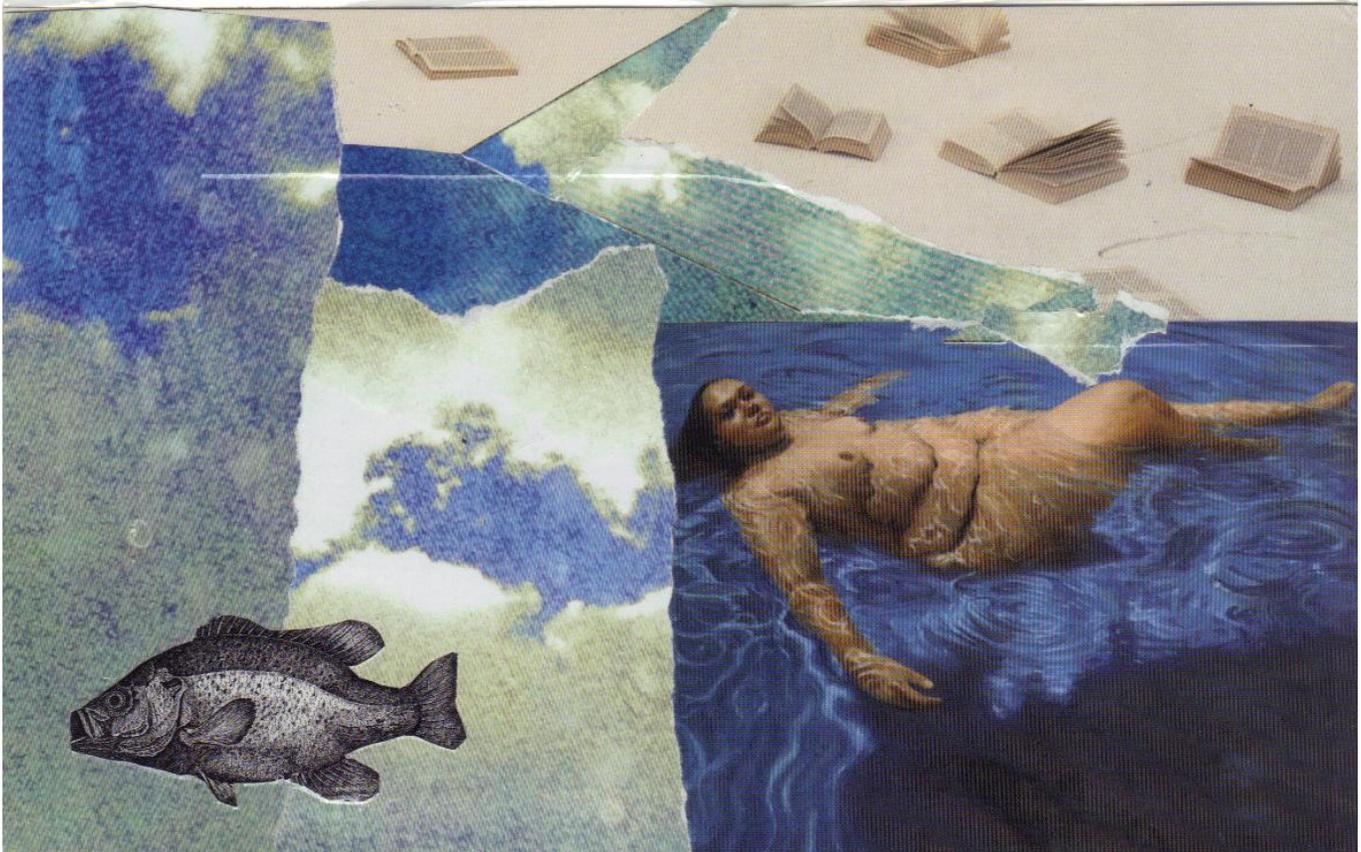
Many SAYMA Friends are supporters and several of our campers have been Quaker. This year the camp is growing - we're holding two camp sessions, June 17-22 (for ages 13-14) and June 24-29 (for ages 11-12).

The other exciting news to announce is that we've received a Challenge Grant! The Peacebuilders Camp Advisory Board will match any donation of \$50 or more, up to \$3,000. And they will kick in an additional \$25 when any new supporter makes a donation of \$50 or more.

If you've been considering making a donation to Peacebuilders Camp at Koinonia Farm this year, this is a great way to stretch your resources and make a big impact. Information about how to donate can be found on the Peacebuilders Camp website: www.peacebuilderscamp.org

And if you know of any young person who might be interested in attending camp - registration is open and we'd like to have even more Quakers attend this year!

Contact Jonah (jonah@peacebuilderscamp.org or [404-373-8036](tel:404-373-8036)) if you have any questions about camp.



Summertime, collage by Ellen Johnson (Rome, GA, Worship Group)

A HOME OF YOUR OWN: REFLECTIONS ON OWNING A MEETINGHOUSE

We can learn from each other. SAYMA meetings are geographically distant and often small. As a longtime member of a small meeting, I was eager to learn how others had resolved some of the problems our meeting has faced. I remember vividly having my attitude flipped around when hearing how a small meeting with only a dozen members had in faith invested in buying a meetinghouse. That's something I often wished to share with others.

Southern Appalachian Friend has potential to share our experiences with Friends in other meetings. To further that, I ask your meeting to write an article about what it meant to you to get a meetinghouse. Here are some suggestions. Use as many or as few as you wish. —submitted by Errol Hess

Describe the process of obtaining your meetinghouse.

What effect has owning a meetinghouse had on your meeting's numbers, membership, finances, relationship with the community?

What hardships came with owning or obtaining your meetinghouse?

What effect has it had on quality of worship?

How important or unimportant is location?

Describe financial issues.

Describe maintenance issues.

OWNING A MEETINGHOUSE: CHATTANOOGA'S EXPERIENCE



The most important decision a Friends meeting can take after becoming a monthly meeting is whether to have a meetinghouse or not. With a relatively small number of members and attenders—we had twelve people at the inaugural meeting for worship in our new meetinghouse, on the first Sunday of the new year in 1984—Chattanooga Friends Meeting began looking for its own place to worship about a year earlier. Until then, we had met in student religious centers near the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, but we decided that we needed a

place and identity of our own, where we could stash our stuff, put up a sign, use a building freely, have a telephone, and the like. We looked at a number of places, but finally found a Tudor-style house, about fifty years old, with four and a half acres of land in a racially mixed neighborhood in a close-in older suburban area. The house had been for sale for some time; we offered \$46,600 for it and, after agreeing to pay that year's taxes, we closed the deal, with almost nothing in our building fund.

The house needed work—the coal furnace was cracked and had smoked up the house—including a new heating system, hot water heater, all appliances, cabinets, painting, and storm windows. We washed walls, painted, and did minor repair work. Generally in good structural condition, it had three upstairs bedrooms and a bath and a half. We rent one of the bedrooms cheaply to a person whose presence adds a measure of security to the house, which sits back from the road a good bit. The other two bedrooms are used as First-day School rooms.

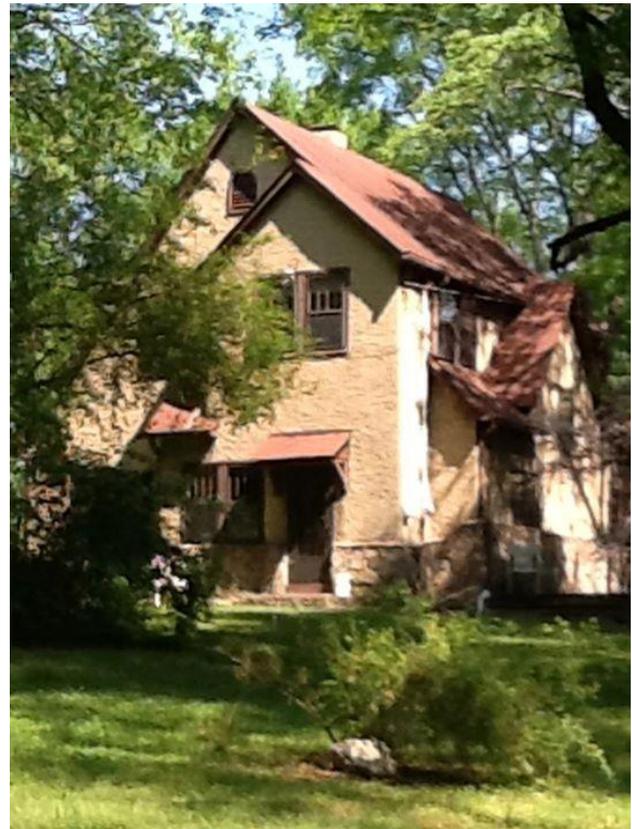
Money was our most immediate need. One member borrowed \$5,000 on his life insurance policy with the understanding that the meeting would pay the modest annual interest until the loan was repaid. With that much

land, we decided to lease lots for building a home at \$4000 for a life time, up to 99 years, lease; three of those sold (no one has built, and it appears that no one is likely to; one \$4000 has been returned). An attender had an aunt who agreed to a low interest loan, and a Friend from Atlanta Meeting made an interest-free loan. Everyone redoubled her contributions. In slightly less than ten years, we had paid back the outstanding loans and claimed ownership of the house. We decided early on not to ask for a free ride from the city and county (we do use city and county services, after all), so we have paid our taxes annually. We knew maintenance would be needed, so we set aside \$50 each month to build a fund for that. We needed a Yellow Page listing in the phone book, whose cost of better than \$50 monthly seemed exorbitant, but we decided it was worth it.



We had high hopes that our own meetinghouse would attract new attenders, but we cannot definitely prove that it has. (I should add that a couple that recently became members drove by to check out the look of the place a half-dozen times before they first attended.) But it has given us a location and a presence that cannot be denied,

so that hardly a week goes by that someone hasn't remarked, "Oh, you are a Quaker. I know where your meetinghouse is." I think we've kept the house very well, a fact remarked on by service people who've come by to look after something. We have an active Property-Oversight Committee that keeps tabs on needed long and short term repair work, both on the house and grounds, and keeps abreast of gradual deterioration, for example, sunrays' damage to windowsills on the south side. A Board of Trustees with staggered terms technically owns the property but by design takes on few other responsibilities for it.



About two years ago we seriously considered constructing an addition to the house that would have allowed us more space for meetings for worship and special occasions, such as weddings and memorial services. (Our present meeting room will seat only about 40 people.) Additional space would also allow us to host SAYF more adequately. We laid those plans aside, however, when they appeared too costly a project for us—over three times the price we initially paid for the entire property. If we grow very much, we may have to revisit these plans. Right now, though, growth is slow—it fluctuates rather wildly. Ironically, on most Sundays we usually have no more than the dozen in number who showed up for that first meeting in January 1984.

We've tried, with summer children's parties, a community garden, and attempting to start a neighbor association, but we have no one attending who lives within a mile of the meetinghouse, much to our dismay. Still, a sense of permanency prevails at our own location, and we won't know until later that someone's not driving by on Rogers Road today to case us out by observing how well we keep our own meetinghouse and property.

--Larry Ingle

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?—*John 14:2, New International Version*

"There's no place like home. There's no place like home. . ." *Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland)*

SAYMA MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Aiken Worship Group	South Carolina	(803) 640-9650
Asheville Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 258-0974
Athens Friends Meeting	Georgia	(706) 353-2856
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) 252-2221
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@memphisfriends.com
Nashville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(615) 329-2640
Oxford Quaker Meeting	Mississippi	(662) 473-0230
Royal Worship Group	Blountsville AL	(205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 429-1807
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
P.O. Box 5848
Savannah, GA 31414