

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — DECEMBER 2011

CALENDAR

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m. on First Days
- First Day School for children: 11 a.m. (Joining meeting for worship from 11:45 a.m. to noon)
- Nursery care for our youngest: 11 a.m.
- Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business: 1st First Day of month at 9 a.m.
- Adult religious education: As noted in calendar below
- Care of the Meeting House for Twelfth Month: Outreach

DECEMBER 4: 9 a.m. Meeting for worship with attention to business; 11 a.m. Meeting for worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

DECEMBER 11: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

DECEMBER 18: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 11:45 a.m. Children's annual Christmas program! Refreshments follow.

DECEMBER 21: 9 p.m. Newsletter items deadline: please email!

DECEMBER 24: 7 p.m. Christmas Eve worship, carols, potluck treats

DECEMBER 25: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; no First-Day-School children in circle

JANUARY 1, 2012: 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; No business meeting until January 8; no First-Day-School children in circle

QUERIES FOR TWELFTH MONTH: THE ENVIRONMENT

Am I concerned for the responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations? Do I try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do I seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world? Do I honor the life of all living things, the order of nature, the wildness of wilderness, the richness of the created world? Do I seek the holiness which God has placed in these things and the measure of Light which God has lent them? (Faith & Practice)

MEETING FOR WORKSHOP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES

SIXTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH, 2011

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 33 other Friends and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Change of Date - The January 2012 Meeting for Business will be held on January 8, rather than January 1.

ACTION: Meeting was in unity for this change in meeting dates.

Treasurer's Report (Joel R. reporting): AFM is currently in a very good financial position. AFM has paid all of the expenses for researching the potential Lawrence Avenue land purchase, from which we have withdrawn. Several Friend stated that the Meeting may keep the money they contributed towards the Lawrence Avenue land purchase and use the money as the Meeting sees fit. This has contributed towards the strong financial position we are in. In addition, unrestricted contributions total \$36,253. Rentals are \$18,348. Committees continue to be very frugal with their spending. Copies of the Financial Report are attached in the book of Minutes for Meeting for Business.

Stewardship and Finance (Mary K. reporting the second reading of the 2012 budget): S&F presented the first review of the balanced budget proposed for 2012. This budget was circulated via the

announce list earlier in the week. Of note: because we have the Committee Contingency Fund available, we trimmed speaker expenses from committees that have not used their speaker expense line in recent years; all restricted funds goals are met, including the \$10,000 annual contribution (goal) to the Building Fund; and, recognizing Meeting's enthusiastic support when needs are made known, Unrestricted Contributions were raised to meet these goals. A short discussion followed. Further discussion was held over until next week's Threshing Session.

S&F will sponsor a Threshing Session during Meeting for Learning at 9 a.m. next week First Day (the 13th). In this Threshing Session we will consider our previous commitment to the Building Fund and its impact on our budget/expected contributions, as well as strategies to bring the Meeting's financial needs to Friends' minds in ways appropriate to our Quaker heritage. Stewardship and Finance committee invites and encourages all Friends and Attenders to join us so that as many voices as possible can be considered as we move forward. Friends who are unable to make the Threshing Session are strongly encouraged to contribute questions, concerns, and suggestions via email.

Finally, Nominating Committee supports Karen C. transitioning in as Clerk of Stewardship and Finance prior to the end of the year because the current clerk is experiencing health challenges.

ACTION: Friends are in unity about the transition of Karen C. as Clerk of Stewardship and Finance prior to the end of the year. Friends greatly appreciate Mary's work as Clerk of S&F and hold her in the light.

Meetinghouse and Lands: Bill K. read notice of our official withdrawal from the purchase of the North Lawrence Avenue property. The contract is now null and void, and our deposit has been refunded. Documentation is attached.

Cleanup day started with the 19 members and attenders assisting out in the cold - the largest number of helpers in recent memory. Because of renters, our work was all outside. We ate inside, due to the painting of the picnic table.

Friends appreciate the previous diligent work of Cairn K., Mary K., and Careen M. with the outdoor plantings.

Nominating Committee (Barbara T. reporting the draft 2012 slate): AFM Nominating Committee presented a draft slate of officers and committee members for 2012 for the first reading. This year's Nominating Committee members are Lee L., Phil F., Cairn K., Margaret H., and Barbara T. The slate has also been circulated on the "announce" list. Although most committees look healthy, additional members would be welcome on all committees with the particular need for Stewardship and Finance, CREC, Hospitality, and Pastoral Care, in addition to representatives to various Friends-related organizations and the position of Assistant Treasurer.

Friends were asked to study the list and provide changes or additions to Barbara T., clerk of Nominating. The improved slate will be presented for its second reading at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on December 4. Descriptions of many committees were sent out via email and will be attached to the bulletin board.

A F(f)riend noted that the cuts in CREC's budget for the coming year, and its status as one of the underserved committees, are not unrelated. The fewer people on the committee, the less we are able to consider the long-term goals of making our children a priority at the Meeting as we are so taken up with the need to provide weekly programming for FDS. I would ask that, when Friends consider their leadings to participate in particular committees, they consider also the importance of CREC to the future of AFM as a whole. As Quakers, we have a peculiar responsibility to show our children that they not only will become integral members of the Meeting, but that they already are so. Working with our children does not require that we have children in our own, immediate lives. Nothing can help our children better understand what it is to learn to follow one's conscience, discern a true leading, and live all the possibilities of a Quaker life than having the opportunity to interact in a sustained way with as many of the adults in the Meeting as possible. And when those adults express a genuine interest in, and care for our children, the effects may stretch into the future in ways that far surpass our own imagining.

Ministry and Worship: Tricia R. reported the request of Sam S. for membership in AFM. He requests the continued support and fellowship of AFM as he leaves for his work in the Middle East. M&W plans to bring forth a formal request to affirm his membership in December.

CREC (Joanna T. reporting this Homeschooling report): AFM is pleased to enter the 2011-2012 academic year serving as an umbrella organization for two families. Both families are continuing with AFM, after successfully completing the 2010-2011 year under our care. The families represent three elementary-level, home-school children. We continue to welcome and consider the participation of additional families but recognize that a successful umbrella relationship is founded on comfort, mutual respect, and compatibility. It is important that each family find the right fit for its needs.

BYM Interim Meeting Report is held over to next month.

Closing: These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elise A., Clerk, and Phyllis S., Recording Clerk

PLANS FOR HOLIDAY MARKET

The next holiday market will be held on Saturday, December 3, and the proceeds will be distributed as follows:

75% will go to the We Care and Friends organization that operates out of the Stanton Center to serve people in the Annapolis area by

- Helping people find the proper resources for housing, work, clothing, and food
- Empowering and mentoring for youth
- Helping people with drug addiction to find and fund long-term treatment
- Supporting people returning to the community from drug rehabilitation programs or prison
- Providing confidential, free support to individuals and families in need

25% will be divided between CREC and the Peace and Justice Center. We value all that our young friends contribute to our markets and want to continue to empower their creativity, energy, and enthusiasm in giving to our meeting as well as the local and global community. We also value the ongoing work of the Peace and Justice Center to partner with others to spread the seeds of peace through special projects as well as ongoing support of AVP.

This market will be better than ever as we expand our Quaker Quafe menu to include salad with our world famous soups (no exaggeration), hearty breads and herbed butters, 100% recycled holiday wrapping paper, paperwhite bulbs, handmade items from young Friends, new and used books, and alternative giving options and a few surprise freebies. We need your help and there are many ways you can join in the fun:

- Bring new or gently used items to be sold at the market
- Make a pot of soup to serve in the Quaker Quafe
- Make cookies, pies, cakes, and goodies to sell
- Help sort items and set up Thursday and Friday anytime from 3 to 8 p.m.
- Spread the word, put up flyers at your office or school, invite your neighbors
- Come December 3, bring friends, and EAT and SHOP between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Help clean up from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

You won't want to miss this!

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM DISCUSSION

Our next AFM Deconstructing Racism discussion will take place Saturday, December 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the meetinghouse library.

Our group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee. Friends get together every few months to talk about our recent experiences related to race and diversity. We open in silent worship, update each other on events in our lives, examine our own unaware racism, discern our individual and collective leadings for furthering equality and justice, and close in silent worship.

Hope you can share in this discussion. Newcomers, oldies, and all in between are welcome!

Peace,
Jean

RECRUITING STARTS FOR WINTER RELIEF SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

For several years, Magothy United Methodist Church in Pasadena has asked our Meeting to partner with it to provide shelter for the homeless for one week through Winter Relief. Our dates for 2012 are Monday night, March 26, through Monday morning, April 4.

I'll be lining up volunteers to help early next year. However, I also wanted to let Friends know that our own Light House Shelter in Annapolis is housing a section of Winter Relief this year and is looking for volunteers for supervision and meal prep.

If you have any questions, the person to ask is Carol Ferdock, a volunteer coordinator at the shelter, at cferdock@annapolislighthouse.org or (410) 349-5056, ext. 205.

Peace,
Peter (410-647-2487)

THINKING ABOUT RACE: "WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY?"

"Participating in solidarity work implies that I am not from the community in which I am working, that I have skills or privilege to offer, and that I am constantly and consciously working towards developing others' leadership and access to resources. This process includes political advocacy, building valuable relationships, reallocating resources, being transparent in my actions, and being strategic and sustainable with my energy. The key word - *accountability* - means recognizing that this work is about supporting folks and their projects [in that community] in a way that is not about me and my involvement, but is about the people directly affected and the way they wish to express their needs and greatest potential."

(From the 2010 book, "Accountability and White Anti-racist Organizing: Stories from Our Work," chapter one by Jacqui Hermer, "Lessons from Post-Levee-Break New Orleans.")

NOTE: Friends who wish to comment on this or any other "Thinking About Race" items may do so at <http://racism.bym-rsf.net>. To leave comments, register first by emailing webmanager@bym-rsf.net.

LIBRARY CORNER

"Flunking Sainthood: A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor" by Jana Reiss

Review by Nan Elsbree

ATTENTION: The AFM library has many new books found on the counter in the right side of the book rack. Come see what might appeal to you. We are always open to ideas of other books you might recommend.

One of the new books is "Flunking Sainthood." The author, Jana Riess, decided to try to follow 11 disciplines, practicing one each month. The first month she spent figuring out which ones she would do. The topics included everything from fasting to Benedictine hospitality.

Her thinking at the beginning was "how hard can this be" concentrating on only one a month. At year's end she was discouraged, thinking she had failed. Her editor encouraged her to write a book about "the wild acceptability of failure." It is written at a human level, giving insight into her problems and failures. Even though she didn't accomplish what she set out to do, the learning along the way was educational to her.

While this book is not deeply religious, it does give the reader pause to reflect on ways to make our lives more spiritual. It is a comfortable and easy read. While I didn't laugh out loud like some of the reviews indicated it is amusing in some areas. The quotes she adds are very meaningful and appropriate to the subjects. She gives name of books of the authors she has quoted for additional reading. It is a light spiritual read.

QUAKER QUOTES

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men,
A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.
(John 1: 1-5)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.
(Luke 21:14)

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by 9 p.m. on December 21.
- Phil Caroom is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to him at annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com.
- Friends also are asked to watch your email for announcements of meetings and to listen for announcements at the rise of meeting.
- Event and activity organizers, please also post your announcements on the bulletin board for those who do not use electronic mail!
- Announce List: announce@annapolis.quaker.org; Discuss List: discuss@annapolis.quaker.org

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