

The Langley Hill Friend

TENTH Month 2013

6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Va. 22101-2210

#504



"Taste, and touch, and vision to discern thee fail;
Faith, that comes by hearing, pierces through the veil.
I believe what e're the Son of God hath told;
What the Truth hath spoken, that for truth I hold."

From the second verse of a 13th century Latin hymn
"Adoro devote" ascribed to St. Thomas Aquinas

Calendar

Recurring Events

- Sundays 9:00 am "Drop-in" Worship Sharing in the upstairs room . *See next page*
9:30 am Early worship in the meeting room
10 am Meeting for worship (9:30 on business meeting day)
First Sundays 9:15 Singing ♪♪ 10:00 Worship. 11:00 Fellowship. Noon Potluck Lunch.
Second Sunday 10:30-12:00 Meeting for worship with a concern for Business
2nd Wednesday 7:30-8:30 Mid-Week Worship
Saturday 12-1 pm Witness on Mall "Seek Peace and Pursue It" (*Contact Bill Mims 703-281-7293*)

Upcoming Events at Langley Hill – and Elsewhere

- 10/20 Sunday 11 am Second hour: Intergenerational Worship Sharing
7 pm Adult Book Group: "The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus Borg.,
Chapter Two: Faith, the Way of the Heart. At the Meeting House
10/26 Saturday Quaker Quest Workshop at Langley Hill
10/27 Sunday Second hour: discussion of membership issues, led by Care & Clearness
11/3 Sunday 5:30 "The New Jim Crow" reading group. At the Meeting House

To Schedule Second Hours, contact Jeanne Houghton 703-609-1065
For other uses of Meeting House contact Virginia Colin 703-864-2101

Why are we here? If I understand the message of God, his response to that question is that we are to take part in the creation of the Peaceable Realm of God. Again, if I understand the message of God, how we take part in the creation of this realm is to love God with all our heart, our mind and our strength and to love our neighbors and enemies as we love God and ourselves. In its essential form, different aspects of love bring about the creation of the realm. – Tom Fox

Religious Education –

What Do the Kids Do When they Leave Worship?

As you know, the young people, high school on down, leave worship at 10:30. Older kids go upstairs, but the younger kids need one or two adults to be with them, either outside in good weather or downstairs if not. At 11:00 the firstday school teachers come and take over, so the assembly adults can go back upstairs.

The time begins with “show and tell” when each child takes a turn holding the “talking stick” and telling the others something that happened during the preceding week. Then we play an organized game that the children choose. At 10:50 a.m. we break for snack downstairs in the kitchen area. The older children will put out the snacks which are left out for the children. Then at 11 a.m. the children go to their respective First Day School classes, and the two adults are free to leave.

The idea is not only to let the children run off some steam after sitting in meeting for a half-hour, and before an hour of First Day School class begins, but also to give them time to develop friendships and bond with one another as they form a community. Play can also be a time of spiritual growth. (It also enables the teachers to have a full hour of worship before their classes begin.

It would be wonderful to have a variety of people sharing the assembly time supervision. If you can do this on occasion, please sign up on the sheet posted on the meetinghouse door. OR email me. Thank You!

Lauren Stockbower,
R.E. Committee clerk
laurenstockbower@mac.com



Halloween Party!
Saturday, October 26th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Ghosts and goblins of all sizes are welcome!
Kids come in costume, adults disguised as kids.

There will be pizza and salad plus –

- bobbing for apples
- donuts on a string
- cookie decorating
- and the infamous fortune-teller who gives out prizes.
- and more!



Upstairs there will be the traditional piñata followed by the Halloween Parade, with David Henderson as emcee, and our high schoolers awarding certificates.

If you're attending Quaker Quest at the meetinghouse all day, this will be a perfect change of pace. You can stay to help the middle and high school students decorate at 5:00, or go home to get a couple tasks done before returning to the meetinghouse at 6 p.m. to join in the fun. Don't miss the Halloween fun!



Drop-In Topics

Sunday mornings 9–10 Upstairs

- 10/27 G. M. Hopkins -- Two Autumn Poems
11/3 Heart Sutra
11/10 Dorothy Day
11/17 John Yungblut: Quakers and Jung
11/24 Psalms: 88, 73

Monthly Reading Group

Sunday evening 11/17

7:00 - 8:30 in the Library

"The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus Borg.
Chapter 3: The Bible, the Heart of the Tradition

Each month we will be reading one chapter from this book. Books are available from Steve Morse for \$10. There is also a Kindle version.



Peace and International Outreach Committee Annual Report for 2012-2013

Objective: Acts to further the Quaker testimony against all forms of violence both at home and internationally. Works toward the establishment of just peace and international understanding. Serves as a liaison to other Quaker, religious, and peace organizations on issues relating to international relations; economic and social development, peace, and justice. Serves as agent for the concerns of the Meeting and informs the Meeting on these concerns. Helps coordinate and build awareness of the Meeting's continuing commitment to the organizations and communities it supports.

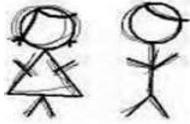
Activities:

- Supports coalition of groups against weaponized drones with monthly vigils, fellowship at meetinghouse, distribution of Quaker House (NC) anti-drone postcards to President Obama
- Provides research and funds 18 international organizations with small grants and outreach, including LHFM Young Friends and Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County
- Supported Quaker Women and Friends for Sane Gun Laws with Bell Tolling program and yard signs, bumper stickers
- Sponsored "Women of Troy" play and discussion by the Traveling Players Ensemble at the Meetinghouse
- Sponsors regular letter-writing campaigns to support FCNL priorities and action alerts, other issues (such as American teacher denied entrance to Israel for working in the West Bank)
- Sponsored presentation of development of drones as "the new face of warfare" by LHFM member (and AFSC employee) at Meetinghouse
- Sponsored presentation of the Quaker Bolivia Link Board at Meetinghouse, participated in weekend QBL events
- Promoted and supported presentation by Monteverde Friends School and Quaker Community (Costa Rica)

Organizations Sponsored:

AGLI/Friends Peace Teams
Bolivia Quaker Education
Christian Peacemaker Teams
Friends Tent of Nations
Ramallah Friends School
Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program
Quaker Bolivia Link
Oxfam Darfur
AFSC International Relief (North Korea)
Lambdi Fund of Haiti
Quaker U N Office
Quaker House (NC)
Center on Conscience and War
Cuban Quaker Peace Initiative
Pro-Nica
Bikes for the World
Friends International Center

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- How does my life reflect "the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion for war"?
 - Where there are hatred, division, and strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?
 - How do our lives illustrate our understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?
 - As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace within and among ourselves?
 - How do we regard those we believe have harmed us or others?
 - How does this affect our spiritual lives?
- From BYM Faith & Practice, 2012



Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2012-2013

The RE Committee completed another busy year serving 28 children. The year was marked by a fresh start for the program. Our long time coordinator, David Henderson, decided to retire from that position after more than 20 years; on February 3rd we held a celebration of his years of service. We are grateful for David's many contributions to our program.

We also began a **new approach for focusing the program**. In previous years we had rotated through three themes on an annual basis; Bible, Quaker History, and Quaker Values. This year, and likely in future years, we decided to try a more integrated approach to teaching Quaker ways. We chose one Quaker value per semester, and studied that value as it is reflected in the lives of historical and current Quakers while also examining the Biblical underpinnings of that belief by introducing a Bible quotation each week. In the fall Peace was the focus, after the New Year Simplicity, and Integrity was taught after Easter.

This change was prompted by seeking ways to help the children in our care to feel a stronger connection between what they learned in First Day School and in their lives outside of LHF. With much hard work and faith that "Way would open," we began a fully integrated multi-year study of Quaker Testimonies, important Bible stories and Quaker History. We felt that this change would help to re-invigorate the First Day program, and we committed ourselves to developing and implementing a new multi-year curriculum this year. Our First Day School Teachers helped to make this change successful, even though the new curriculum was a "work in progress."

While we are working to find candidates, we have not yet found a new RE Coordinator. This has placed more of a burden on Committee members to cover the responsibilities. We welcome the assistance from the Langley Hill community in supporting the Assembly program for younger children, teaching classes, and helping with other R.E. activities such as crafts. We would particularly welcome Friends who

"Let their lives speak" to share their stories with the youngest members of the Langley Hill friends Meeting community. It is one thing to teach the children about Quakers who worked for equality or peace, it is quite another thing to have a Friend they know share their story of marching for civil rights or applying for CO status.

We began the year with a new undertaking: a **Spirituality Workshop** for children and their caregivers on First Day, October 14, 2012 at the meeting. Presenters were Kathy Fry-Miller, Children's Spirituality Director of Everylight, and John Surr, member of LHF; also a researcher on young children's spirituality. Some 12 children attended. The first workshop was called "Peace

Begins with Me," for children ages 3-11. This was followed by a light lunch for children and adults. Part 2 was for parents, grandparents, teachers and interested others, and called "Tending the Spirit of the Child." It was an experiential overview looking at the spirituality of children using Karen Marie Yust's book, *Real Kids Real Faith*. Topics

included spiritual development, stories of faith, space for prayer and supportive faith communities. It was attended by about 25 adults. Both workshops were well received, and we may want to consider offering similar workshops in future years.

The **elementary age First Day School** class focused initially on peace. They talked about the International Day of Peace, and then made peace signs and peace crafts. They learned the story of the "Peace Crane," and made doves out of origami that they exhibited in the classroom. They also read "George Fox—The Man Who Wouldn't Tip His Hat." After learning about the story of David and Goliath, the class made clay models of the two in battle. And finally, the class wrote their own LHF. Peace Testimony.

For Integrity and Simplicity, the class used "Living Our Faith The Bible and Friends' Testimonies" by Gwen Halsted and Mary Kay Rehard. The class

How do we provide young people with guidance in Quaker faith and practice?

How do we get to know and care for our children and young people as individuals?

learned about how integrity means listening to God and speaking the truth even when it feels risky. Later the class took a trust walk by two's; with one classmate blindfolded and the other leading her safely around the playground. The class also learned about integrity in relation to friendship, how doing God's will sometimes means civil disobedience, as well as the importance of using the children's gifts. The class made thumbprint pictures to show how each of us is unique. During our study of Simplicity we talked about how simplicity means trusting God to provide what we need. We discussed what we would take if we went camping or traveling and could only take things with us that we really needed. We talked about simple prayer and simple fun. We stitched clothing on colonial boys and girls with yarn, and made simple toys out of popsicle sticks.

The **teen class** (7-12th grades) focused on community building and the topic of "living out our Quaker values." Due to inconsistent attendance, classes were generally designed as distinct learning experiences with an emphasis on sharing personal stories and perspectives and reflecting on current events or Quaker testimonies. Monthly, the teens planned and led an activity for the younger children during the multi-age Assembly time. At year-end, they specifically engaged the younger children in a community art project, which was then open for participation by the entire community. The teens later used the "community" themed artwork to lead an intergenerational worship sharing session during a Second Hour program in the spring.

Our **concern about declining enrollment** continues, especially in the lower grades. Participation has declined to 28 this year, five less than last year. Most of the children are in the Middle and High school classes, and we have few children in the Nursery through 5th grade classes. The committee members and teachers are being intentional about reaching out to new families. We appreciate the meeting's outreach to the community especially outreach to families.

In addition to traditional events, the Halloween party, the Advent activities, the Easter egg hunt, and the First Day school picnic, we sponsored two **Intergenerational Worship Sharing** programs. We also continued work on a draft of a youth safety

policy for the Meeting which was delivered to the Trustees.

As is our tradition, age appropriate **books** that were complimentary to the themes explored during the year or for the coming year, were given out to the FDS children during the spring **First Day School picnic**. This year's books were:

- Pre-K: *God's Quiet Things*, by Nancy Sweetland;
- Elementary School: *The Three Questions, Based on a Story by Leo Tolstoy*, by John Muth;
- Middle School: *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained* by John Bowker;
- High School: *Journeys in the Light, Quaker Stories*, by Jan Arriens;
- Graduating Seniors: *The Quakers: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)* by Pink Dandelion

We end our report with a special note of **thanks to this year's teachers**: Jim Hersey, Lauren Stockbower and Valerie Taylor who led the elementary school children; Ann Delorey, who taught middle and high school students; Elizabeth Rodas, who worked in the nursery and continues to provide loving care to our very youngest children. A big thanks also goes to Steve Woodbury, who taught music during Assembly in the winter months. We note, with gratitude, that this year's FAPs were Nicole Bivens-Collinson, Ann Kosmal, and Susan Joyce.

(Post Script: This fall we're happy to add that two children are attending our nursery since the summer and we have two older boys who join the teens.)

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Report Prepared by KC Morris

R.E. Committee: Lauren Stockbower, Clerk; Ann Delorey, Hugo Estrada, Jim Hersey, Lara Maupin, KC Morris, Betty Smallwood, Jeannette Smith, Valerie Taylor.

R.E. Coordinator: David Henderson

## October Treasurer's Report

| <b>Langley Hill Friends Meeting General Fund</b> |                        |                  |                |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                                                  | <b>Jul 13 - Sep 13</b> | <b>FY 13-14</b>  |                |
|                                                  | <b>Actual</b>          | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Portion</b> |
|                                                  |                        |                  |                |
| <b>Portion of Year</b>                           |                        |                  | <b>25%</b>     |
|                                                  |                        |                  |                |
| <b>Income</b>                                    |                        |                  |                |
| Contributions (Autogive)                         | \$16,659               | \$71,000         | 23%            |
| 1 Contributions (non-Autogive)                   | \$3,206                | \$55,218         | 6%             |
| Contributions (TOTAL)                            | \$19,865               | \$126,218        | 16%            |
| Other (Interest, MH Use, etc.)                   | \$2,562                | \$7,727          | 33%            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>\$22,428</b>        | <b>\$133,945</b> | <b>17%</b>     |
|                                                  |                        |                  |                |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                  |                        |                  |                |
| Meeting House                                    | \$4,959                | \$20,872         | 24%            |
| Administrative                                   | \$724                  | \$4,910          | 15%            |
| 2 Publishing                                     | \$142                  | \$1,000          | 14%            |
| 3 Committees                                     | \$12                   | \$9,950          | 0%             |
| 4 Religious Ed                                   | \$405                  | \$10,841         | 4%             |
| BYM                                              | \$5,868                | \$24,190         | 24%            |
| Contributions to Other Organizations             | \$3,550                | \$21,000         | 17%            |
| 5 Transfers to Other Funds                       | \$0                    | \$5,500          | 0%             |
| Contingencies                                    | \$0                    | \$500            | 0%             |
| Loan Repayment                                   | \$12,738               | \$35,182         | 36%            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>\$28,397</b>        | <b>\$133,945</b> | <b>21%</b>     |
|                                                  |                        |                  |                |
| <b>Net Income</b>                                | <b>(\$5,969)</b>       | <b>\$0</b>       |                |

|                             |             |           |               |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Bank Accounts & Investments | \$112,786   |           |               |
| Money Loaned Out to Others  | \$40,056    |           |               |
|                             |             |           |               |
| Mortgage Principal Balance  | \$214,768   | \$325,000 | 66%           |
|                             | Outstanding | Original  | % Left to Pay |

**Treasurer's comments from business meeting:**

1. We are way behind in non-autogive contributions. Friends who can increase their autogive amount are urged to do so.
2. Publishing costs are way down since fewer people need mailed paper copies.
3. Committes have not yet used their budgeted funds.
4. R.E. Costs are less than budget since we are not paying an RE Coordinator
5. Transfers are made at the end of the year, so no expenditure is expected at this point.

"To embrace a faith that fits us comfortably is a poor way of accepting religion; ...Faith must be a continuing challenge to which we must respond, a discipline to which we must submit, not a feather bed to protect us against the sharp edge of living."

- Edgard B. Castle, 1961. From Catherine Whitmire, Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity.

But remember too that the ultimate irony of faith is that it necessarily admits doubt. It is the belief in things not seen. It is beyond our capacity as human beings to know with certainty what God has planned for us or what He asks of us, and those of us who believe must trust that His wisdom is greater than our own. - Barack Obama

Langley Hill Friends Meeting  
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McLean, Virginia 22101-2210  
Address Correction Requested