

The Langley Hill Friend

TWELFTH Month 2013

6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Va. 22101-2210

#505

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus. . . .

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.



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

12/22 Sunday 11 am Open (fellowship, singing)

12/29 Sunday 11 am Open (fellowship)

1/5 Sunday 9 am Drop In - Jane Rushmore on Vocal Ministry

1/12 Sunday 9 am Drop-In - FNCL on Peaceful Resolution of Deadly Conflict

1/19 Sunday 9 am Drop-In - Ben Sirach, Chapters 1 and 2

1/24-26 Fri-Sun BYM Women's Retreat, Frostburg MD.

"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another,
because love covers a multitude of sins.

Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." ~ 1 Peter 4:8-10

Notes from December Meeting for Business

A letter from Naomi Thiers wrote requesting membership was read and passed on to Care & Clearness.

BYM Young Friends are planning a conference here on February 15-16. It may challenge our resources (especially septic) but we approved. If necessary, we may rent a porta-potty as other meetings have done.

The Nominating Committee offered a few more names for consideration, and approval in January. She noted that both Religious Education and Social Concerns could use some more people. A simplified list of committees and appointments follows. Note that the names to consider for next business meeting are in *italics*.

Both October and November business meeting minutes were approved.

Rick Post read the House & Grounds Committee report, which follows this article. The work of this committee is impressive, and foundational to our life in the meeting house. They lamented the lack of non-committee people at the work day. Meeting Clerk Mary Yeane thanked the committee on behalf of all of us,

The Peace & International Outreach Committee proposes, in response to a request from Dave Zarembka via Mel Snyder, that we increase support for programs of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI). Mel Snyder and an ad hoc committee will explore what the Meeting can do to increase support for these projects and bring back recommendations to the Meeting.

At the October Quaker Quest Workshop – the In-reach part of the program – momentum was generated to work toward eventually offering one or more Public Sessions. The Public sessions are very structured program that would repeat over a (2) week period. Ministry and Worship, and Advancement and Outreach are starting a process toward this and welcome everyone in the meeting to become knowledgeable and involved in one way or another. Other meetings have found this very valuable not only for growing the meeting but for growing their own spiritual life as Quakers.

Finances? The top, bottom and middle line is: *We are way behind in contributions* to meet our larger budget – about \$15,000 short. Friends are fervently urged to *increase their autogive contributions* if possible – *and* to continue non-autogive contributions, which are also needed.

The Ministry and Worship Committee is very active. Drop-In early morning discussion, intergenerational worship, an evening book discussion group, participation by many in the meeting in the Spiritual Formation program, mentoring a new worship group in Arlington, the fall community open house, the racism working group, and the second hour program which is booked way ahead. If important timely needs show up, changes can be considered.

Steve Elkinton reported that the archives are mostly complete. He's spent the year organizing minutes, newsletters, decisions. Next are topic files documenting a wide variety of issues, causes, events, and activities. We have outgrown the 2-drawer storage cabinet in the Gathering room and need a matching cabinet.

Next Meeting for Business meets on Sunday January 12.

Drop-In Topics

on Sunday mornings from 9 - 10

- 12/22 Slide Show on "The Annunciation"
- 12/29 New Year's Resolutions (chat)
- 1/5 Jane Rushmore on Vocal Ministry
- 1/12 FNCL on Peaceful Resolution of Deadly Conflict
- 1/19 Ben Sirach, Chapters 1 and 2

Third Sunday Book Group

The monthly discussion group will NOT meet in December.

In January, on 1/19, Georgia Fuller will lead a discussion reviewing Chapters 1-3 of Marcus Borg's book "The Heart of Christianity." The monthly discussion group meets from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Meeting library.

House & Grounds Committee Report

September 2011-November 2013

Over the past two years the House & Grounds committee has continued to get a better handle on the complicated systems that we had installed during the renovation. One of the facts that has become clear to us is that the “new” building requires a lot more maintenance and inspections (with attendant costs). Between HVAC, elevator, fire inspection, service contracts and building monitoring we spend between \$3500 and \$4000 annually. This does not include service calls or repairs. It also does not include snow/lawn or septic service.

Thankfully, we currently have committee members who can make time and skills available on short notice for maintenance, emergencies and inspections.

As problems arose we solved them for the most part.

Repairs and renovations:

The roof had been leaking and had caused some damage inside which had to be repaired after the roof problems were addressed involving new slate on the roof. When our keypad entry stopped functioning, we dealt with alternative entry solutions until we had the faulty lock replaced. We repaired the sign out front when it needed it. When it was determined that the fence in front of the meeting house was in need of removal, we removed it and are in the process of discerning if we need to build a new fence. We are still experiencing problems with the septic system. Part of the system isn't functioning properly and is being replaced. We looked into connecting with the County sewer system but we would have to spend \$20,000 in fees, permits and easements before the first shovel went into the ground (total costs might exceed \$40,000). We decided that our present septic system is preferable.

Improvements:

The committee installed a key organizer board inside of the mechanical room door at the bottom of the stairs so that Friends can find keys as needed. We installed a picture board in the library/gathering

room. We installed a shelf in the foyer for printed materials for new comers. We planted many new decorative plants around the building. We also removed much unwanted growth, including tree branches that obscured views of oncoming traffic and hid our permanent and temporary signs from traffic. Meanwhile we have placed additional informational signs inside and around the meeting house. We installed a mailbox at the meeting house so that we receive mail by mail carrier rather than pay the yearly fee for a PO Box and the necessity for someone to go weekly to pick up mail from the McLean post office. We have more than doubled the number of seat pads available in the meeting room. We purchased and mounted a Rapid Entry System outside that was a new requirement by Fairfax County. We facilitated the rescue and donation of a stained glass window that used to be in the back wall of the meeting room but was removed in the '60's during an early renovation. This window was donated to Trinity Methodist church who had our building before we purchased it in '61. They are currently restoring the window and will let us know when they have it installed in their church so that we can see it and perhaps get a story in the local newspaper to celebrate the event and the outreach to another church with whom we have a connection.

The House & Grounds committee sees a role that we can play in meeting Langley Hill's need for a more forward-looking approach to new technologies. Thanks to donations and loans of equipment this has included upgrades to the in-house system for the hearing-impaired, better use of computers and internet technology, and better projection equipment for meetings and gatherings. The meeting house has been wired with multiple Wi-Fi access points enabling Friends to enjoy fast internet use at the meeting house. Friends have begun to use our technology improvements for multi-media presentations, Skype conferences and meeting participation from a distance using the internet. We invite Friends to learn about and utilize our capabilities. If you need help, please contact a member of the committee.

The committee is exploring a location and possible lighting for a refurbished sign in front of the meeting house. Our intention is to find ways to be more visible to passersby and to convey more information such as the meeting website and news about upcoming events.

Committee work has been accomplished by a committed group of Friends. Our Fall Work Day accomplished several tasks including the installation of a 60 ft. drainage system for the corner of the building, mesh placed on the ends of the front porch to keep pests out of the space above our porch ceiling and more planting outside of the meeting house. Unfortunately, only 3 non-committee members helped out (thank you Betty, K.C. and Keith) except for 3 family members of one committee member-thank you Posts). Several years ago, the committee decided

that we could save money by doing work ourselves but this will only work if Friends come and help. The alternative is to pay contractors to do more of the work. We need to ask ourselves corporately do we really want to increase our outlay and budget needs?

We rely on Friends helping with our Fall and Spring work days. We need you. Please come, lend a hand and make the work lighter.

House & Grounds Committee

David Henderson (Clerk)	Mark Van Raden
Dona Manoukian	Paul Kohlenberger
Doug Neal	Pablo Slattery
Keith Oberg	Rick Post

This Month in Quaker History*

*probably written by Chuck Fager

In December of 1675, the colony of Rhode Island had a Quaker governor, and a Quaker majority in its Assembly. These were among the first Friends who held responsible public office, and to have to reconcile their Peace Testimony with the demands of government. This was no easy task for them, as their colony was enveloped in a bloody Indian War beginning in the summer of 1675, called King Philip's War by historians after the chief who was its leading figure. The Quaker officials had managed to maintain peaceful relations with the Indians living closest to them, the Southern Narragansetts. But the other New England colonies didn't trust the Narragansetts, or the Quakers either, And in mid-December, an army of one-thousand soldiers, under the command of Governor Josiah Winslow of Plymouth Colony, marched into Rhode Island territory and on December 19, attacked the Narragansetts' secret stronghold in the Great Swamp.

The Quaker officials protested the invasion of their territory, but to no avail. The army fell on the Narragansett Camp at night, setting it afire and killing many children and infirm older Indians, as well as braves. The attack pushed the remaining Narragansetts into the war on King Philip's side, increasing the danger to Rhode Islanders. But when the battle, known as the Great Swamp Fight, was over, Winslow's uninvited army marched back out of the colony, leaving the Quaker leadership to face the consequences of the attack.

The Quakers did their best, in a story too long to tell here. They finally yielded to demands to form a militia, but disbanded it as soon as the war was over. And they also maintained as best they could their exemption for conscientious objectors to militia duty, the first legal CO provision anywhere. Despite the difficulties of the war and the hostility their pacifism engendered, Quakers were re-elected to the governorship for many years afterward.

LANGLEY HILL FRIENDS MEETING
2014 OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, & REPRESENTATIVES

Interim, as presented on 12/4/2013
CAPITALS = Clerk

OFFICERS

Clerk Mary Yeaney
Recording Clerk Laura Lee Fischer
Corresponding Clerk Ollie Moles
Recorder Ann Delorey
Archivist Ann Delorey
Treasurer Doug Smith

**Directors of the
Corporation (Trustees)**

Sheila Bach
SEAN BEENY
Walter Brown
Ollie Moles
Doug Smith

COMMITTEES

Building Use Committee

SHEILA BACH (calendar keeper)
Virginia Colin
Jim Laity
Lauren Stockbower

Care & Clearness

TIM YEANEY
Kate English
K. C. Morris
Suzanne Nicholson
Rebecca Rawls
Paul Slattery
John Smallwood
John Surr
Steve Woodbury

Fellowship

JENNIFER POST Co-Clerk
BABS WILLIAMS Co-Clerk
Charlotte Boynton
Roger Catlin
Kate English
Jim Laity
Ollie Moles
Monica Smith
Frank Taylor

Finance

DOUG SMITH
Arthur Kopelman
Loretta Kopelman
Jessica Mott
Donna Williams
Rick Post
Jim Laity (Ex Officio)

Flowers

LYNNE CORN
*Jim Fussell ***
Anne Hunt
Ann Medinger
Ann Varnon
Doug Neal

House & Grounds

DONA MANOUKIAN
RICK POST
Keith Alvey
*Greg Chudy***
David Henderson
Paul Kohlenberger
Doug Neal
Keith Oberg
Paul Slattery
Babs Williams

Library

ANN STONE
Barbara Haught
Anne Hunt
Tadek Kosmal
Ann Kosmal
Mark Meinke
Naomi Thiers

Ministry & Worship

TIM HUNT
Ken Bernstein
Georgia Fuller
Susan Joyce
Chuck Kleymeyer
Steve Morse
Jenepher Moseley
Mel Snyder (Racism Working Grp)

Peace & International Outreach

GARY GARRIOTT Co-Clerk
NAJLA DROOBY Co-Clerk
Greg Chudy
Walter Brown
Francesca Costantino
Mary Diamond
Tim Yeaney
Jenepher Moseley
Fred Krimgold
Gabriel Smith
Mel Snyder

Publishing & Communication

DOUG NEAL
Roy Clark
Marge Epstein
Hugo Estrada (Data Base Mgr)
Jeanne Houghton (Nsl Editor)
Lara Maupin
Sara Nash (Mailing)

Religious Education

JIM HERSEY Co-Clerk
Carole Brown
Betty Smallwood
Jeannette Smith
Hugo Estrada
Ollie Moles

Scholarship

BETTY SMALLWOOD
Barbara Haught
Nick Smith
Kate Oberg
Kent Weaver

Social Concerns

LAURA LEE FISCHER Co-Clerk
LORETTA KOPELMAN Co-Clerk
Don Bearden
Robert Trussell
Arthur Kopelman
Elaine Williams

Nominating Committee

ANNE HUNT
Gary Garriott
Dona Manoukian
Doug Neal
Jen Post
Susan Sassner
Mark Van Raden

APPOINTMENTS & REPRESENTATIVES

(Committee / Other Appointments - Listed Here for Reference Purpose Only)

Marriage Celebrants Laurie Wilner (no renewal date)
Steve Woodbury (no renewal date)
Meeting Calendar Sheila Bach (Building Use appointment)
Second Hr. Calendar Jeanne Houghton (M&W appointment)
FCNL Representative(s) Bill Mims (Peace Appt.)
Religious Education Coordinator _____
Ad Hoc Advancement & Outreach Georgia Fuller
(Ministry & Worship Committee) Jeannette Smith & Mel Snyder
Ad Hoc Committee on Racism Jeanne Houghton, Ollie Moles, Mel Snyder,
(Ministry & Worship Committee) Ann Varnon & Babs Williams

APPOINTMENTS & REPRESENTATIVES

(Serving as way opens with no defined term)

BYM Representatives Bill Mims (Adult Program) &
Jeannette Smith (Youth Program)
BYM Interchange Liaison Jeanne Houghton (11)
AFSC Representative AFSC Reorganized; Soc Concerns reviewing appt
Friends Wilderness Center (Paul Slattery)
William Penn House Bill Flanagan (08)
Washington Quaker Work Camps Jim Hersey
Liaison with Country Day School John Surr (05)
Registered Agent Bill Flanagan
Bookkeeper Jim Laity
Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy Babs Williams

“How is it that Minnesota is so successful in keeping white people out of prison?”

This question provides a radically different perspective on the racial disparities in incarceration rates than the one that asks why so many black and brown people are incarcerated for drug-related crimes. This racial disparity is true even though rates of use and distribution/sale of illegal drugs are about the same for white and blacks in the U.S.

It happens that Minnesota's black-to-white imprisonment ratio is one of the highest in the nation. This is what prompted some Minnesotans to ask the above question. People in Baltimore and Maryland (and every other city and state) should be asking this same question. Many answers can be found in Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Once we have asked the question, and begun to understand the answers, what will we then do to achieve **success in keeping people of color out of prison?**

The BYM Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

"We were expected to destroy one another and ourselves collectively in the worst racial conflagration. Instead, we as a people chose the path of negotiation, compromise and peaceful settlement. Instead of hatred and revenge we chose reconciliation and nation-building."

~ Nelson Mandela speaking at Nobel Square, Cape Town, South Africa, 14 December 2003

Below re some responses friends gave during a Second Hour on membership, on October 27, participants broke into small groups to address these questions:

- What brought you to Langley Hill Meeting?
 - What keeps you here?

I was first introduced to Quakerism while in the Navy — I attended a very small and quiet Meeting (one-two messages a year), and I liked it. I then went to graduate school in Boston, where I went to a much larger and more vibrant/popcorn Meeting, and applied for membership there. When I came to the DC area, I attended multiple Meetings and ended up at this one because it felt like home — not too noisy, not too quiet. I started as a casual attender, alternating with a local church where my fiancée was a member. Over time, we both developed stronger ties here, and we gradually increased our involvement here. Committee work also helped pull both of us into the life of the community.

I first encountered meetings in Ann Arbor, when I was in graduate school. Meeting for Worship felt natural, was local, and had similar people/similar values. I particularly was drawn to community service programs and weekend work camps — something this meeting used to do more of. The Meeting in Ann Arbor also had a number of weighty Friends who influenced me greatly. As I age, I find myself increasingly drawn to the mystical side of Quakerism, more than the social activism; I find Meeting for Worship a powerful way to explore the sense of Spirit.

Langley Hill Friends Meeting
6410 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22101-2210
Address Correction Requested



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