

The Langley Hill Friend

THIRD Month 2014

#508

“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


Calendar

Recurring Events

- Sundays 9 am "Drop-in" Worship Sharing in the upstairs room
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
- Second Tuesday 7:30-8:30 Mid-Week Worship
- Third Sunday 7:00-9 pm Adult Discussion
- 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

- Saturday 4/26 10:00am - 4:00pm BYM Annual Apportionment Meeting at Adelphi Meeting
- Sunday 4/27 11:00 Yeaneys re winter peace-making tour
12:00 Peace & International Outreach Committee meets in Gathering Room
1:30 - 4:30 Mindfulness Parenting Workshop (see online calendar)
- Saturday 5/3 (Country Day School Festival)
- Saturday 5/10 SPRING WORK DAY
- Sunday 5/11 10:30 Business Meeting
- Tuesday 5/13 7:30p McLean Historical Society meeting
- Saturday 5/17 McLean Day - See Business Meeting notes page 3
- Sunday 5/18 2nd hour: Intergenerational Worship Sharing
12:00 - Ice Cream & Yogurt Extravaganza fundraiser 
- Fri-Sun 5/23-25 Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology - page 9
- Sunday 5/25 2nd hour: Tory Smith on AFSC and BDS
- 5/30 - 6/1 BYM Silent Retreat at Dayspring
- Sunday 6/1 10:00 worship, 11:00 First Day School Picnic and Recognitions

Come Eat
Ice Cream!
Help send
Shelter Kids
to Quaker
Camp!

To schedule Second Hours contact Jeanne Houghton 703-609-1065 seacairn@comcast.net
To schedule use of the Meeting House contact Sheila Bach 304-728-4820 snbach@earthlink.net

Mark Your Calendar!

May 10

Spring Cleanup Day

outdoor activity

fellowship

lunch together

McLean Day Outreach Event

"Quakers – more than just oatmeal"

Langley Hill is organizing a booth at McLean Day, Saturday May 17, as an outreach event from 11am - 5pm with the theme "Quakers – more than just oatmeal." We need a few more volunteers to staff the booth as well as to help set up at 8:30 am and pack up after 5 pm. Come by to get a packet of oatmeal, check out our Quaker SPICES and hear our play list, including "What does George Fox say," Enjoy the crafts etc at other booths and ride the fair rides. Contact Francesca Costantino with questions labela_francesca@yahoo.com.

Draft Minute Against Drone Warfare

Langley Hill Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is deeply concerned about the proliferation of lethal unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones. Our witness against war and other means of violence began over 350 years ago. Quakers emerged in England at a time of unrest, executions and civil war. Yet in the midst of this violence our forbearers declared, "Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace and ensue [pursue] it and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare and doing that which tends to the peace of all." As the inheritors of their witness for peace and the common good, our members have participated in the monthly Anti-Drone Vigils, which began over a year ago, at the gates of the Central Intelligence Agency.

We protest the policies of our government, in which the United States is leading the way in drone warfare. With this new technology "pilots" in U.S. bases kill people who are thousands of miles away, by remote control. Drones have become the preferred weapons to conduct war because they minimize the risk to U.S. troops. However these drone strikes have led to the death of hundreds of innocent civilians. This includes countries where we are not at war, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia. We urge our government to put an end to this secretive, remote-controlled killing and instead promote foreign policies that are consistent with the values of a democratic and humane society.

We call on the United Nations to regulate the international use of lethal drones in a fashion that promotes a just and peaceful world community, based on the rule of law, with full dignity and freedom for every human being.



Vigils to Protest Drone Warfare

Every second Saturday from 10:00 am to noon, Friends gather at the CIA Main Gate, holding signs to protest the use of drones in warfare.

"War Is Not the Answer"

"Drones Are Evil"

"Drones Kill Babies, Too"

These are just some of the signs Quakers have been carrying.

For more information contact Walter Brown (carolewalter@aol.com).

Please join us at the Vigil

Check Out the New Library

All books have now been sorted and color-coded. Category signs are posted throughout the library. We are also almost done with an electronic catalogue that enables anyone anywhere to find out which books we have. There will be a second hour on June 22 to introduce library users to the new systems. Meanwhile, have a look!

Ann L. Stone

April Business Meeting Notes

Roanoke Friends Meeting wrote seeking guidance on renovating their meeting house. We can send some! See the full minutes for some comments provided during the business meeting.

Naomi Thiers's membership was approved. Welcoming her will be Steve Woodbury, Ann Bauer, Tim Hunt, Ann Delorey, Susan Joyce, Ann Stone.

From Care and Clearness – The Meeting's packet of materials helpful on preparing for end of life is being updated. The material will be available online as well as in a packet. Cost will be about \$10. Contact Tim Hunt or John Surr if you are interested.

From the Finance Committee A revised draft of the Minute on Handling Bequests to the Meeting was presented, discussed, and approved. It will guide discernment on how to handle the recent \$5,000 bequest and will be ready to do so again in future situations. Anyone interested can get a copy from Doug Smith, Meeting treasurer.

The Treasurer's report on the General Fund was presented (see next page.) And friends were again reminded to keep contributions coming. Next month: Draft Budget for FY 2014-15.

From Ministry and Worship – The 2013 Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, including a section from Young Friends was approved. See page 5

Growing Our Meeting The Advancement and Outreach Committee is focusing on outreach opportunities beyond traditional welcome to newcomers. This mission belongs to the entire community, so the small committee welcomes hearing from anyone with the germ of a leading, or a full-blown project, that the committee can help happen. See Tim Hunt or Jeannette Smith. The Meeting will be present at McLean Day, May 17, with a booth representing Quakers and our Meeting. Thanks to Francesca Costantino and others for making this happen. Volunteers to staff the booth for periods during the day, and to help with set-up and break-down are still needed, so *you* can still participate!



In-reach activities in the manner of the Quaker Quest are envisioned for the fall to help us explore our faith and spiritual journeys. Another effort being considered is to establish a Northern Virginia worship sharing group, perhaps at a location closer to public transportation. Doug Smith is working on this. We'll be reaching out to the McLean Historical Society at their meeting on Tuesday, May 13, in which we will have a part, here in our historic building. Walter is the point person. We hope many will attend.

Draft Minute on Same Sex Marriage Background: In 1991 Langley Hill approved a Minute in support of our commitment to welcome any couple seeking to be married under the meeting's care, and to offer not only the marriage event but ongoing support to the marriage thereafter. However, any marriages of same-sex couples provided by the meeting would not be legally recognized due to laws and provisions in the Virginia state constitution. At the March meeting for business, a new minute was presented along with some possible actions the Meeting might take, including writing to the Virginia legislature urging that the law banning same-sex marriage be dropped. The meeting concluded that the minute needed further seasoning and formed an ad hoc committee to do this: Robert Trussell, Naomi Thiers, Nicole Bivens Collinson, Mary Yeane, and Jim Fussell.

At the April business meeting this revised minute was read: *"Because of our testimony of equality, it is imperative that the full benefits of marriage, including legal benefits, be bestowed to all couples, without consideration of sexual orientation."* There was another long fruitful discussion, but the ad hoc committee was asked again for more work. Jeanne Houghton and Georgia Fuller were added to the committee. The full minute will go on the listserv and suggestions are welcome.

Last item, since our time had run out, was approval of Ollie Moles and Jeannette Smith to serve on the Temporary Nominating Committee.

We meet for business again on May 11.



**Langley Hill Friends Meeting
General Fund
April 13, 2014**

	Jul 2013 - Mar 2014	FY 2013-14
	Actual	Budget
Portion of Year		
Income		
Contributions (Autogive)	\$49,773	\$71,000
Contributions (non-Autogive)	\$41,536	\$55,218
Contributions (TOTAL)	\$91,309	\$126,218
Other (Interest, MH Use, etc.)	\$8,158	\$7,727
TOTAL	\$99,467	\$133,945
Expenses		
Meeting House	\$19,381	\$20,872
Administrative	\$2,385	\$4,910
Publishing	\$969	\$1,000
Committees	\$2,661	\$9,950
Religious Ed	\$2,164	\$10,841
BYM	\$17,863	\$24,190
Contributions to Other Organizations	\$13,100	\$21,000
Transfers to Other Funds	\$0	\$5,500
Contingencies	\$0	\$500
Loan Repayment	\$22,445	\$35,182
TOTAL	\$80,968	\$133,945
Net Income	\$18,500	\$0

Bank Accounts & Investments	\$147,457	
Money Loaned Out to Others	\$40,056	
Mortgage Principal Balance	\$209,693	\$325,000
	Outstanding	Original

2013 Spiritual State of Langley Hill Friends Meeting Report



The path of the pilgrimage is as much the journey as the destination. Langley Hill's spiritual journey is ongoing and incomplete with many twists and turns that can either illuminate or be invisible.

In last year's Spiritual State of the Meeting report, we developed several queries to guide our progress to becoming a deeper spiritual community. We now report on how our Meeting is doing one year along for each query: Are we appropriately focused? Are adjustments needed? Following each query there is a suggestion or two that the Meeting intends to embrace in the coming year.

1. How do we attract young singles, couples and families to make Langley Hill a vibrant, multi-generational community?

Our attitude to visitors is very welcoming. Several new young families and singles are attending and enriching our community. However, communication is inconsistent about children's programs and events, which makes some feel left out. We could avoid using Quaker jargon and other actions that exclude newcomers. Organizing small group discussions (so-called Friendly Eights) may break down barriers and involve new attenders. *Perhaps a Friendly Eights group could focus on Quaker parenting.* We should continually reach out to newcomers to understand how the Meeting can assist them in their spiritual journeys. Our Religious Education (RE) program and its dedicated teachers are a blessing to us all.

2. Do we do enough to nurture our children's spirituality and find opportunities for them to explore with us their spiritual

quests and questions? What can adults learn from our younger members?

The RE program's focus on Quaker testimonies (SPICES: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship) and our quarterly intergenerational worship sharing program provide the strongest connections with our children's spiritual growth. We always appreciate the children's participation in meeting for worship and welcome their vocal ministry when so led. The participation by two young friends in the Quaker Quest workshop affirmed their Quaker groundings. The Nativity Play provided a new opportunity for adults to witness the Christmas story through the voices of our Meeting's youth and perform with them. Yet some adult members feel a distance from our young Friends. *Perhaps the adults and children could ask each other about our spiritual journeys to encourage sharing, mentoring and the deepening of spiritual relationships.*

3. Do we keep hidden the glories of our Meeting's experiences to the detriment of others and ourselves? How do we build a diverse community?

Many friends let their lives speak, sometimes through outward actions such as support for the drone vigil at the CIA or the weekly "Seek Peace and Pursue It" vigil at the Capitol, and sometimes in less visible ways. Some find their spiritual journey an internal experience while others would like to share their "glories" (transformations or revelations) more widely. Spiritual exuberance may be viewed as proselytizing so friends are cautious about over-sharing. If we are open, perhaps sharing more will invite others to respond with their revelations thereby deepening our connections.

We recognize that as a community we need to reach out. We held our first ever “Quaker Networking Day” in June 2013 inviting graduates of Quaker colleges to meet members with common interests or careers. Our Community Celebration Open House at the start of the fall RE classes gave several committees the chance to describe their roles and activities to attendees. Most newcomers are drawn to our meeting for worship rather than events at the meetinghouse. *Perhaps we should host a LHFH booth at family friendly community events to reach seekers who are not making it to our door.* While we struggle with some aspects of diversity, we are growing in other areas. Our awareness of the discriminatory effects of mass incarceration of young black men from the book “The New Jim Crow” is stirring actions. *Perhaps we should find ways to introduce our form of worship to more diverse communities within northern Virginia, to help seekers find the Quaker Way.*

4. Is the “tent” of Quaker beliefs in OUR meeting properly sized? Do differences in beliefs and values challenge our community to deepen and grow?

We are beginning to test the size of the “tent” through our discussions around membership in Largely Hill including whether and what type of “boundaries” should exist to retain our spiritual integrity. Diversity of beliefs can be a gift when the Truth is reflected and we open our minds to other ways of answering cheerfully to the Light in others, but it makes defining our Meeting’s “core” beliefs challenging as we consider outreach. More intimate groups, like spiritual formation, the 9 AM Sunday drop-ins, Introduction to Quakerism, and monthly book discussion provide numerous opportunities for members to explore and discuss Quaker beliefs. *Perhaps more discussions of our “tent” of beliefs with focused queries would help (such as, what does God mean to you? How do you see Christ in your life? How do you experience the Light?).* Vocal ministry is

another reflection of the breadth of our faith and can be inspiring when Spirit-led and concerning when self-centered. Meeting for worship remains at the heart of our spiritual community.

5. As Quakers, do we know who we are spiritually and our treasured roots? Do we share enough our convictions and doubts even if it creates tension? Do we have common language to talk about our faith?

Having a common spiritual foundation can anchor the exploration of faith and the testing of experiences around the edges of this foundation. Tension can exist at the edges but it can be healthy if we continue to be mindful of our commonalities, while respecting our differences. The Quaker Quest workshop provided some tools to help articulate our beliefs and more exchanges would be helpful. *Perhaps defining our “spiritual foundation” more clearly through Second Hours and conversations would help create a common language about our faith and love of God.*

6. Do we fail to share a message that may be meaningful to others? Do we talk when we should be listening for the Truth?

We provide a safe place for vocal ministry by being attentive listeners even if the message is hard to hear. Messages can be meant for us, others or no one. Messages that lack a sense of “quaking” in the minister or focusing overly on self may have strayed from the Light. Some messages season nicely outside of Meeting, waiting for the Light to shine on them and take form. Greater time between messages to reflect always is appreciated. Perhaps we need to provide more mentoring to those who speak as well as to those who should find their voice. Inviting “afterthoughts” at the rise of meeting provides a venue for more voices to be heard.

As we reflect on our progress this past year and identify new actions to assist our spiritual growth, it is worth repeating the qualities of our Meeting:

- Our community strives to base our relationships with each other on love.
- Our community is a tapestry of beliefs.
- Religious expression is real and universal.
- As Quakers, we are open.
- Our Meeting has a growing mix of ages.
- We are a welcoming community.

Each of us shares the Light but experience it in unique ways. As we look through the glass darkly, we see that of God in everyone and it takes everyone's searching and faith to make the journey fulfilling as individuals and as a community. A vision of love clears away the dark.



Statement from Young Friends

The Young Friends of Langley Hill Monthly Meeting have had a fairly productive year. We've done a variety of service projects, starting in the fall with a bake sale to raise money for sending kids to camp. During the holiday season leading up to Christmas, Young Friends held a food drive and created over one hundred Power Packs to help provide food to children on the weekends. We also held a car wash in the late winter to raise money for the African Great Lakes Initiative, specifically their project in Burundi. Young Friends hope to continue with service and take on another project in the spring. In the midst of these projects, we've done some fun community-building activities as well, such as holding

movie nights and sleepovers, helping with the Halloween celebration, acting in the Christmas play, going skiing, and participating in game nights. A few Young Friends also participated in Quaker Quest, and many take part in inter-generational worship.

The Young Friends have found that, as compared to last year, we have generally been more committed to things. Although there are not that many of us, we feel that we make a good effort to make Meeting a priority. We have been trying to do more things together to strengthen not only the community within Young Friends but also our role within the Meeting as a whole. We visited a synagogue and an Episcopal church as part of our interfaith study, which will be continued next school year. This experience has been an interesting way to learn about other faiths as well as what it means to be a Quaker. We have been trying to find ways to attract other young people in the community to our Meeting – we hope to continue with this outreach in the spring. Young Friends are hopeful for the rest of the year and the exciting activities that it might bring.

Approved on April 13, 2014
at the Meeting with a Concern for Business
of Langley Hill Friends Meeting.

Prepared by Ken Bernstein, Jenepher Moseley, Mel Snyder, Steve Morse, Chuck Kleymeyer, Georgia Fuller, Susan Joyce, and Tim Hunt (clerk)

Young Friends report prepared by Alexandra Kohout (clerk), Allison Phillips, Anna Williams, Bandit Carr, Bennett Maupin, Cece Collinson, Connor Kohout, Eleanor Post, Lily Kleymeyer, Margaret Post, Olivia Bravo, Nino Bravo, Tadek Kosmal, Zephren Collinson

Baltimore (?) Yearly Meeting – What’s in a Name?

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) is made up of 42 Monthly Meetings and 11 Worship Groups/ Preparative/ Indulged Meetings. Within these meetings, there are 7256 members/attenders. Out of this number there are 590 who belong to the two Meetings in the city of Baltimore, or just 0.8% of the total in BYM.

Why then are we called Baltimore Yearly Meeting? We cannot say “Because it has always been Baltimore Yearly Meeting!” According to historical records, we have had several names over the years since George Fox came here for our first Annual Session in 1672:

- *West River Yearly Meeting – 1672*
- *Maryland Yearly Meeting – 1769*
- *The Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Baltimore for the Western shore of Maryland and adjacent parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia – 1790*
- *Baltimore Yearly Meeting – early 1800’s*

In 1844 Virginia Yearly Meeting joined Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

When the 1844 name was changed, we were meeting in Baltimore. That has not been the case for over 45 years.

In 1828, Baltimore Yearly Meeting divided into parts: Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Hicksite) and Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Orthodox), and the two remained so

until 1968 when they officially rejoined and became one Yearly Meeting – Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

When those of us who participate in the larger Friends organizations, AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FUM, FWCC, and we are asked “What Yearly Meeting do you belong to?” the answer is Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The next question is “Where in Baltimore do you live?”

How does our name relate to the Testimony of Integrity? How about Chesapeake Yearly Meeting?

In 1999, Langley Hill Friends Meeting sent a letter to all Monthly Meetings asking them about changing the name of the Yearly Meeting. There were many positive responses and some non-committal. There was some concern that Floyd, Roanoke, and Blacksburg Meetings are not in the Chesapeake Watershed. These Meetings did not have a problem with the proposed name.

At Annual Session in 1999, there seemed to be favor of the change. One voice mistakenly said that her meeting could not unite since they were not in the Chesapeake watershed.

Are Friends willing to consider this proposal? Will it completely satisfy every person in Baltimore Yearly Meeting? Maybe not. Are those not satisfied willing to let it go forth? Having a name that best describes us might best unite us.

– Sheila Bach

BYM Camps – Service Weekends

Come help prepare our camps for the spring and summer! Work projects offer people with all kinds of skills and an opportunity to enjoy meaningful and satisfying work.

For information, check the BYM Camp website < <http://bymcamps.org/> >, or contact David Hunter, Camp Property Manager. (301-774-7663 or davidhunter@bym-rsf.org)

May 3–4 Catocin Quaker Camp

May 17–18 Shiloh Quaker Camp (Hood, VA)

May 31 – June 1 Opequon Quaker Camp (Brucetown, VA)

72nd Annual Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology The Journey of Healing – From Jung to Neurofeedback May 23-26 – Lebanon Valley College, PA

FCRP is one of the oldest conference in the U.S. dedicated to individual spiritual exploration with a focus on in-depth psychology specifically Jungian psychology. As those who know about the conference, we are still meeting in beautiful central Pennsylvania on the campus of Lebanon Valley College on Memorial Day weekend.

But we are doing some things a bit different. We are going to have two not one plenary speakers and the four plenary lectures will be on very different subjects. The speakers will be Stephen and Robin Larsen. They both came to our planning committee and stayed for more than a whole day. They were students and friends of Joseph Campbell and they wrote his authorized biography. The subjects they will be talking about include shamanism, dreams, fundamentalism and neuroscience all wrapped up in archetypal psychology. There will be some great small groups: Tai Chi Dreams, Meditative writing, Jung and God (that one's mine), Playing in myth, and 'Buddhist Brain' (by the great Joe Izzo, of FMW) Room and Board (all meals) are included in the conference costs. Do come! Scholarships are available. See more at our website: <http://fcrp.quaker.org/>

– Peace Walter Brown

Thinking about race

Conscious and Unconscious Biases

From *The New Jim Crow*:

Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, pp. 106



“A survey was conducted in 1995 asking the following question: ‘Would you close your eyes for a second, envision a drug user, and describe that person to me?’ The startling results were published in the *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education*. Ninety-five percent of respondents pictured a black drug user, while only 5 percent imagined other racial groups. These results contrast sharply with the reality of drug crime in America. African Americans constituted only 15 percent of current drug users in 1995, and they constitute roughly the same percentage today. Whites constituted the vast majority of drug users then (and now), but almost no one pictured a white person when asked to imagine what a drug user looks like. The same group of respondents also perceived the typical drug trafficker as black.

. . . .

“Decades of cognitive bias research demonstrates that both unconscious and conscious biases lead to discriminatory actions, even when an individual does not want to discriminate.”

{ Note: you can explore Implicit Bias tests at this website: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/> }

The BYM Working Group on Racism meets 10am – 1pm most months on the third Saturday, 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.

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

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