

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Ned Stowe, General Secretary

It has been a joy this past month to enter into service with BYM. In this time, I have been meeting Friends across the Yearly Meeting, getting to know our dedicated staff, and learning about the many opportunities and challenges before our community. The 345th BYM Annual Session, especially, was a complete and timely immersion in all that makes our Yearly Meeting vital, meaningful, and relevant in our time.

By way of introduction, I would like to share one of the brief autobiographic stories that I shared at Annual Session about what inspires me today as I begin my ministry with BYM. It touched upon our Annual Session theme: “discernment and action in spiritual community.”

As a young adult and community activist many years ago in Columbia, Missouri, I kept running into Quakers publicly demonstrating about the same peace and social justice issues. Of course, there were not that many Quakers in central Missouri. In fact, I just kept running into the same three Quakers. Whether it was campaigning against the death penalty, the military draft, the war in Central America, or the nuclear arms race, there they were. I became curious about what made them tick. What was it in the Quaker faith and practice that inspired and sustained them? So, I went to my first Quaker meeting.

Becoming a Friend was a slow process for me. I was suspicious of organized religion (and even disorganized religion). I wanted political action and change, not more empty words and Sunday sermons. However, at this time, I also discovered some books on



Ned Stowe, BYM General Secretary

social change from a group of Quakers in Philadelphia called the Movement for a New Society. George Lakey, who spoke at Annual Session this year, was one of those authors. I learned new ways of organizing, building consensus, facilitating meetings, sustaining a movement based on non-violence, equality and respect for each person. Social change was not just about achieving political victories; to be sustained, it required care, respect for, and inclusion of each soul along the way. “There is no way to peace, peace is the way” (A.J. Muste) became my organizing mantra.

Well, to make a long story short, over time, I began to understand and appreciate what made Quakers tick: discernment and action in spiritual community. I became a Friend.

Today, I sense a tremendous, but unmet, yearning among young adults to contribute and help make the world a better place. Annual Session speaker, Christina Repoley, founder of Quaker Voluntary Service, spoke of this. I wonder how we can share our “discernment and action in spiritual community”

with the young adults in our communities, and better support them in this moment. As I found years ago, sometimes it only takes two or three Quakers to make a difference in a young adult’s life and to convince a new Friend.

WELCOME TO MARCY BAKER SEITEL: OUR NEW CLERK OF INTERIM MEETING

It is with happy anticipation that I take on the role of Clerk of Interim Meeting. Clerking is something I really enjoy – I always feel a mix of curiosity and worry that makes clerking truly exciting! And more than that, it calls on me to lean into the Spirit with all my mind, body, soul, and strength. My experience clerking committees, both standing and ad hoc, has taught me that surprising leadings come when Friends gather to seek what is loving and truthful; rather than planning the outcome in advance, we find things that could only grow from our togetherness in the Spirit.

I began to attend Adelphi Friends Meeting in 1987, just after my second child was born and my beloved father-in-law was diagnosed with cancer. I experienced right away the kind of loving support a meeting can give. Soon after that I became part of BYM’s Religious Education Committee, and have been active on committees and in working with our youth ever since. Most recently, I clerked the Ad Hoc Vision Implementation Committee. BYM is a big, good part of my life and I look forward to working with the staff and with all of you in the things we have before us in the coming year.

“ALL-AGE” - A HIT FOR THE AGES

Becca Bacon (Hopewell Centre)

Since my first year of attendance at Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Annual Session, the Thursday night All-Age Celebration has always held a special place in my heart. The concept of Friends from every generation of the community coming together for an evening of fun, games, conversation and ice cream (always, ice cream) deeply resonates with me on an individual and spiritual level. Therefore, when opportunity was presented to work on this year’s event, I couldn’t help but jump for it.

The difficulty level in planning All-Age was slightly elevated this year due to a change in campus, but the staff at Hood College was both pleasant and accommodating throughout my quest to make

All-Age continued on page 2

COMMITTEE SERVICE:

REWARDING, TERRIBLE, WONDERFUL AT THE SAME TIME

All-Age continued from page 1

All-Age every bit as amazing (and prolific in ice cream) as I have found it to be in past years.

Committees are essential contributors to All-Age, as each brings a unique perspective and purpose with their booth. This year we were blessed to have booths from several different ones. Right Relationship with Animals Working group provided face painting of one's favorite animal and a video booth inviting individuals to talk about an animal that they connect with for a YouTube compilation video; Advancement and Outreach Committee helped to raise awareness of the power of Facebook as a social media platform and communication tool for Local Meetings; and Unity with Nature Committee brought a planting activity and a scavenger hunt designed to generate conversation about green living. There was also a photo booth made possible by Jennifer Domenick, the photos from which having since been uploaded as an album to the BYM QuakeBook Facebook page.

The real champion of All Age, however, was Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) as they not only continued to set up our traditional meditation labyrinth but provided half of the booths we had this year. (The Peacock feather balancing game was by far my personal favorite!) It is here that I must take a moment for our youth and say a big "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" My hope is that next year will bring a continued level of involvement from JYM as they are an important aspect of our community and help to bring much fun, laughter and creativity to the event.

As is often the case when one is on Program Committee, my reminiscing about this year has already given way to planning for next year, which I hope proves to be equally as fantastic, if not better! Feedback and suggestions are always welcome as, truly, it is not me but the community as a whole that is the lifeblood of this event. And for that, I give thanks.

Now I know some of you who were at Annual Session this year may be reading this and going, "But Becca, what about everything else you did that week?" For those of you not at Annual Session, I will say that All Age (under the care of Program Committee) was merely one of many responsibilities I took on during our brief stay at Hood.

In quick summation, my roles for the week in their entirety were that as follows: BYM Epistle Committee member; Young Adult Friends (YAF) Epistle Committee member; Program Committee member/YAF

Representative; and Healthy Organization and Purposeful Evolution (HOPE) ad hoc Committee co-Clerk. Most importantly, I strove to maintain an active presence in my community, Young Adult Friends, while making time to interact with the Greater Community as well. (As an aside, though possible, I do not recommend trying to juggle the schedules of two communities and four committees at BYM to anyone, especially if you are fond of eating and sleeping.) It is important for me to note that this list, while expansive, is merely a small representation of the many roles and responsibilities that the YAF Community regularly finds itself called to take on by the Greater BYM Community outside of daily life as both a group and as individuals and, therefore, is not at all an experience unique only to me.

For the first time ever, making "Adult" Business Meetings everyday was a thing—and not just because I was already up for the 7am Program Committee Meeting! Somehow, I had become one of the adults (albeit a still young and very sleepy one) without realizing it. Half of the Meetings requiring my attendance to give a report or reading. The other half contained agenda items I found of interest, a large step up from not even knowing what these items were usually in past years.

An unexpected portion of my workload was that of HOPE Committee, an ad hoc committee formed to support the work identified and outlined in the 2014 ad hoc Vision Implementation Committee report with attention given to organizational restructuring and definition within the Yearly Meeting. Initially, the committee was expected to be laid down at the close of BYM. However, as the week progressed, it was decided that committee's work was not yet finished and therefore warranted further seasoning.

Being co-Clerk for the committee—for any committee—was a brand new experience for me. Thankfully, I was in the best of company to learn with the Presiding Clerks of BYM and Interim Meeting both belonging to the committee and a fantastic co-Clerk, Gary Gillespie, to take the lead as needed. (Which, I am willing to admit, occurred more often than not.) Overall, despite not being as capable of giving the committee as much of my all as I would have liked, it was nonetheless good practice in leadership and guidance. It additionally allowed for me to gain a better understanding of the organizational structure of BYM, while giving the committee the much coveted "under thirty" point of view that is often sought by the greater BYM Community during process.

Over the past year, a lot of my time was spent learning the ropes of my committees and how to manage the workloads that come along with them, testing my ability to commit to my own community. I would therefore like to thank the YAF Community for their unwavering empathy and support during my clumsy struggle to balance the million aspects of my life, and for their open arms and forgiveness when I inevitably dropped the ball.

Still, when all is said and done, I would not trade my experiences of the past year for anything. They have allowed me to engage the Quaker community in ways that personally speak to me and share the joy of an event I love to others. They have taught me about leadership, prioritizing and self-care. They have shown me what I am capable of and shone light on the gifts of those around me. They have been stressful yet rewarding and terrible and wonderful all at the same time. But best of all, they have been mine.



Annual Session 2016 All-Age Photobook provided by Jennifer Domenick

DIVERSITY STATEMENT ADDED TO YEARLY MEETING VISION STATEMENT

David Etheridge (Friends Meeting of Washington)

On August 6, after a year of seasoning by local Meetings, Yearly Meeting committees, and many individual Friends, Baltimore Yearly Meeting approved an addition to its vision statement to make clear that we see ourselves as a very diverse faith community and that we aspire to make our vision increasingly real. Our Vision Statement (with the new paragraph shown in bold) appears below. The Working Group on Racism proposed adding language to the Vision Statement explicitly addressing multicultural diversity because of its understanding that making such statements is often an important—but very early—step many organizations take on their way to becoming genuinely anti-racist and multicultural.

In close coordination with the Yearly Meeting's Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator and the ad hoc Committee on Growing Diverse Leadership (GDL), the Working Group on Racism has begun asking each Local Meeting to identify one or more Friends within the Meeting who will commit to helping the Meeting lower existing barriers to involvement of people of color in the Meeting. Several local Meetings have already responded affirmatively to our request,

We envision this effort as a partnership between the Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator, the GDL Committee and the WGR on one

side and local Meeting groups on the other. Friends in local Meetings have crucial knowledge about the culture of their own Meeting as well as an understanding of the larger community where they are. The Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator and members of the GDL Committee and the Working Group on Racism are familiar with many of the resources available for doing this work.

We have already begun providing written resources to local Meetings and visiting them when invited to help them with their effort. The written resources include a list we compiled of 25 ideas for lowering barriers to the involvement of people of color in our Meetings, which is posted on the BYM website at www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/racismwg/barriers.html. Other resources come from the [White on White Institute](#) conducted at the White Privilege Conference by the European-American Collaborative Challenging Whiteness, Kathy Obear's [Alliance for Change](#), and the [Sacred Conversations Planning Resources](#) of the United Church of Christ.

Further information about the Working Group on Racism may be found at http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/racism-wg/. To learn more about the ad hoc Growing Diverse Leadership Committee you may visit http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/gdl/.

BYM VISION STATEMENT

(WITH ADDITION APPROVED ON AUGUST 6, 2016 SHOWN IN BOLD)

Dearly beloved friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy may be guided; and so in the Light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. The [Quaker] Elders at Balby: 1656 (quoting 2 Corinthians 3:6)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is a worshipping community, gathered in the presence of the Divine, affirming that of God in every person. The Yearly Meeting knits together Friends from the Chesapeake to the Appalachians into the larger Religious Society of Friends. As Quakers, we seek to know and follow God's will for us as a gathered people, to speak the Truth that is revealed to us, and to listen to the Truth that is revealed to others.

We aspire to listen deeply and inclusively to each other, to actively welcome all, and to attend in joy and faith to the Inward Teacher, whom some call Light, some call Spirit and some call Christ.

We Friends are of many skin colors, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, stages of life, and socially constructed racial identities. We are all seeking the Spirit's presence in our lives, and in our life together. We recognize that some of us have experienced oppression and marginalization in ways that others have not. We aspire to live as members of the blessed community, which is one of liberation, equity, and great diversity across all differences.

We aspire to teach and nourish Quaker ways of worship and service for this and future generations, to uphold and promote Quaker values and to support Friends Meetings in our region.

We seek to expand opportunities for Friends to meet together and know each other in that which is eternal.

We seek to serve others in love, to share our gifts and resources, to reach out to those in need, both friends and strangers, and to witness in the world to our shared experience of the infinite love of God.

FAITH AND PRACTICE UPDATE

At Annual Session, the Faith and Practice Revision Committee (F&PRC) facilitated a Connecting Local Meetings session on Faith and Practice, which turned into a threshing session on how to proceed. Another Friend held a separate interest group to explore a way forward as well. Many good ideas were lifted up in these sessions and other discussions.

Meanwhile, two out of the three committee members have resigned since April. In the process of identifying nominees for F&PRC, the Nominating Committee realized that the F&PRC charge was un-

clear, having heard some strong opinions about what the committee needed to be doing that were sometimes conflicting. As a result, it did not present any nominees at Annual Session, leaving only one member, and we do not have committees of one. In effect, F&PRC is currently inactive.

In the absence of an active committee, it falls to the Yearly Meeting clerks to facilitate a process for clarifying the committee's charge and approach. They plan to bring forward a draft plan at October Interim Meeting.

Fall Family Camp Weekends 2016



Friends, Family, Fun and Favorite Activities at the BYM Camps!

Family Camp Weekends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camp Properties offer us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful camp properties at a special time of year. Individuals and families are invited to spend the day or the weekend at camp. Each weekend will have a program coordinator who will plan camp-type activities for Saturday and Sunday mornings, as well as Saturday afternoon and evening. These may include things like playing in the creek, crafts projects or hiking around one of the most precious places on earth. There will also be plenty of work projects to do! Work projects offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to enjoy some meaningful and satisfying work! We will enjoy meals together, have time to explore and even spend some time around a camp fire in the evening. Come and enjoy a camp experience, give the gift of your time, participate with children in activities and find yourself rejuvenated.

Fall 2016 Family Camp Weekends	
Shiloh Quaker Camp	September 23 – 25, 2016
Catoctin Quaker Camp	October 7 – 9, 2016
Opequon Quaker Camp	October 21 – 23, 2016

THE THRIFTY QUAKER AND FRIEND\$HARE

In 2015 the Richmond Peace Education Center named The Thrifty Quaker as “Peacemaker of the Year.” This honor was given after 19 years of continuous work to provide financial grants (totaling \$426,000 by the end of 2015) to over 100 mostly local charities; along with Friend\$hare, which gave nearly 300 individual financial grants (totaling \$90,000 by the end of 2015) to people in dire need. Midlothian Friends Meeting was also recognized during the presentation of this award for its efforts in establishing and supporting the work of both The Thrifty Quaker and Friend\$hare.

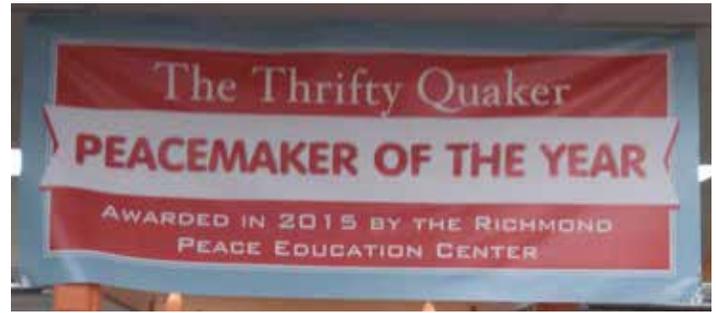
The Thrifty Quaker was officially opened in September of 1996 after six months of discernment and set-up by Midlothian Friends Meeting. To facilitate the work of the store an independent non-profit corporation was organized, The Quaker Thrift Store, Inc., with by-laws that require cooperation with Midlothian Friends Meeting



while also remaining operationally independent of the meeting. The purpose of the non-profit corporation was to provide funds to Midlothian Friends Meeting that would be used by the meeting to benefit mostly local charities chosen by Midlothian Friends Meeting’s Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC), as well as benefit people in need of emergency financial assistance. The by-laws of the non-profit corporation were written to prohibit Midlothian Friends Meeting from using any of the

proceeds for its own benefit. Twelve non-profit organizations were to be chosen each year (one each month). Each chosen charity would be encouraged to have their supporters provide donated goods to the store that could be sold in order to raise funds for the charity. Additionally, patrons from the community were to be encouraged to support with donations and purchases the chosen benefiting charity.

After three years of operating The Thrifty Quaker, Friend\$hare was established by Midlothian Friends Meeting in 1999 as part of The Quaker Thrift Store, Inc. to fulfill its stated purpose of providing individual (as opposed to organizational) financial grants to people in need of housing, medical attention, necessary utilities, educational assistance, transportation costs, food, and other emergency needs. These recipients were to be recommended by area Social Workers, Quakers, and other trusted sources. Funds for these individual financial grants would come from community financial donations, the United Way, and up to 25% of The Thrifty Quaker profits in months that the store was extremely profitable.



The Thrifty Quaker store was located in the heart of the village of Midlothian in the Midlothian Station Shopping Center on the corner of Coalfield Road and Midlothian Turnpike. Within a few years of its existence, The Thrifty Quaker became a beloved establishment in the village; known for its quality merchandise, low prices, charitable efforts, friendly staff, and its association with local Quakers. In addition to raising funds in order to provide Midlothian Friends Meeting a means for financial granting, the store was to do other philanthropic work: a place for community members to volunteer, a vocational training location for challenged persons, a clothing and goods recycling center, a place where disaster victims and homeless persons could receive free clothing and household goods, a food collection location for hungry families, and a provider of surplus donated goods to other charitable thrift stores. All of these non-sales efforts contributed another \$2,600,000 worth of unsold goods to those in need by the end of 2015.

Through The Thrifty Quaker and Friend\$hare, by the end of 2015 Midlothian Friends Meeting had served the surrounding community well, providing over \$3,100,000 worth of monetary and material aid to those in need. (thriftyquaker.com)

FUM BOARD WELCOMED BY CUBAN QUAKERS

Georgia Fuller, BYM representative to FUM General Board
Friends United Meeting has been moving toward becoming a worldwide Quaker community of mutual respect and spiritual witness. In 2014 the General Board was divided into two regions—the North American/Caribbean and the African regional boards. The Executive Committee, which is comprised of members from both regional boards, meets regularly by conference call. Board members are encouraged to attend both regional meetings. For example, our June 20th meeting held in Gibara, Cuba, had fourteen Board members from the United States, two from Cuba, one from Jamaica, and two from Kenya. This meeting was another step in FUM’s vision of transforming from what began as a colonialist, missionary organization to a global partnership of faith and practice.

After years of semi-isolation, our Cuban Friends were overjoyed that, for the first time, the FUM General Board **had come to them!** Quakers came to Cuba’s shores in 1900. Cuban Quakers greeted us with welcome signs, balloons and freshly painted, newly air-conditioned sleeping quarters. The two large churches in Cuba have water purification systems and they share this safe water with their neighbors. They also share food, medicine and other household items. They recently established the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute, which has just graduated twelve certified mediators. (*The full report is in the minutes of BYM’s 2016 Annual Session.*)



BYM Friendly Sing-In

Saturday, October 8, 2016, 9:30 – 3:00

An opportunity for all who enjoy singing and fellowship

9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and “warm up” singing
10:00 – 10:45	Songs from <i>Rise up Singing</i> , led by Richard Broadbent
10:45 – 11:30	Singing from <i>Worship in Song – A Friends Hymnal</i> , led by Susanna Laird
11:30 – 12:30	Potluck lunch (easy-to-eat finger food preferred)
12:30 – 1:15	Karaoke camp songs and pop rock, led by Julia Lockett
1:15 – 2:15	Soulful Singing, led by Ruth Fitz
2:15 – 3:00	Songs from <i>Songs of the Spirit</i> and other classics, led by Jim Wagner

Bring *Rise Up Singing* songbooks if you have them.
Child care will be available if requested by September 30.

Frederick Friends Meeting
723 N. Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701
www.FrederickFriends.org
(301) 631-1257

Contact: Susanna Laird, SLaird4444@gmail.com

Travel directions (website also shows a map of our location):

From the east:

From I-70W/US40, take the East Street exit 54, toward Downtown Frederick.
Pass through one roundabout.
Turn left onto E. Patrick Street/MD-144.
Turn right onto N. Market Street.
Meeting house is on the left, in the block after 7th Street.

From DC:

Take the Beltway to I-270.
Stay on I-270 all the way to Frederick. It will become US-15 North.
Take exit 15, 7th Street, and turn left onto 7th Street.
Turn left onto N. Market Street.
Meeting House is on the left in the next block.

From VA or PA:

Make your way to US-15. Follow directions above.

Park in the lot at the Meeting House, on N. Market Street, or on adjacent streets.

DRUMORE QUAKERS'

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, October 1, from ten o'clock to three o'clock, Quakers and non-Quakers will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the building of the Drumore Friends Meetinghouse in 1816. The public is invited to participate in a self-guided tour of three historic farms/homes (from ten o'clock to noon), a BBQ lunch (at noon in Susquehannock Park), and presentations about the Drumore Quaker Meeting and Cemetery (beginning at one o'clock.)

The self-guided tour will include the historic barn which Drumore Quaker Joseph Smith built to harbor fugitive slaves as part of the Underground Railroad. The secret hiding room has been carefully preserved and will be shown by two modern-day Quakers appearing as Joseph and Tacy Shoemaker Smith. Also included on the tour is another Quaker home thought to have served as an Underground Railroad stop, and an historic farm next to the meetinghouse currently owned by a descendent of Joseph Smith.

A highlight of the day's events at the meetinghouse will be the official release of a 260-page book written for this occasion. The book "Drumore Quakers' Precious Habitation" was authored by Quaker D Douglas Miller with photography by Kris Miller. It will be available for sale, with all proceeds going to the Drumore Cemetery Association. The Association has held responsibility for the upkeep and preservation of the property since the meeting itself was "laid down" in 1936.

A further highlight of the day will be the dedication of two plaques in the Drumore Cemetery. One will memorialize all African-Americans buried in the cemetery, at a time when most cemeteries did not accept such burials. A second will honor those Drumore Quakers whose abolitionist beliefs in the equality of all people led to their active roles in the Underground Railroad.

Drumore Meetinghouse is located at 1495 Susquehannock Drive in Drumore Township of Lancaster County. Further information regarding this event can be found by visiting the FaceBook page "Drumore Friends Meeting House" or by emailing ddm8@psu.edu.



Annual Session 2016 All-Age Photobook provided by Jennifer Domenick

LOVE CAMP???

Want to see your camp friends during the school year?

Come join us at BYM's Youth Conferences!

Filled with games, workshops, worship, and small group bonding at various Quaker Meetings in Maryland and Virginia, these conferences are an opportunity for youth to come together to create a loving Quaker community, where they can learn, make mistakes and grow.



2016-2017 Schedule:

Young Friends (High School Age):

September 23-25, November 25-27, February 10-12, March 31-April 2, May 26-28

Junior Young Friends (Middle School Age):

October 22-23, December 10-11, March 4-5, May 5-7,

Check out our website for location, registration, and more info

http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/

OR Contact: Jossie Dowling, Youth Programs Manager
Youthprograms@bym-rsf.org

Potluck and Book Talk by

Quaker author Ruah Swennerfelt

– Saturday, October 1

Stony Run dining room(lower level)

Potluck 6:00-7:00 and book talk at 7:00 followed by Q&A (until 8:30). You are invited to join Friends and friends from Baltimore-area Meetings to learn about the Transition movement from Ruah Swennerfelt, former **General** Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Her new book, *Rising to the Challenge: The Transition Movement and People of Faith* is the result of a decade of experience living in the Transition Town of Charlotte, VT. Transition initiatives are an answer to the shocks of rapidly shifting global systems such as energy delivery, climate change and economic crises. Transition to a low-carbon lifestyle is a creative way to use local knowledge, experience and resources to home-grow resilient places to live and work.

BYM Development Thought for the Day

Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.

Fundraising is precisely the opposite of begging. When we seek to raise funds we are not saying, "Please, could you help us out because lately it's been hard."

Rather, we are declaring, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting.

We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you"

Henri Nouwen, A Spirituality of Fundraising

Catoctin Bathhouse Update

As of August 18, 2016 you have given \$235,092.72 in gifts to support the construction of a new bathhouse at Catoctin. The cost for construction is \$297,000.00. This means we are 79.1% to our goal. Many friends and Friends have supported this exciting project. One friend from Alaska saw a post about the project and went online to <http://tinyurl.com/CatoctinBathhouse> and made a gift. Just recently at the BYM Annual Session at Hood College, Josh Riley, Hopewell Centre Friends Meeting, (pictured here) challenged the group with a \$5,000.00 matching gift. As of today, in addition to Josh's generous gift of \$5,000.00 another \$8,162.00 has been raised. Way to go Friends! Thank you Josh for inspiring generosity. Just yesterday another Friend, created another \$5,000.00 matching gift challenge. Won't you join these Friends and make the Catoctin Bathhouse a reality. Just go to <http://tinyurl.com/CatoctinBathhouse> and make a gift online or send a gift to BYM, 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. If you have questions just give us a call at 301-774-7663.



Josh Riley

We will take down the current Catoctin Bathhouses this fall, with construction on the new single structure bathhouse beginning soon after. The new bathhouse will be completed by the start of the 2017 camping season. In order to include the entire Catoctin family, we will have planned a celebration and you are all invited to...

The Catoctin Bathhouse Day of Destruction

Monday, September 5, 2016

Day of Destruction Event Schedule 9/5/2016

9:00AM-Noon – arrive at Catoctin for the **DAY OF DESTRUCTION**, we will use this time to do some site prep work.

Noon-1:00PM – Lunch for the Catoctin **DAY OF DESTRUCTION**, during this time we will auction off 1) the first swing at the bathhouse, 2) the boy's bathroom urinal, and 3) sections of block from the old bathhouse. We will also sell 1) posters, 2) hardhats and 3) T-shirts.

1:30PM – First swing at the bathhouse

1:30PM-5:00PM – Continuing Catoctin **DAY OF DESTRUCTION** with the taking down of the bathhouse, games, and general merriment.

5:00PM – Build your own ice cream sundae in celebration of the Catoctin **DAY OF DESTRUCTION**.

Please RSVP:

If you are coming for the Catoctin **DAY OF DESTRUCTION**, please let us know by emailing, anvenable@bym-rsf.org or davidhunter@bym-rsf.org or calling the BYM office at 301-774-7663.



Visiting Meetings Update

At BYM Annual Session in August, the Visiting Meetings Program invited meetings to request visitors by sharing examples of when a meeting might appreciate a visit. Three Friends shared their talents. Peirce Hammond, Bethesda Friends Meeting, clerk of BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care shared when a local Meeting might need some help with a particular concern and how a person on this committee might offer some assistance to a meeting. Amy Schmaljohn, Gunpowder Friends Meeting, from BYM Spiritual Formation suggested that they may be able to offer insight to local Meetings wanting to participate or grow a Spiritual Formation

group in their local Meeting. Finally, Josh Wilson, Pataspsco Friends Meeting talked about both the BYM Growing Diverse Leadership and the Growing Our Meetings might be of interest to a local Meeting and shared the gifts they might bring. All individual Friends and Monthly Meetings are members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and together we make each other stronger.

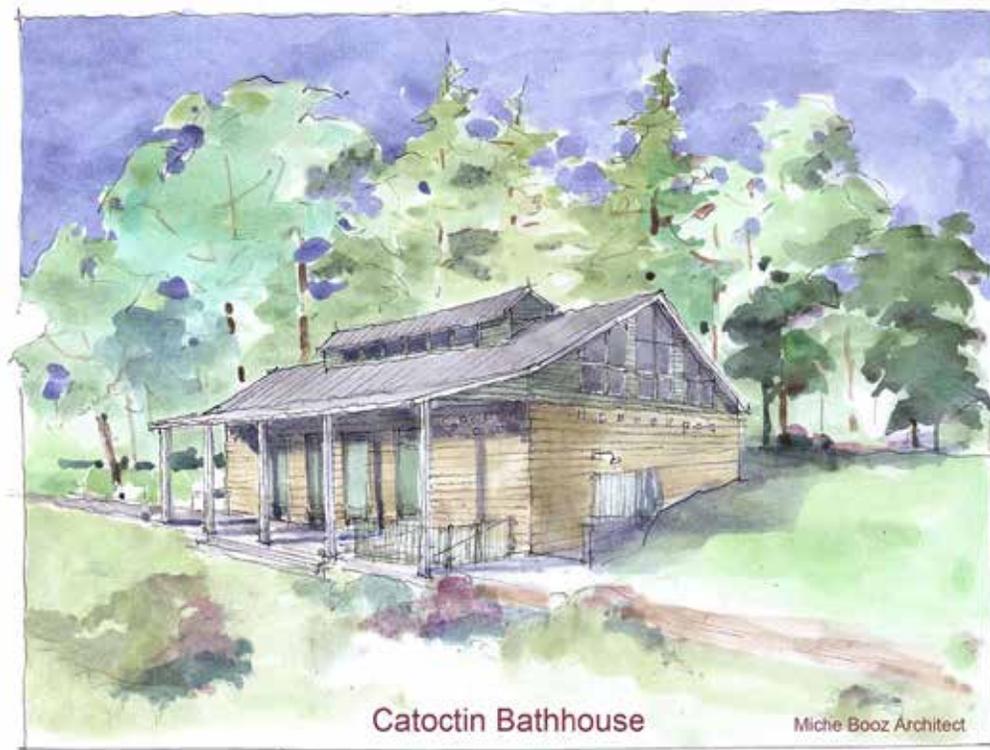
To learn more please visit the Visiting Meetings webpage at http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/visiting_meetings.html.

As we continue to grow together please join us for the BYM Menallen Day-

Menallen Friends Meeting is in Biglerville, Pennsylvania. The Menallen Meeting Friends are responsible for three buildings and five cemeteries. It is a small meeting with a lot of responsibility and we will visit to offer some Friendly assistance. We will gather at the BYM Office at 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring at 8:00AM to travel together by bus to Menallen Friends Meeting. We will share a picnic lunch and return to the BYM office by 6:00PM.



Please RSVP: If you are coming for the BYM Menallen Work Day, please let us know by emailing, annvenable@bym-rsf.org or visit@bym-rsf.org or calling the BYM office at 301-774-7663.



A William Penn House Birthday Celebration!

**50th Anniversary
Service Day and Open House
9 – 3 PM**

Saturday, Oct. 8th 2016

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship
to celebrate William Penn House's 50 years
of service and activism in Washington, DC



9 AM – Noon: Join a **hands-on service project** with our urban gardening program, helping to promote food justice in DC neighborhoods. In the tradition of Quaker workcamps, we will honor the light in others, build community and make love visible.

Noon – 1:00 PM: Enjoy a **BBQ lunch** back at William Penn House with all the fixings.

1:00 – 3:00 PM: **Open House** - Tour William Penn House and learn about its history of service and activism, complete with a visit from William Penn himself!

Families, individuals, and groups of all ages are welcome.

This event is free, but registration is required.

Register by Sept. 26 at williampennhouse.org.

Space is limited, so register early.

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MILES WHITE BENEFICIAL SOCIETY SUPPORTS CHILDREN IN BALTIMORE CITY

Mary Ellen Saterlie is the President of the Miles White Beneficial Society.

Submitted by Kathryn Pettus.

In response to recent turmoil in the city of Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray, board members of the Miles White Beneficial Society, a benevolent corporation, sought to find ways to make a difference in the lives of residents in neighborhoods that were beginning the long processes of rebuilding and renewal. How could a small charitable corporation contribute in a significant and meaningful way to these processes? The board, guided by the original purposes for which the Society was created, agreed to focus on contributing to the future well-being of the city of Baltimore by supporting summer programs for children in neighborhoods that bore the scars of the social and political unrest.

The Miles White Beneficial Society identified four organizations that were at work in Baltimore neighborhoods and extended invitations for proposals for funding that would specifically address needs and interests of children during the summer months. Quick responses from the organizations enabled the Society to award grants to the following programs:

Friend of a Friend, sponsored by The American Friends Service Committee, to support the Urban Gardening Program in Gilmore Homes.

Summer Camp, sponsored by the McKim Community Association, to create a Community of Care for children in the Jonestown neighborhood.

Out-of-School Summer Youth Program, sponsored by Unified Efforts and Fusion Partnerships, to provide academic and cultural enrichment activities for children in the Penn North and Sandstone neighborhoods.

Quaker Camp at Opequon, sponsored by Baltimore SRIDE (Supporting Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments) of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, to provide camping experiences for children of diverse backgrounds.

The four neighborhoods that benefited from the grants – Gilmore Homes, Jonestown, Penn North, and Sandstone – are among the areas that were most deeply affected by the results of recent disquiet in Baltimore.

Miles White, a Baltimore Friend, founded the Beneficial Society in 1874 for educational, charitable, and beneficial purposes to serve young and needy cit-

izens in the city of Baltimore. White had for many years been a benefactor of humanitarian causes, but two years before his death he established the legal entity that became the Miles White Beneficial Society of Baltimore City and provided a generous endowment for its work. For 137 years, the Society continued its work as a self-perpetuating organization, awarding grants to educational institutions and charities and awarding scholarships for undergraduate studies. In 2011, the Beneficial Society became a supporting organization under the auspices of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Now 142 years after its founding, the Society continues to be inspired by the legacy of its founder Miles White and works diligently to fulfill his vision of service and support to people and communities.



Annual Session 2016 photo by Jennifer Domenick



Annual Session 2016 photo by Jennifer Domenick

WITNESS THE POWER: RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION

Clerks and Environmental Contacts are asked to share this information with their meetings. At the request of the Unity with Nature Committee (UWN), BYM's Annual Session 2016 agreed to ask each monthly meeting, as well as individuals within each meeting, to consider calculating their carbon footprints.

At the close of the 2015 Paris Accord, the world's nations agreed that the very survival of the earth requires a sharp reduction in human caused carbon emissions. But the Accord raised the question, "Where do we begin these reductions?"

An essential step in finding a peaceful solution to any social ill is to understand the problem and determine if/how we ourselves are contributing to it. UWN studied and compared various carbon calculators in order to find reasonably accurate instruments for measuring our own household carbon footprints. Are we Quakers unknowingly contributing to the atmosphere's problem of excessive carbon?

To begin, use one or more of the recommended carbon calculators, a list of simple questions designed to determine your household's and/or your meeting's baseline carbon output. A carbon calculator estimates your carbon footprint and also identifies which of your activities most heavily contributes excess carbon to the atmosphere. This information clarifies where to begin taking the steps needed to shrink your carbon footprint.

In addition to the recommended carbon calculators, UWN also generated a list of "Next Steps." Once you establish your carbon footprint baseline, the Next Steps list will suggest modifications to your regular activities that can shrink your footprint. The list also suggests ways to advocate for a carbon neutral world. By assuming full responsibility for the details of our own lives, we are in a stronger position to advocate for a carbon neutral society. In Gandhi's words, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

NEXT STEPS

.....

ON THE JOURNEY TO RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION

In the spirit of evolving revelation, we have come to find our current practices and behaviors out of step with the right relationship to protect and enhance life resilience on Earth and a sustainable role for our human community.

As acknowledged by the Shared Quaker Statement, "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change", our calling is to find practices that avoid burning remaining known fossil fuel reserves. An agreement emerged from the COP 21, Paris Climate negotiations in December, 2015, where 196 nations acknowledged the imperative to achieve a net zero carbon emissions economy. To achieve this, the carbon we collectively burn must be no more than the carbon our living community can sequester out of atmosphere.

With the recognition of our collective limits, the people of the world are seeing common interest in supporting each other to achieve this goal.

As Quakers, we are challenged to imagine our journey to the Peaceable Kingdom beyond the era of fossil fuels. All journeys continue with each step. Without identifying and resolving all the challenges to achieve transformation, we are tasked to take immediate steps that move us in that direction.

The BYM Unity with Nature Committee offers suggestions for Next Steps as a tool we can use individually and collectively to show good faith to our beloved creation. We affirm our positive direction and openness to spirit as we see the way opening, and we invite you to collaborate and share your steps and evolve this living document as you are led.

QUAKERS, RESTROOMS, AND THE LEARNING CURVE

Debby Churchman

(Administrative Secretary, Friends Meeting of Washington)

Quakers tend to follow the leading to be in the world but not of it, although this summer has given us all ample reason to also not want to be in it much. Holy moly. Still, in our own small way, Friends Meeting of Washington is meeting the world as it is and working towards a better one.

Which this summer started with the topic of restrooms, much in the news. The word apparently got out in North Carolina that for the past, oh, roughly 240 years, transgender people in that state have been using the restroom assigned to their current gender rather than the one they were born with. This news provoked horror in the hearts of certain legislators, who reacted by passing bills to forbid such usage.

We at FMW had already been (very gently) instructed by trans people who held meetings here that our restroom signage felt exclusionary to some. Our Property Manager, Ken Orvis, and I worried about this, probably for too long, and started working our way towards better signs. When the North Carolina bill passed, I put a sign on one of the bathrooms informing folks that “this restroom is for people needing a restroom.” Put another sign on the men’s room which was actually a cartoon showing Jesus being refused entry due to his long hair and robes. This offended some people, so I took it down.

And then the shooting in Orlando happened. Such hard news. We felt the sign problem needed more urgent attention. Ken designed signs for the two Meeting House restrooms that have more than one stall each. One showed a picture of two toilets and the other a picture of a toilet and a urinal. He ran all this past the Property Committee, who seemed pleased, and got the signs made and installed.

The next day, we had three groups using space at the Meeting House, from different organizations and cultures. It was mayhem. No one

could understand the signs, and I spent much of the day walking in on guys using what used to be called the Women’s room. Turns out that many guys don’t shut the stall door. Eeeuuuw.

What to do? Hey, we’re Quakers! There is no non-verbal problem we can’t solve by using words, lots of words. We put up three full paragraphs worth of words below our new restroom signs, explaining: Friends: Our Meeting restrooms sport new signs. This is the restroom formerly labeled,

“WOMEN.”

Now instead it has a pictogram showing two toilets (but no urinal).

Which is exactly what’s inside.

We hope Friends understand clearly that this is not about inviting men into the “Women’s Room” or women into the “Men’s Room.” It is about applying the Testimony of Equality to include people for whom, when asked “Are you a man, or are you a woman?” the truthful answer is “No.” To include people who, when confronted with two doors each denoting the extreme end of a continuum they merely fall someplace(s) along, feel an all too familiar sense of confusion, shame, and exclusion from any sincere invitation to tend to their most basic biological needs as easily as the rest of us.



So the room with a pot and a urinal is for the use of people for whom it is appropriate to use a room with a pot and a urinal; and the room with two pots is for the use of people for whom it is appropriate to use a room with two pots. And the single-user restrooms elsewhere are for people who need to use a restroom. Full stop.

We hope and trust this really rather subtle change meets with Friends’ approval and acceptance.

This worked, for now. We figure it’s a learning curve, and we’re somewhere on it.

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

In the midst of some uncertainty as to where we will be located after Sidwell Friends School sells the campus of the Lower School (where we have been located for over 40 years), our Meeting continues to thrive in many ways. We have welcomed 10 new members since April – four by convincement, one by transfer, and five who transitioned from junior membership to full membership. We are delighted to have these new members!

We have had many opportunities for spiritual deepening. Among them are:

- The series “Experiment with Light” continues to meet twice a month on Sunday evenings at the homes of two BFM members who host it, and on occasional Sunday mornings before Meeting for worship. It continues to be a source of spiritual nurture and growth for many in our Meeting. (Experiment with Light is a meditation and centering practice based on Rex Amblers’ book, “Light to Live By,” which describes early Quaker meditative practices and translates them into a highly accessible process for insight and clearness.)
- the Bethesda Friends Meeting book group continues to meet once a month to discuss books chosen by the group. They are usually of a spiritual nature. Some are by Quaker writers; others by writers of other spiritual traditions. The discussions of the books have provided a wonderful avenue for the participants to know one another more deeply as we share our perspectives on the books, our spiritual questions and concerns.
- Our cherished member, Bill Dietrich, shared his spiritual journey with us on May 22. It was a very moving event, during which we learned more about the many strands of spiritual nurture that have fed Bill over the years and contributed to his depth and wisdom.
- We’ve had a session on Quaker Decision making, during which we explored more deeply the process of Quaker discernment and decision making so that we may be more open to the guidance of Spirit as we move forward with deciding where our Meeting will be located once the Sidwell Friends Lower School property is sold.

We have also had many opportunities for service and engagement



Annual Session 2016 photo by Jennifer Domenick

with social/political issues. Among them are:

- Since April, a number of people from Bethesda Friends Meeting have held a “Black Lives Matter” rally in downtown Bethesda, handing out buttons and pamphlets, and talking to people about the movement. This is a way of reaching out with our testimony of equality. They have found many people curious about and open to the message.
- Our Spring Fling, silent auction, and plant sale raised over \$14K for Ramallah Friends School, a beacon of learning and hope in a very troubled land. These funds support scholarships for young students who otherwise would not be able to attend this excellent Quaker school.
- Our Environmental Sustainability Group has had several meetings, and participants are sharing helpful information with one another; the group hopes to address ways that we as individuals and a faith community can address the threat of global climate change, and the pressing issue of sustainability.



Annual Session 2016 photo by Jennifer Domenick

Finally, we have worked to strengthen our community. We have had two sessions on the theme of “Grow Your Meeting.” The growth referred to is not simply growth in numbers, but a deepening of our knowing and caring about one another. Lauren Brownlee, Jane Coe, and Peirce Hammond all attended the BYM session last fall entitled “Grow Your Meeting,” and returned inspired with many ideas for building vitality and health, and helping us become a more genuinely welcoming Meeting. They have shared these with us during two very enjoyable sessions.

And – we like to have fun with one another! Our Spring Fling brought in more people, and more children than ever, and was a lively affair with great food and music, and many toys for the children. And our family camping weekend at Catoctin provided another opportunity for enjoying one another and the gifts of nature.

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Annapolis Friends have posted several Black Lives Matter signs and had them destroyed by vandals. We continue to post

them and meanwhile, several Friends are finding ways to work with other congregations in anti-racism efforts.

The Peace and Justice Center continues to give financial and spiritual support to the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform and Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis, both of which have grown well beyond our meeting. In addition, we are exploring leadings to support immigrants, at this point by learning all we can.

HERNDON FRIENDS MEETING

Eight campers from Herndon Friends Meeting attended BYM camps this summer. To show our children that we all support them going to Quaker camps, we give a \$350 scholarship to each camper, in addition to need-based scholarships on request.

After long negotiations with the Town of Herndon, we finally received permission to erect a small shed on our parking lot to accommodate one of the First Day School classes. Our small meetinghouse has served our needs perfectly for twenty years except for crowding during First Day School, which we hope will be resolved with this solution.

HOPEWELL CENTRE MONTHLY MEETING

Summer has brought us many good things, from George Lakey's inimitable insights and humor at BYM's Annual Session, to a first-time, fun-filled campfire dinner with the youth and staff at Opequon Camp. Homecoming, as it always is, was a joyous end-of-summer day spent with old and new Friends in worship within our walls and potluck on the lawn.

With the arrival of fall, we are pleased to announce our new clerks: Clerk of the Meeting, Betty McCormick; Assistant Clerk, R. Dixon Bell; Recording Clerk, Dan Riley; Asst. Recording Clerk, Carol Melby; Clerk of Ministry & Counsel, Linda Wilk; Pastoral Care, Pam Hambach; Treasurer Jim Riley; and Asst. Treasurer, Anne Bacon.

Our Outreach Committee continues its focus on the much-needed and ever-growing Highland Food Pantry. Our home-grown Spiritual Formation Group moves happily into its third year. Last year's

group read *Mind the Light* by J. Brent Bill and *To Be Broken and Tender* by Margery Post Abbot; they say the whole experience was transformative. But the big event we're all awaiting is when Art Larrabee comes right to our meetinghouse door in October to give his Friends' Decision-Making workshop. We're hoping the entire Meeting will take part so we can all gain the tools we need to deepen our spiritual commitment as a meeting as well as in our personal lives.

As it is in life, we do have sadness to report. In July we lost longtime Friend, James Cosby, who, among his many gifts to our meeting, kept our buildings and grounds functioning and beautiful for many years. Elder and birthright Quaker, Bob Pidgeon, grieves for the loss of his wife, Naomi. Faithful attendee, Judy Enterline, has also lost her spouse, Steven, unexpectedly, and her mourning is great. As the tides ebb and flow, may we each catch a wave or two — and ride.

YORK MONTHLY MEETING

In case you have not heard York Friends are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Meeting House this year. As a community of Quakers in York we are actually older but it is a milestone to remember the original 1766 building. Our "new" addition was built just a few short years later in 1783 and is referred to as our west room. The original room remains the primary home for Meeting for Worship while the new addition is used for First Day School and our weekly shared meal.

To honor our heritage the Meeting House participated in the Bloom Art and Craft Market on the third Fridays of May, June and July joining other local businesses and street vendors on Philadelphia Street. In addition to the monthly open house, May highlighted our history with a review by Lamar Matthew, June focused on a quilt demonstration by Sally Keller, a talented quilt maker of the Meeting, accompanied by a Meeting musician, and July provided musical entertainment with a jam session.

On July 30 the Meeting joined in celebrating York's 275-year history by hosting an open house on the same day as Colonial Days. The Meeting House was open from 10am–4pm with tours,

Friendly faces, children's activities and historical type snacks of cornbread and iced tea. Colonial Days included characters in period costume who gave walking tours of the area and stopped directly in front of the Meeting House to encourage visitors to stop back and see the inside of the Meeting House. One of our own even dressed in period costume to welcome visitors in front of the Meeting House.

Although the number of visitors was less than expected for the Bloom Art events, there was a steady flow of guests during Colonial Days. As a result the Meeting has welcomed several new visitors to Meeting for Worship.



Annual Session 2016 photo by Jennifer Domenick

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
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BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

SEE THE YEARLY MEETING WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND OTHER EVENTS (BYM-RSF.ORG)

SEPTEMBER

- 10 – Clerks of Committee Workshop at Frederick Friends Meeting
- 16-18 – Shiloh Quaker Camp Reunion Weekend
- 23-25 – Family Camp Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 23-25 – Young Friends Conference

OCTOBER

- 1 – Menallen Meeting Workday at Menallen Monthly Meeting
- 8-10 – Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 8-10 – Junior Young Friends Conference
- 8 – BYM Friendly Sing-In at Frederick Friends Meeting
- 15 – Tenth Month Interim Meeting at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting
- 21-23 – Family Camp Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp

NOVEMBER

- 25-27 – Young Friends Conference

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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