

NEWSLETTER

ASHEVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

First Month 2003

Quaker in Training

by Elizabeth Roebing

Christy Bischoff is the only designated "Quaker" among the fourteen people currently undergoing intensive nonviolent direct action training with the Christian Peacemakers Team (CPT) in Chicago. Christy has been attending our Meeting since she left the bombing range in Vieques, PR, with Elizabeth Roebing last Fall. While in Asheville, she has been living with Friends Lindsay and Irina Bridges. Christy is no stranger to Quakers, having spent two years in Northern Ireland at Quaker Cottage working with children.

The Christian Peacemakers, rooted in the Mennonites, the Church of the Brethren and the Society of Friends, includes members from both Protestant and Catholic churches. CPT sends violence-reduction teams to areas of conflict and militarization. Many CPT members have served jail sentences in Vieques. CPT now has 50 full time Peace Makers, 250 reservists, and a full time support staff of 15. They have been a regular presence in Hebron since 1995, and are serving now in Colombia, Chiapas, Vieques, and Iraq.

During her month-long training, Christy will prepare to become either a full-time Peacemaker or a Reservist. The curriculum, divided into action, reflection, and practice, is rigorous, the days are 12 hours long, living conditions are simple and afford little privacy. Every effort is made to prepare participants for the experience of being in a war zone.

A survey of the course sheet gives an insight into how well-prepared these peacemakers will be after their training. The course in "Nonviolent Action in Anabaptist History" is followed by one on "Intuition and Planning" subdivided into "identifying the demonic" and "recognizing the kairos moment". Under "Creative Public Witness" participants study "symbols & images" and "street theater". They will be taught public speaking as well, which is further divided into sections: in church,

with media, and on the streets; writing, designing publicity materials, and facilitation skills.

The fourteen students, six of whom are in the 20-30 age range and eight in the 50-60 bracket, are from all over the U.S., with one from Haiti and one from Scotland. The collective résumés are awe-inspiring: imprisoned in South Africa 1.5 years; lived and worked in El Salvador; participated in Women in Black in Jerusalem; Witness for Peace delegate to Nicaragua; CPT delegate to Iraq.

Trainees participated in a direct action on New Year's Day, focused on violent toys. Santa and the Elves entered the local Chicago Toys-R-Us and declared the war toys a mistake and removed them from the shelves., the 3 Magi led more than one hundred people to the aisles where the violent toys are sold and conducted a teach-in about the dangers of such play, a retirement party was held for GI Joe on his 30th anniversary, a Celestial Choir of Angels sang out against toys that teach violence, and then the Little Drummer Boy invited the store to march to a beat of a different drummer by removing violent toys from the shelves.

The two-page reading list provided to Christy by the Christian Peacemakers will be added to the bibliographies available in our Meetinghouse library. Friends are encouraged to read Engaging the Powers, by Walter Wink, who was the keynote speaker at FGC last summer. This book is available in our library.

Friends are asked to hold Christy and the work of all the Christian Peacemakers in the Light. Christy invites Friends to join in worship with her from 9:30 - 9:50 a.m. and 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. every day.

Friends wishing to know more about the CPT violence reduction work or Peacemaker training may contact Kryss Chupp at 771-227-0253, or email at

synapses@igc.org

or contact Elizabeth at 828-626-3013, email

roebingelizabeth@msn.com.

*The true saint goes in and out amongst the people,
and eats and sleeps with them, and buys and sells in the market,
and marries and takes part in social intercourse,
and never forgets God for a single moment.*

Abu Sa'id ibn Abi 'l Khayr
sufi mystic and poet, 967-1049 c.e.

Are You Called to Action for Peace?

many opportunities exist to answer this leading

Last November, international inspectors resumed their UN-mandated disarmament of Iraq, and their work has been proceeding well. Despite this new opportunity to avert suffering and bloodshed, the Bush Administration continues to insist that Iraq must be invaded and subdued militarily. The Friends' Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) provides guidance for those who are moved to actively oppose the Administration's war.

On October 10, 2002, Congress passed a resolution authorizing the President to wage war against Iraq. However, thanks to all the messages that poured into congressional offices, nearly one-fourth of the Senate and one-third of the House voted against the resolution. Now there is a movement afoot in Congress to repeal the President's authority to declare war on Iraq. A bill ("House Concurrent Resolution 2") and a letter ("Brown-Kind letter") have been introduced in the new Congress. Why not take a few minutes to phone or email congratulations to those who are supporting this movement in Congress? More info may be found on FCNL's website at

www.fcnl.org/act_lam_current/actnow_lam_index.htm.

It may seem a waste of time to phone Congressman Taylor's office, given his voting record and public statements in support of Bush's war plans, but it could also be seen as an opportunity to practice a most time-honored Quaker testimony: speaking truth to power. What is fruitless is not always worthless. Taylor's office phone number is 251-1988, address 22 S. Pack Square Suite 330.

There are also many opportunities to join with other people of faith in witness, prayer, and meditation for peace. Our own Monthly Meeting meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. for 30 minutes of silent prayer for peace, followed by



Health Kits for Families in Iraq

bring items to Meetinghouse for collection

The people of Iraq are suffering extreme hardship as a result of years of wars and sanctions. Many have no access to clean water and other basic necessities. The American Friends Service Committee seeks to alleviate some part of the humanitarian crisis by collecting items for basic personal hygiene.

What each kit contains:

- i 4 bars of soap
- i 1 plastic bottle of shampoo (12-24 oz.)
- i 1 tube toothpaste (8 oz. or larger)
- i 4 adult-size toothbrushes, packaged
- i 1 hairbrush
- i 1 wide-tooth comb
- i 1 fingernail clipper
- i 1 box of adhesive bandages (40 or more, assorted sizes)
- i \$5 to cover shipping

Complete kits are preferable, however any items are appreciated; perhaps many partial kits can be made into several full ones. Checks should be made out to Asheville Friends Meeting, with attention to Iraqi Health Kits. While some have reported cost of almost \$30, one Friend assembled a complete kit for around \$15 by buying at a Dollar Store. Monetary donations are also accepted with appreciation, again marking the check "Iraqi Health Kits".

30 minutes of worship sharing and a "stone soup" shared meal. In addition there is a weekly interfaith vigil in front of the Federal Building in Asheville, Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m., and "Women in Black", bearing witness to the suffering of innocents in war, hold vigils in Hendersonville (Friday noon - 12:30 at the old courthouse on Main Street) and Asheville (5 - 6 p.m. at Vance Monument, followed by an hour-long Peace Vigil).

Peace rallies are planned for Jan 27 and 28, to coincide with the UN Inspectors' Report and Bush's State of the Union Address, and on Feb. 15 there will be another international day of peace rallying similar to the Jan. 18 event just past. A great website for more info may be found at

www.unitedforpeace.org.

Meeting House Phone

(828) 258-0974

Clerk of the Meeting

Evan Richardson

Recording Clerk

Margaret Farmer

Treasurer

Susan Williams

Newsletter Committee

Steve Livingston (ed.),

Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, Martha Huggins, George Oldham, Bob Payne, Frosty Sinclair

The Asheville Friends Meeting *Newsletter* is published monthly. Friends are welcome to contribute letters, book reviews, announcements, articles, and quotations. Please submit copy on 3.5" IBM disk or email to plaeides@buncombe.main.nc.us. Calendar entries may be submitted directly to Martha Huggins or emailed to mhuggins@henderson.lib.nc.us. Hard copy is acceptable. Deadline is third First Day.

The Asheville Friends Meeting is located at 227 Edgewood Road, between Merimon Avenue and the University of North Carolina campus. Friends meet for singing at 9:40 and for worship at 10:00 a. m. every First Day. First Day School begins at 10:00. Friends meet to conduct business on the second First Day at 11:30 a.m. On other First Days, the hour following meeting for worship is used for adult education or for fellowship.

MINUTES

OF THE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS FIRST MONTH, TWELFTH DAY 2003

CLERK: EVAN RICHARDSON
ACTING CLERK: RIVKA MAHER
RECORDING CLERK: MARGARET FARMER

Opening of Meeting

1. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business convened at 12:15 p.m. on the twelfth day of first month, 2003. There were twenty-five Friends in attendance, including: Alice Brown, Peter Buck, Karen Cernek, David Clements, Agnita Dupree, Al Dupree, Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Steve Livingston, Rivka Maher, Rusty Maynard, Christina McQuiston, Ernie Miller, Phil Neal, Edith Neece, Talmadge Neece, Evan Richardson, Ursula Scott, Eda Smith, Gerald Smith, Jennifer Walker, Robin Wells, and Susan Williams.

2. The Meeting settled into silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Evan Richardson read from the Epistles of George Fox: "And your growth is in the Seed in the silence, where ye may find a feeding of the bread of life...and there is innocence and simplicity of heart and spirit is lived in and the life is fed on."

Epistle 181 (1659)

News of Ourselves

1. Rivka Maher asked that her sister Eileen be held in the Light: her home caught fire, she and her family are homeless.

2. David Clements shared that a successful Quaker Basics event was held at Highland Farms for the past two days. It was led by Mel and Beth Kaiser with Friends from Asheville and Swanannoa Valley Meetings attending.

3. Evan Richardson announced that she will soon stop working as a midwife, to allow space for mothering her children and for other things in her life.

Correspondence

1. We received three cards sending us greetings over the winter holidays. They were from Linda Trout (away in Philadelphia), the Board and Staff of Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council, and Mary Bryan (member of meeting, now working at Mentor Network).

2. We have received two letters thanking us for recent contributions from the meeting. The first is from Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary, on behalf AFSC for a total contribution from the meeting of \$400. The second is from the Max Carter and Deborah Shaw of the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program (QLSP) for a \$100 contribution.

Review of Minutes from Twelfth Month

12th month Minutes were approved as printed.

SAYMA Representatives' Meeting

1. Clerk Evan Richardson reported that she has left word with Sharon Annis, Clerk of SAYMA, that the meeting has approved hosting the Spring Representative Meeting (to be held the first weekend of April 2003).

2. The Spiritual Formation Program, which had previously scheduled the Meetinghouse for use on the first Saturday of April, is comfortable with moving elsewhere for this day, in order that the Representative Meeting can have full use of the Meetinghouse.

3. **Formation of an ad-hoc committee for the sake of organizing local arrangements needed to support this gathering was approved.**

4. It was suggested that Meeting ask our incoming SAYMA representative to coordinate this effort. Robin Wells shared that Ron McDonald has stepped forth to clerk Junior Gathering for our Yearly Meeting this June.

Religious Education

1. Robin Wells announced that Margo Martin has stepped down from coordinating the Teen Program, so that she will have more time to complete her last semester of college. This will also allow Margo to attend Meeting for Worship.

2. The Youth Group met to look at what they would

Contributions

Contributions to the Asheville Friends Meeting are welcomed. Gifts may be placed in the small wooden box marked "contributions" which is located in the entry way, or mailed to

Asheville Friends Meeting
227 Edgewood Road
Asheville, NC 28804

BUSINESS MEETING

[Religious Education, Treasurer's Report, Finance]

like to do for the remainder of this school year. There will be different weeks assigned to topics including arts, themes selected by teens, debates, and community service. Robin is seeking volunteers to assist with the Youth Group. Religious Education has not made a decision to drop this item from their budget. Teens who have attended Youth Group this year include Logan and Jackson Tarleton, Stephanie Gossett, Abby Hearne, Zach Cobb, Amelia Wallace, Molly Jones, Christy and Ellen Farmer, and Molly Rosch. Rivka Maher will be continuing to work with the youth group at least until April.

3. Asheville Meeting would like to show our deep appreciation for the many things that Margo did for the youth group. Evan and Robin will draft a letter of thanks to her; this letter will be read at next month's Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business.

4. A teen spiritual advisory committee has been formed to support this program.

5. **Friends accepted the report of Religious Education.**

Treasurer's Report

1. Treasurer's Report was given by Susan Williams.

2. "My report on income and expenses for 2002 is not final yet, since I have had insurmountable computer problems, as well as year end additions and expenses.

3. "The final figures for 2002 will be available by the end of January. Please have all expenses for 2002 turned in by next Sunday, Jan. 19th, so that by next month's Meeting for Business there can be a complete and accurate report.

4. "Net income in the General Fund not yet spent or allocated to another fund is estimated to be about \$2000.

5. "SAYMA dues have been paid in full. The items from the 2002 budget that are still deferred are:

- Building Fund transfer – \$6000;
- Education Loan Fund transfer – \$2000; and
- transfer to Quaker Connections – \$500.

6. "The Finance Committee met last week and has proposed recommendations for use of the net income and action on the Fund transfers. The Finance Committee report will address this as well as the proposed 2003 Budget."

Finance Committee

1. Finance Committee report was read by David Clements.

2. "Art McVickar has asked to be released from the Finance Committee. He has served faithfully on the Committee for a number of years, and we will miss his spirit and good humor."

3. **Friends approved the release of Art McVickar with deep appreciation for his many years of service both as a committee member and as Treasurer.**

4. "The Finance Committee brings to Meeting a difficult situation about which we feel Meeting should make the final decision. In February 2002 a telephone solicitor from a company called World Wide Source called the Meeting House, spoke to Al Dupree, and accepted an order from him for a telephone listing in a nationwide telephone book. Our listing was put in the book and we were billed about \$417 for this. The Finance Committee recommends that Meeting not pay this bill.

5. "Al's recollection is that he emphasized to the solicitor that he was not authorized to order the service and that he asked the solicitor to contact the Clerk. The Company has a recording of the conversation with Al in which Al seems to be accepting the responsibility for the order, but we are not confident that the recording reflects what actually happened in its entirety.

6. "In our opinion there is some doubt whether this is a legitimate organization. In addition, Meeting did not authorize this expense, and Al was not authorized to act on behalf of the Meeting.

7. "Our account has gone into collections. We anticipate that there is little likelihood that the bad debt will affect our ability to borrow money should we need to secure a mortgage.

8. "If Meeting does not accept our recommendation not to pay the bill, we recommend that one or more persons independent of the Finance Committee be appointed to investigate the situation further and report to Meeting."

9. **Friends approved the recommendation that Meeting not pay the \$417 at this time; and that a small group will work on further action on this matter with the Finance Committee.**

10. Several Friends brought up the importance of

Quaker Leadership Scholars

Four young women from Asheville Friends Meeting are now enrolled in the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program at Guilford College. Congratulations to Lauren Mitchell, Casey Rhoades, Trina Farmer, and Rose Wilson – and to their parents – for having been accepted into the program.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Robin Wells, Martha Huggins, Ernie Miller, and the many other dedicated and talented Friends who provide spiritual nurture and guidance to our young people. Our Meeting is challenged to live up to QLSP Director Max Carter's observation: "You do amazing work with your young 'un's."

BUSINESS MEETING

[Finance]

having a written response and further information. Steve Livingston has offered to assist with this process; the Clerk will ask Barry Master if he would also assist; others are invited to join in this effort to support the Finance Committee. Meeting expressed support to Al Dupree, with heartfelt appreciation for all he brings to this meeting.

11. A concern was expressed that we not delay action. A lengthy discussion followed. There was a proposal that the clerk of Ministry and Worship with the Clerk of Meeting send a letter to the Company saying:

- a. the matter is under consideration and that they will hear from us in a specified time frame;
- b. the person the company initially spoke to was not authorized to approve this payment;
- c. there was not sufficient effort made to contact anyone with authority to make this decision;
- d. we regret making the mistake for us to wait this long to contact them.

12. There was not unity for this action.

13. Rivka Maher, who had been asked by Evan Richardson to stand in as clerk for her, proposed that we ask Christina, Steve, Barry and the Finance Committee to follow up on this. They will draft a letter to World Wide Source, to be signed by Evan and Christina, and report back to next month's Meeting for Business.

14. **Friends approved this proposal.**

15. David continued the report:

16. "We remind Meeting of our recommendation from last month, not yet acted upon, that Meeting receive a Yearly report from the Recorder detailing the number of members of various classes and the number of active attenders."

17. Meeting would like a report. The Recorder function has been subsumed under Care and Counsel, who will look at this before next business meeting.

18. "The Committee has several recommendations regarding the 2002 fiscal year:

- a. "We have ended 2002 having raised enough money for all planned expenses except for a \$2,000 transfer to the Education Loan Fund, a \$6,000 transfer to the Building Fund, and a \$500 transfer to the Quaker Connections Fund. Other than these, we have at least \$3,000 more in receipts than expenses. The Finance Committee recommends making a 2002 transfer to the Building Fund of \$1,000. We recommend not funding the Education Loan Fund or Quaker Connections. We would retain any excess for the year in the General Fund to prepare for 2003.

b. "We recommend printing in the February Newsletter the final figures for 2002 as well as the final budget for 2003.

19. "We have looked over the preliminary budget for 2003 and are concerned that our projected spending and saving is out of line with the actual receipts of 2002. We can not expect that contributions are going to increase substantially in 2003. We have several proposals to address the imbalance, as well as other adjustments to the budget. We recommend that a final decision on these be made at the February Business Meeting.

20. "The Retreat Committee has asked for a budget of \$2,000. We understand that their intention is to have receipts cover expenses and agree with planning in this way. The \$2,000 will be used if the Committee's projections are inaccurate.

21. "The Christmas Party will be under the care of Ministry and Worship.

22. "The Peace and Earth Committee has agreed to oversee the Summer Youth Internship with a budget of \$1,000.

23. "We propose lowering the projected contribution to the Building Fund to \$1,000. The Building Fund will also be accruing interest and dividends, probably on the order of \$1,000 to \$1,500.

24. "We propose not to fund the Education Loan Fund. We remind the Meeting that there has been no request for a loan from this fund. Ministry and Oversight reminded our college-age friends of the possibility of loans from the fund last year.

25. "We propose changing the following budget items to reflect more the past years' expenses, with the assurance that any committee can come to Meeting during the course of the year to request more money for a project:

- Newsletter from \$1350 to \$1,000;
- Library from \$600 to \$400;
- Refreshments from \$500 to \$200;
- SAYF transportation from \$1,000 to \$800.

New Moon Worship Group

The New Moon Worship Group meets once a month, on the First Day following the New Moon, at the Barnardsville United Methodist Church. During the winter, they meet at 4 p.m., and the rest of the year at 5 p.m.

Susan Carlyle reports that their worship group now has seven regular attenders, and they have received enthusiastic encouragement from the new pastor of their host church.

For more information, contact Kim and Susan Carlyle at 626-2572, or email

scarlyle@juno.com

BUSINESS MEETING

[Peace and Earth, Ministry and Worship]

26. "We propose deferring the following until it is clear that we have enough revenues:

- Scholarship Fund Transfer (\$1,200);
- Building Fund Transfer (\$1,000);
- Meeting House Improvement Fund Transfer (\$1,200)
- One half of the SAYMA assessment (\$2,200)

27. "We project that the scholarship fund will be able to operate adequately with its current balance of about \$1,700. We have been assured by SAYMA that we need not pay our entire contribution in the first half of their budget year (July to December), as we have been doing.

28. "With the proposed reductions in the 2003 budget, the required contributions income would be \$34,000. If we defer the transfers and SAYMA expenses, we would need \$29,000. Given that we raised at least \$32,000 in contributions in 2002, we predict that we will likely raise at least \$29,000 in 2003. We recommend that the Treasurer be authorized to pay any expenses other than those mentioned above.

21. **This report was accepted.**

Peace and Earth

Agnita Dupree reported that Ursula Scott & Jennifer Walker have been accepted to attend the FWCC Peace Conference to be held at Guilford College. **Meeting approved sending them as representatives from Asheville Friends Meeting.**

Ministry and Worship

1. The report was given by Christina McQuiston.

2. "In response to a letter received from Dan Lobdell requesting the laying down of membership read at last meeting for business, and to suggestions from meeting in that regard, I have written to Dan indicating that the Meeting did not consider him a burden and recommended that he be a sojourning member of Asheville Friends. Reply awaited.

3. "Ministry and Worship asks Meeting to approve transfer of membership to Asheville Friends from Acadia monthly meeting for Kristi and George Gjelfriend."

Friends approved.

4. "Ministry and Worship would like Meeting to approve the gift of a book for our high school graduates to be funded from the miscellaneous funds." **Friends approved.**

5. "Ministry and Worship will assume responsibility for our annual holiday gathering and would like to ask meeting to take the time to consider how we want to continue this in future. We are seeking forum time to have a

discussion of this.

6. "State of the Meeting forum will be on March 2nd at rise of Meeting. This will be held in preparation for compiling the State of Meeting report for SAYMA.

7. "Several Friends have expressed an interest in exploring issues around death and dying. We hope to start the process by having a worship sharing during forum time on March 16th to start this process.

8. "There will be a potluck lunch at Christina McQuiston's home on Jan. 25th at 12:30 p.m. hosted jointly by Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel committees for those interested in exploring membership in the Religious Society of Friends. All are welcome.

9. "The Clerk plans to write to college-age Friends offering them a subscription to one of several Friendly journals. Please send addresses to the clerk of Ministry and Worship.

10. "The scholarship committee has met and recommended revisions to current guidelines. Ministry and Worship will bring these forth at the next Meeting for Business. Currently there is \$1700 in the fund. No additional amount will be added from this year's budget.

11. "Ministry and Worship and the Scholarship Committee approved scholarship funds for sending Ursula Scott and Jennifer Walker to the peace conference mentioned above.

12. "Ministry and Worship received with gladness the letter of application for membership from Joy and Stephanie Gossett."

13. **Friends accepted the report.**

Nominating Committee

1. Joy Gossett presented the report.

2. "The Nominating Committee proffers the following Friends to Asheville Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, January, 12, 2003. These Friends are proposed for the following kinds of service and are each willing to serve.

- SAYMA Representative – Barbara Esther
- SAYMA Ministry and Nurture – George Oldham

3. "Adding members to committees as requested by these committees:

Upcoming Forums

2/2 Middle East Peace: Tony Bing of Swannanoa Meeting brings us his 25 years of experience as a peacemaker in the region and a dozen more years as a teacher of peacemaking.

2/16 Same Gender Marriage: we continue our worshipful consideration of this issue.

BUSINESS MEETING

[*Nominating, Residential Retreat, Individual Concerns*]

- Ministry and Worship – Rivka Maher
 - Ministry and Worship – George Gjelfriend
 - Care and Counsel – Kristi Gjelfriend
4. **Friends approved all of the nominations.**

Residential Retreat

1. This report was given by Phil Neal.
2. “The Retreat Committee had its first meeting this past Sunday.
3. “We would like to request that a line item of \$2000 for the retreat be in the 2003 Meeting budget.
4. “This item represents the anticipated cost of the adult and children’s programs (including Jan’s honorarium and airfare, supplies, photocopying, and the cost of hiring child care people). We are assuming at this point that we will be setting the registration fees at least at an amount to cover the room and board.
5. “We will be doing fund raising, in addition to the registration costs, to try as hard as we can to make the retreat self-sufficient. However, we don’t feel comfortable at this time promising to the Meeting that we will in fact be able to raise all of the money necessary, and still keep the retreat affordable, especially to families, and to offer scholarship support for those unable to pay all or part of the cost. We feel that it is better to ask for \$2000 and then not have to use all of it than to ask for nothing now and then have a deficit that we have to take back to the meeting.
6. **Friends approved \$2000.**
7. “We will be requesting at this week’s business meeting the approval of 2 things that will help with the finances:
 - that we have a Meeting yard sale;
 - that we invite Friends from surrounding Meetings to this retreat (the last one was for our members only).
8. “We also wanted to point out that the Meeting only had to pay \$100 of the expenses for the last residential retreat. The committee was able to raise sufficient funds through the registration fees, donations, and fund raising to cover all but \$100 of the cost.
9. “We believe that this residential retreat, like all residential retreats, is important for the health of our com-

munity.”

10. If there is a need to have additional attendance, it could be opened to other Meetings. We ask the committee to discuss this with Jan Hoffman before making this decision.

11. **Friends approved holding a Yard Sale.**

12. **The report was accepted.**

Individual Concerns

1. Appreciation was expressed for our new (circular) seating arrangements.

2. Concern was expressed about our Meeting’s website not being official; SAYMA has been asking us to post information on this site. This will be put on the agenda for next month.

Closing of Meeting

The meeting settled into closing worship at 2:58 p.m.

Contact Info

We look forward to printing and distribution of our new Meeting Roster in the Spring of this year. Meanwhile here is new contact information for three Friends:

Rivka Maher
P. O. Box 8111
Asheville, NC 28814
250-0238
rmmaher@bulldog.unca.edu

Satchel Loftis
97 Weaverville Road
Asheville, NC 28804
loftis@main.nc.us

Chris Parsons
5C Golf Street
Asheville, NC 28801
281-0552

*The future is not something we enter.
The future is something we create.*

Leonard I. Sweet

Conscious Coffee

During the year 2002, Asheville Friends purchased a total of 270 pounds of Café Monteverde in support of the Ann Kriebel San Luis Sustainable Agriculture Project at Finca La Bella (“the beautiful farm”) in Costa Rica.

Each of the 24 formerly landless farm families at Finca La Bella has a 2.5 acre parcel, to grow food for their own consumption alongside their shade-grown cash crop. The coffee is organically grown, utilizing sustainable agricultural processes. Some of the farmers have visited farm here in the U.S. This helps to broaden their knowledge of modern farming methods.

Thanks to Al Dupree for his great salesmanship and to all who have participated by indulging in this wonderful brew!

Another Day For Peace

Saturday, February 15th will be a world-wide day of action against the proposed war on Iraq. Peace rallies are already being planned in dozens of European cities, as well as Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Here in the U.S., rallies are planned for New York and San Francisco.

At press time, details about the New York protest, including the location, were being negotiated with the New York Police Department. Check with organizers United for Peace and Justice at

www.unitedforpeace.org

or call the Western North Carolina Peace Coalition at 271-0022 for more information.

Residential Retreat Planned for May 2-4

Asheville Friends Meeting will hold a residential retreat at BonClarken May 2-4. The retreat will be facilitated by Jan Hoffman.

Jan Hoffman has been an active Quaker for the past 40 years. Her primary interest has always been to be faithful to God’s call on her life. In pursuing this interest, she has been helped by the particular Quaker understanding that the greatest faithfulness to God happens within a faith community where individual callings can be tested in a group.

She has been called to speak, teach courses, write and lead workshops in North America and England. Sometimes no topic is given, and she speaks as led at the moment, preparing by discerning the spiritual state of the meeting to which she has been invited and speaking to that. Other times a topic is given and a frequent one is spiritual discernment – both discernment in one’s personal life and discernment by a whole group on its own call. She finds endless fascination in the way the tension between individual integrity and group integrity can deepen the faith and the call of both.

The Meeting plans to raise money to support the retreat by holding a Yard sale sometime next month. Please consider donating some good stuff! The Planning Committee intends to make the retreat affordable for everyone. This will be a very special event in the life of the Meeting. Contact Nancy Kuykendall (281-0388) for more info.

Pope Says “NO” to War

did you read about this in the newspaper? see it on cable news?

38 religious leaders from fifteen countries, representing Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and Sikhism have issued an appeal to believers in all faiths to work to avert a conflict in Iraq. Pope John Paul, representing one billion Catholics worldwide, has put the Vatican on a diplomatic collision course with the United States by condemning the possibility of a war, saying it was avoidable and would be a “defeat for humanity”.

“As conflicts divide neighbors and nations and the threat of war hangs over us like a shadow, too many people see and employ religion as a force of divisiveness and violence, rather than a force for unity and peace,” the representatives said in a statement issued January 19. “Opting for peace does not mean a passive acquiescence to evil or compromise of principle. It de-

mands an active struggle against hatred, oppression and disunity, but not by using methods of violence. Building peace requires creative and courageous action,” the statement said.

Days later, a Vatican-sanctioned publication said that the U.S. war policy was rooted in avarice, and that the Pope and other Christian leaders would not consider an attack on Iraq a “just war”. To be considered a “just war” in the Christian paradigm, all other means must be exhausted and found ineffective and the type of force used must be proportionate to the wrong it tries to rectify.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington D.C. told the gathering that lasting peace will not be achieved until the world addresses the “root causes of war and conflict”: the chasm between rich and poor, oppression of minorities and the social evils of globalization.

Tidbits: Offering News of Asheville Friends

Tracy Armstrong is feeling iffy about her new purchase (which she made more or less on impulse), a 12-unit apartment building. She works off some of her anxiety on her mountain bike.

Jennifer Walker plans to go to Guatemala in February to learn Spanish with the idea in mind of eventually becoming active in South American peace and environmental affairs.

Chris Parsons uses painting (watercolors and oils) for “mental health maintenance”. He retired from a career in graphic design whereat he was a computer maven. To keep himself busy, he consults in book production and is trying to teach himself the Chinese violin, which first came to his attention while he lived in Formosa.

Paul Endry is enjoying his first year in his own ophthalmology office. Originally in pharmacy, he decided he liked optics better than chemistry. He often rides his bike to Meeting.

Marcia Laird fashions herself a “life coach” - helping folks in achieving what they need and want to do. She taught such courses as *The Happy Self* in colleges and junior colleges. Most of her present energies are spent supporting her husband whose daughter is seriously ill.

Eda Smith had surgery in November and reports that the radiation treatments, which will last until March, are going well. However they, and the daily three hour drive to the hospital, leave her with little energy for anything else.



Karen Cernek runs an arts collaboration/gallery in Fairview which is on seasonal hold. It provides a creative arts center for the community, showcasing musicians and performing artists. She'd like to have a career in commercial art, and in the meantime is a real estate broker.

Peter Buck is sweating out an important paper for the Earlham School of Religion. Topic: How Quakers thought about their children, specifically, how they pass on their values. He is following a leading which opened to him in 1996 about rites of passage; e.g., how to help people follow their own callings and find their own gifts.

Mark Cobb's love of all kinds of music, especially jazz and Jam Rock and Roll (a la Grateful Dead), goes back to his days as a college DJ. He also likes skiing at Maggie Valley, where they have oodles of manmade snow.

Bob Smith is the director of the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council. He plays chess, reads, and goes for walks with his dog, Tucker.

Ben Maloway works for the *Citizen-Times* as a website designer. He studied art at Cooper Union and used to have a painting studio. Although computers are engrossing, he'd prefer to return to more expressive endeavors. He plays guitar and writes his own music.

Ira Shader has acquired six goats and is expecting a seventh. He has also enlisted the aid of an adult Great Pyrenees to guard them.



Dorothy

Vaughn reports that the Florida man who commissioned her sculpture of a young man is pleased with the results; only a few changes to go before completion. It's hard to work from photographs, she says. She's also finishing up two torsos for a pair of local couples.

Tell Us Your News

If you see George Gjelfriend wandering about with notebook in hand, be prepared to share your news with the Meeting! George doesn't want to be intrusive, but he DOES want to help us all be a closer community, and we hope you agree that our news column "Tidbits" is a good way to do that.

We like to hear from our less frequent attenders as well. Feel free to contact one of the Newsletter Staff (Steve Livingston, Martha Huggins, George Oldham, or Bob Payne) with your news.

Thanks!

Bennett Sims is an Episcopal clergyperson and former bishop of Atlanta. He founded the *Institute for Servant Leadership*, a partnership/participation counterpoise to the usual definition of power/dominance. He is drawn to Quakerism because of our peace and social justice testimony.

Sue Stigleman has gone in for an operation to have her plumbing substantially rearranged. Her mother is helping out during the month that Sue must remain inactive.

Ernie Miller confesses to an inordinate fondness for beetles, millipedes, and spiders. He arranges his lawn mowing times so as not to disturb the yellow jackets (seems wise to me - ed).



Christina McQuiston plans to visit her daughter, Sara Donohue, who is in her second year of medical school in Glasgow, Scotland. Christina styles herself a “hospitalist” at Mission-St. Joseph.

Calendar

Note These Opportunities

“Women in Black” Peace Vigil, an international campaign to witness to the suffering of the innocent caused by armed conflict. Every Friday noon-12:30 p.m. in front of the old courthouse on Main Street in Hendersonville, and 5-6 p.m. at Vance Monument in Asheville.

Interfaith Vigil in front of the Federal Building in Asheville, every Wednesday 5-6 p.m.

Peace Rally in New York, 2/15 “The world says NO to WAR” is the theme of the followup to last month’s massive worldwide show of support for peace. See page 8 for more info.

Mark Your Calendar

Residential Retreat with Jan Hoffman, at Bon Clarcken, 5/3-5/4. See page 8 for more information.

SAYMA Gathering at Warren Wilson College, 6/5-6/8. Theme this year is “Flames of Faith from Embers of Tradition”.

Friends General Conference “Coming to Peace” is the theme of this year’s Gathering at the Uni-

Meetings for Worship

Asheville Monthly Meeting: First Day singing at 9:40, regular worship at 10 a.m. 227 Edgewood Road, Asheville (258-0974).

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business takes place on 1/12, beginning around noon. All Friends with a concern for the well-being of our Meeting are encouraged to participate.

Sandwich Sunday: Loaves, fishes, and fellowship after Meeting for Worship on fourth First Day (2/23). Your presence is encouraged, there’s always plenty of food!

Midweek Peace Prayer Meeting: each Fourth Day at 5:30 p.m. 30 minutes of silent meeting for the purpose of praying for peace, followed by 30 minutes of worship sharing, then a stone soup meal.

Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting: each First Day at 9:30 a.m., Black Mountain Arts Center.

Boone Monthly Meeting: each First Day at 10 a.m., at the home of John and Judy Geary, 175 Edgewood Drive.

Brevard Monthly Meeting: each First Day at 11 a.m. at the Sharing House, corner of Oakdale and Duckworth.

Celo Monthly Meeting: each First Day at 10:45 a.m., 445 Hannah Branch Road.

Clemson Worship Group: each First Day at 9 a.m.,

Asheville Friends Meeting
227 Edgewood Road
Asheville, NC 28804

address correction requested

