

NEWSLETTER

ASHEVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

THIRD MONTH 2004

A Peacemaker Goes Abroad



Dear friends,
I am going to the Palestinian city of Hebron in May for 6-8 weeks, with Christian Peacemaker Teams. I invite you to join me in spirit and help me witness for peace.

Christian Peacemaker Teams (www.cpt.org), rooted in the traditional peace churches (Mennonite, Quakers, Brethren), supports violence reduction efforts around the world by supporting local peace groups and providing a public response to organized violence. I learned of CPT four years ago from their work in Chiapas, Mexico, planting corn with indigenous people on a military base. Here were people challenging the belief in redemptive violence and standing up to an oppressive power. They were basing their lives and actions in a belief of the power of love and nonviolence, a positive force not something passive. This active nonviolence seems a way to end these cycles of violence that surround us.

CPT has had a team in Israel/Palestine, in Hebron since 1995. Hebron has been very tense in the last years both in the old city and in the surrounding Israeli settlements. The Hebron CPT team has sought creative ways to address both the violence on the streets and the larger system of occupation. They have a program of accompanying Palestinian students to schools, human rights reporting, conducting nonviolence trainings with local peace groups, and making regular visits to families involved in the Campaign for Secure Dwellings (CSD). I prepared for this trip with a month long training program with CPT. This was after I had completed a two-week delegation trip to witness for peace in Vieques, Puerto Rico. I feel honored to have an opportunity to walk with those who are working towards peace in Israel/Palestine, to be with those who are at a depth of life that I do not yet understand. I know that

Light is within all of us, even in the most desperate of situations.

While I have my own fears, I believe that there is power in God, and in nonviolence. It is important that I not go alone. It is important for me to share my experience with you. To have you walk with me. I invite all of you to do so in whatever ways you may feel led. I ask that you to hold me, the CPT team, and Israelis and Palestinians in the Light. Each day, at noon here

in Asheville, 7 PM in Hebron, I will be mindful of your presence and support. Additionally, if you would send me an email, I will send you letters "from the field", which you may share with many. Upon my return, I will speak with any groups interested in learning more about active nonviolent peacemaking.

Finally, I need to raise \$2000 to cover the expenses. Tax deductible contributions may be made out to CPT and sent to me at the Asheville Friends Meeting, 227 Edgewood Road, Asheville, NC, 28801. I hope that you will feel led to participate in this peacemaking journey with me in some way. Please feel free to contact me.

Christy Bischoff
(828) 778 -0701
Bischoff@go-fairtrade.net

QUAKER PROCESS SERIES CONTINUES

Our four-week series on Quaker Process began last month with a well-attended sharing around Meeting for Worship. Thanks to Margaret Farmer, Peter Buck, and Evan Richardson for putting the series together. The series continues on 4/4 with a presentation on Meeting for Worship With Attention To Business. The topic on 4/18 will be Committee Process, and finally on 5/2 we will have a discussion on Nurturing the Life of the Meeting. Friends are invited to join them for one or all sessions. Friends are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch to these two-hour sessions. Child care is provided.

Friends and Prisoners

Barry Master

When Jesus said “I was in prison and you visited me” and “as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me”, (Matthew 25:36 & 40) he introduced a personalized and active prison ministry to religious life.

Quakers were among the victims of religious oppression in 17th century England. The experience of imprisonment in inhumane jails was central to the development of their faith. Seeking prison reform has served Friends as one tenet of the fundamental belief “to answer that of God” in all persons. So many thousands of Friends were themselves incarcerated that a Meeting for Sufferings was eventually established to attend to their needs. The Quakers refused to pay bribes to the jailers and often suffered severely. Visiting and counseling prisoners became a necessity. English Quakers issued memorials on the subject to Parliament and various officials, including George Fox’s address *To the Protector and Parliament of England* in 1658.

In Pennsylvania prisons became models for the world. No convict paid for board and lodging. Work was compulsory. There was classification of inmates. Religious instruction was provided. Quakers are credited with initiating the system of solitary confinement. The intention of providing for a period of spiritual reflection led to misuse and abuse. The number of crimes punishable by death was reduced from 200 to 2 (murder and treason). Many Friends who traveled in the ministry, including Stephen Grellet, William Allen, Thomas Shillitoe, and William Forster, insisted on inspecting the

Yard Sale Coming Up

Our Meeting’s annual Yard Sale is scheduled for the first Saturday in June. Friends are encouraged to donate furniture, appliances, and clothing – especially children’s clothing – to help raise money for our Fall residential retreat. For more information contact Kristi Gjelfriend at 225-3752.

For though death be a dark passage, it leads to immortality, and that is recompense enough for suffering of it. And yet faith lights us, even through the grave, being the evidence of things not seen. And this is the comfort of the good, that the grave cannot hold them, and that they live as soon as they die. For death is no more than a turning of us over from time to eternity. Death, then, being the way and condition of life, we cannot love to live, if we cannot bear to die.

They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies. Nor can spirits ever be divided that love and live in the same Divine Principle, the root and record of their friendship. If absence be not death, neither is theirs.

Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, they love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this divine glass, they see face to face; and their converse is free, as well as pure.

This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present because immortal.

William Penn, 1691

submitted by Alice Brown

prisons in the cities which they visited and reporting what they had seen to government officials. The first systematic attempt to reform the prisons through an organization was initiated by Elizabeth Fry in 1813. The Association she founded worked for better prison conditions throughout England and Europe. Friends have continued efforts to improve prisons, provide victim support services and conflict resolution training, prepare discharged prisoners to re-enter society, and to abolish capital punishment. Friends have been motivated by the belief that prisoners have rights that belong to all human beings, regardless of their character or crimes. Revenge of society on those who offend it, has been seen by Friends as inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus and of the belief of “that of God”, with the possibility for reformation, in all humans.

Meeting House Phone
(828) 258-0974

Clerk of the Meeting
Evan Richardson

Recording Clerk
Margaret Farmer

Treasurer

Newsletter Staff

Steve Livingston (ed.), Margaret Farmer,
George Gjelfriend, Lynnora Bierce

The Asheville Friends Meeting Newsletter is published monthly. Friends are welcome to contribute letters, book reviews, announcements, articles, and quotations. Please submit copy via email to

newsletter@ashevillefriends.org

Hard copy is acceptable. Deadline is third First Day.

The Asheville Friends Meeting is located at 227 Edgewood Road, between Merrimon 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 THIRD MONTH, FOURTEENTH DAY 2004

CLERK: EVAN RICHARDSON

RECORDING CLERK: MARGARET FARMER

OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Meeting opened at 11:57 a.m. in worship. From the silence the clerk read from Mind the Oneness: The Foundation of Good Quaker Business Method by Robert Halliday:

Unity in the Truth is not just a matter of conformity, although there are elements of that. It is more that quality of togetherness experienced by a meeting that has a spiritual centre. It is a unity that we today would call "community" in its richest possible sense, koinonia. It is a unity that was felt by the early church and described in the book of Acts. Indeed, early Friends felt sure that they were the resurgence of that early church that had been lost to the world by its selling out to the powers that be...Fox assures us that we will all be led into a unity where there is no Confusion, but Pureness and Oneness and says:

Therefore all Friends, mind the Oneness, and that which keeps you in the Oneness and Unity, it is that which keeps you out of the world. i.e. out of the ways of the world.

2. There were twenty-four Friends present, including: Lynnora Bierce, Alice Brown, Peter Buck, Jim Cavener, David Clements, Valerie Collins, Barbara Esther, Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Martha Huggins, Nancy Kuykendall, Marie Lee, Steve Livingston, Susan Mitchell, Philip Neal, Grace Ellen Oldham, Bob Payne, Jeannette Reid, Evan Richardson, Ursula Scott, Eda Smith, Gerald Smith.

Introductions

Marie Frances Lee is attending Meeting for Business here for the first time.

News of Ourselves

Eda Smith will be celebrating her 70th birthday tomorrow, and expressed appreciation for all the times she has been held in the Light. Evan Richardson's family will

be traveling to Oregon to celebrate the marriage of her sister and her partner. Talmadge Neece is also celebrating a birthday this month.

Nominating

1. Nominating Committee report was offered by Joy Gossett [portions of the report have been condensed; please see Joy for complete report – *ed.*]
2. "Asheville Friends Meeting's Nominating Committee is prayerfully working towards nominations of dedicated and needed servant leaders for Asheville Friends Meeting. . . .
3. "Nominating Committee is also reviewing overall Committee and individual functions to assure that there are Friends in those functions who are Spirit-led to serve To this purpose, this Committee has begun surveys of member/attenders, and separately, of Committee Clerks and Friends holding individual positions re: their leadings and AFM's needs for service. Nominating will continue to meet and work towards the goal of offering these nominations in the April-May (-June) Meetings for the Conduct of Business. Nominating Committee will confirm that Friends are led to serve, or, alternatively will use the Strawberry Creek process as needed to discern Spirit-leadings and contact those Friends for potential service.
4. "Regarding current vacancies:
5. "Nominating Committee received information directly and from AFM's Finance Committee's report to AFM Meeting for Business in the Second Month. According to this information, Friend David Clements wishes release from the functions of (Interim) Treasurer but is willing to continue as an Assistant Treasurer (not a permanent change to the office of Treasurer, from Finance Committee Report for Business Meeting, 2/8/04).
6. "David Clements also wishes release from the position of Clerk of Finance Committee. While each committee selects its own Clerk, Nominating Committee understands the request from Finance Committee to increase the committee membership from which that Committee will choose its new Clerk. Nominating Committee offers deep appreciation and thanks to Friend Clements for having resumed the function of our Treasurer for a long interim basis, when our Treasurer relocated out of state.

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

[Nominating, Finance]

7. “Friends Valerie Collins and Nancy Kuykendall have been already generously participating in the work of the Committee and indicate their willingness to serve this important Committee of our Meeting.

8. “AFM’s Nominating Committee nominates Valerie Collins, with thanks for her services already rendered, to the office of AFM Treasurer and to the position of Ex Officio member of the Finance Committee. Friend Collins has indicated her willingness to assume the AFM Treasurer duties. . . . Assistant Treasurer duties will need to be done by another Friend.

9. “The Nominating Committee also with sincere thanks, nominates Nancy Kuykendall to the position of member of AFM’s Finance Committee. We thank this Friend as well for the dedicated service she has already been rendering to this committee.

10. “Need for further additional members of Finance Committee will also be reviewed and addressed by Nominating Committee over the next several months.

11. “Regarding Ministry and Counsel Committee, AFM Nominating Committee nominates Friend Susan Mitchell. . . .

12. “With gratitude and thanks, AFM Nominating Committee further nominates Ursula Scott, Nancy Kuykendall, and Barry Master to AFM’s Library Committee. Nominating Committee has received word of this Committee’s energized work and service, including these Friends who are serving with other Friends to maintain and extend AFM’s quality library. . . .

13. “AFM Nominating Committee also requests the formation of a Naming Committee to replace outgoing member(s) of the Nominating Committee by the end of the sixth month of 2004. At that time, Joy Gossett will have completed 2 years of service, while Barbara Esther and Karen Cernek began service to this AFM Committee within the most recent 6 months. Nominating Clerk Gossett submits the request that, for continuity and service, AFM consider requests for the continuation of Friends Esther and Cernek on AFM’s Nominating Committee along with the naming of a new third member.

14. “Submitted in loving Friendship. . . .”

15. **The nomination of Valerie Collins as**

Bible Movies

In preparation for the Teen First Day School, George Gjelfriend must preview 48 thirty-minute videotapes on the Old and New Testaments over the next few years. If you would like to be part of this enterprise, call him at 225-3752.

treasurer was approved.

18. **The nomination of Nancy Kuykendall as member of Finance Committee was approved.**

19. A brief discussion of the meaning of membership in Meeting followed.

20. A Friend asked that there be a term of service when Friends are nominated. Nominating Committee has asked for feedback on terms and is awaiting response from committee clerks. At that time, terms will be defined.

21. **The nomination of Susan Mitchell as member of Ministry and Counsel was approved.**

22. **The nominations of Ursula Scott, Nancy Kuykendall, and Barry Master to Library Committee were approved.**

23. **Steve Livingston and Margaret Farmer volunteered to serve on Naming Committee. Friends approved.**

24. Meeting asks for a report from the Naming Committee by July at the latest. Steve asked that one or two more people join the committee with approval at the next Meeting for Business.

25. **The report of the Nominating Committee was accepted.**

Request from Religious Education Committee

1. The committee has discerned a need for a second caregiver each time our meeting has a multigenerational worship time, a business session, or a forum to make it possible for all members and attenders to participate fully in those events, while our children are safely and adequately cared for. We bring this to the meeting for approval because it will increase the budgeted amount for child care by \$64 per month if the second child care worker works an average of eight hours each month. We are not entirely sure of the full number of hours as yet. We have already found a worker, who has begun to assist our regular caregiver but who was paid from funds donated by an individual.

2. **Friends approved Religious Education’s request to support the hiring of a second caregiver during business meeting, multigenerational worship, and forums, at a cost of about \$64 per month.**

3. Our acting Treasurer asked that only the amount of money be approved, that Religious Education could hire without approval.

Finance Committee

1. David Clements submitted the report.

2. “The Finance Committee has considered how best to accomplish the financial work of the Meeting. We have two proposals to offer.

3. “a. Hire a bookkeeper as necessary to take care of the computerized records and payroll. We have asked for money in the budget to cover this. The Nominating Committee has suggested to us that we should get approval of the

BUSINESS MEETING

[Finance, Ministry and Counsel, Christy Bischoff Clearness]

Meeting before going ahead. We ask for approval to hire Amelia Wallace. We assume that we will not need further Meeting approval of details of her work schedule and wages. We note, however, that we have not formally approved the proposed employee policies (drafted about two years ago). We think it best that some committee review and amend these as necessary for formal approval and to give general supervision to our employees. Ideally, it would be helpful to have a pay scale to which committees would refer when making decisions about wages. Currently the range of wages we pay various employees is \$8/hr to \$20/hr.

4. "b. Renovate and secure the office, so that outside groups would not be able to enter. We have secured a printer, and we are planning to have a computer for use of Finance and possibly others. We would want to have slots in the door for mail and for donations, the donation box to be locked. We propose painting and installing cabinets as needed, and possibly moving the meeting mail slots into the office. If there is general approval, we will forward this to House and Grounds and would work with that Committee to carry this out."

5. **Friends approved the request to hire a bookkeeper to keep the Meeting's books, with the budget amount of \$600/year.**

6. Meeting has not yet approved an employee policy drafted two years ago. Friends spoke to getting this on the agenda. The clerk will ask the subcommittee to bring this back to Meeting. Another Friend expressed a concern that we look at pay scale fairness for our employees. The Committee will be hiring Amelia Wallace as bookkeeper. The assistant treasurer has offered oversight for her.

7. Our Treasurer asked for a guiding budget to work from. One Friend asked to delay General Outreach disbursement until the end of the year, to meet the new expenses we just approved.

8. A Friend suggested that we approve the budget, asking Finance Committee return with recommendations as to where that additional money should come from. Another asked for a threshing session to look at priorities in contributions and expenses.

9. **Friends approved the budget with the addition of changes made today. Friends also approved having Finance Committee hold a threshing session to get Meeting input, and come back with specific recommendations on how to balance this budget.**

10. Meeting will revisit the request to renovate and secure the office after Finance Committee presents a recommendation with a dollar amount.

Ministry and Counsel

1. Steve Livingston presented the reported.
2. "Regarding Marriage under the Care of the Meeting, the sub-committee formed by Ministry and Counsel continues to meet. Ministry and Counsel is aware of the desire of the Meeting to keep this concern in the forefront of the work of the Meeting and hopes to be able to report something more concrete regarding the progress of this concern at next month's meeting for business.

3. "A number of seasoned Friends have brought to our attention a concern that Ministry and Counsel is not fulfilling its traditional responsibilities in the realm of pastoral care. We sat with this concern and have discerned that many times in our history the need for pastoral care has been successfully undertaken by individuals in the community. We recognize it may serve the Meeting to have a formal mechanism for communicating needs of individuals as they arise. Unfortunately, this committee, at present, does not find itself to have the time or inspiration to assume what the meeting may expect to be the traditional role in this realm. We would like to bring to the meeting two questions.

4. "Does the Meeting feel there is a need for changing or improving the way we, as a community, meet our pastoral care needs?"

5. "How can we better meet those needs?"

6. Friends were asked to discuss these questions during our break and respond when we resumed.

Christy Bischoff Clearness Committee

1. Christy's clearness committee presented the following to the Meeting for Business.

2. "A Minute in support of the traveling ministry of Christy Bischoff:

3. "The Asheville Friends Meeting supports Christy Bischoff in her leading to journey to Hebron, Palestine with Christian Peacemaker Teams (planned for the end of May 2004 and for 6-8 weeks thereafter). We affirm her longstanding concern for non-violent active peacemaking.

4. "Christy is a valued member of our meeting who has spent two years at Quaker Cottage in Belfast, Ireland.

Feeling immortal?

Immune to accident and disease? No? Well, do you have an updated will? Will your survivors know where it is? And other such end-of-life details such as what to do if you can't make decisions about how to be cared for, and what to do with your body. The Dying and Death Committee is assembling valuable information in the Meeting's file cabinet (Library) or ask a member of the committee: Ursula Scott, the Duprees, Alice Brown, Margaret Normile and/or George Sjelfriend.

BUSINESS MEETING

[Christy Bischoff Traveling Minute]

There she worked with mothers and children paying attention to their individual needs, seeking to find non-violent alternatives in situations threatened by domestic violence, paramilitary involvement and other cycles of violence.

5. "She was also with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Vieques, Puerto Rico, in August 2002. A year ago she did a month long training with CPT. This intense training covered much of non-violence theory and practice, including Biblical non-violence.

6. "Christy has consistently felt called by a love that finds joy and pain often mixed together. She says:

7. "I want to be able to be present to the humanness of all the people I meet in Hebron – both Palestinian and Israeli – and I want to try to bring that back here. My journey will not so much be about who is right and who is wrong but about our shared humanness in a violent and complex situation that also implicates us in the USA. I take this step to stand against injustice, oppression, and violence in all their forms. While I seek to know what peace is and what justice is, this is very much a journey of my heart. I know that even with the great darkness I will find life and the presence of God in the midst of the people I meet."

8. "We sincerely recommend her to you."

9. "Christy's recent history with AFM regarding this leading: Christy has a functioning clearness committee (Ursula Scott, Jennifer Walker, Lindsay Bridges, Peter Buck). It has met twice. Most of the members will become a part of a Support Committee at this point. Elizabeth Roebing has done some logistical brainstorming and planning with her. Christy is quite aware of a need for support as she makes preparations, actually goes, and as she returns to share what she is given. While it will be easy to think that her journey will have come to a conclusion when she returns, she will actually have a real work of processing and

presenting, and honoring what she has experienced. She will need a sense of group/communal support to do this well. Support at all stages includes: prayer, listening, logistical and financial help, and helpful leadings about how to translate her experience back to this community and the larger society around us."

10. This is a Minute in Support of Traveling Ministry, committing Meeting to appoint a support committee for her through this trip. She will be carrying this minute with her. This level of support is that we support both Christy and her work. Two members of the clearness committee present shared that Christy hoped to be able to use the minute in visiting other Meetings, as she explored fundraising to meet her expenses. The current standing clearness committee may wish to continue as her support committee for the next year. Our Meeting has not completed our work on the process of how we support traveling ministry. A Friend asked that Christy and her clearness committee meet again to consider and make a proposal of her request of the type of relationship she would like her ministry to have to the meeting. A lengthy discussion followed, resulting in the following minute.

11. **Friends approved the traveling minute as presented.**

12. **We recognize, as a community, that our work in clarifying the process by which a Friends seeks support for leadings in ministry is far from complete. We have work to do in this realm. However, in absence of a formal procedure, we do recognize the work of the clearness committee as sufficient to enable us as a community to know that:**

13. **Christy is clear with her leading;**

14. **the committee is clear in recommending to the meeting that we support her leading.**

15. One Friend was uncomfortable approving a traveling minute because it was not clear to that Friend that the clearness committee for Christy had discussed

An Underused Resource

Would you like to know more about Quakers? The Meeting Library is one of our underused resources and a treasure trove of useful information.

If your taste runs to (Quaker) novels, try one of Daisy Newman's books which reflect Friends ways, such as I Take Thee Serenity, or try Jan de Hartog's The Peaceable Kingdom. Or if you are you a mystery reader, did you know that Quaker House Director Chuck Fager writes mysteries when he's not helping Gl's who question why they are in the military? For the more scholarly readers, we

have Larry Ingle's biography George Fox, First Friend and the Quaker classic, John Woolman's Journal. If you find it hard to find time to read anything, try one of our 300 or so Pendle Hill pamphlets, which usually run 34 pages.

The Meeting Library Committee is sorting, re-arranging, reorganizing and spring cleaning. One of these days you may not recognize the place.

Your help and suggestions are always welcome.

Marcia Master

BUSINESS MEETING

[Christy Bischoff, Held Over, Individual Concerns, Closing]

with her whether she would want to have such a minute, with its attendant responsibilities, for the Meeting and for her.

16. Friends asked that the clearness committee take time before Christy Bischoff leaves for Hebron, working with the guidelines of Central Philadelphia Meeting to clarify the exact nature of the relationship for the meeting and for her.

17. Friends appointed the members of this clearness committee to serve as the support committee for the ministry of Christy Bischoff: Lindsay Bridges, Jennifer Walker, Ursula Scott, and Peter Buck.

18. The support committee term is for one year at the end of which they will evaluate the need for ongoing support of this ministry; they will report back to this meeting.

Items Held Over

Consideration of Ministry and Counsel's two queries, review of first and second months' minutes, and correspondence were held over until next month.

Individual Concerns

Grace Ellen Oldham offered to facilitate, at the rise of announcements, an ad hoc healing prayer circle on the days she is present (usually second and fourth first days.) She has been studying healing and healing prayer for many years and has achieved Level Two in the Reiki Discipline.

Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 3:30 p.m. with a song – Simple Gifts.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EARTH CHARTER?

submitted by Agnita and Al Dupree

On February 28, Susan Carlyle met with about 12 members and attenders of Asheville Friends Meeting to discuss the Earth Charter. Susan's technique of breaking us up in groups of two or three to read carefully and react to a portion of the charter meant that the group, in one sense, read the whole charter. I was in the small group assigned to "Principles", the introduction and summary of the purpose and scope of the Charter. I found myself in complete agreement with the statements as I recognized their parallel in our Quaker faith and practice. For instance, when the Charter

says its purpose is "to affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings, and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical and spiritual potential of humanity," are they not saying "We believe in that of God in every person"?

Our group of three found much similar thinking in the following list of four principles:

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community with understanding, compassion and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful.

4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

As each group reported for its area (Ecological Integrity, Social and Economic Justice, and Democracy, Non-violence and Peace) we heard words of support such as "Some of these statements could be used as Friends Queries" or "It gives us a lot to think about." No one found statements with which they disagreed, although they might have expressed them slightly differently in "Friends' language".

This is a quote from the last point in the last category: "Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the large whole of which we are all a part." I strongly wish that this discussion of the Charter could be continued with greater participation of Meeting members and attenders. Do you think Meeting might consider being a sponsor of the Charter?

You can read The Earth Charter at www.earth-charter.org. Copies will also be available in the foyer.

New Moon Worship Group Meeting Time Change

Hi folks! The clocks change this Saturday night, and so does the time for the New Moon Quaker Worship Group! Sunday afternoons have been a challenge for many of us due to work, travel, and play activities. We've decided to try meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM beginning April 7th. We'll do this for the six months of Daylight Savings time and then reconsider our meeting day and time in the fall.

The minister and the congregation of the Barnardsville United Methodist Church has been so supportive of us, and I am grateful for that. Hope you can find this time to sit in community. If you need a refresher on directions – the church is the second church up the road called Church Hill Rd. The road is at the intersection of 197 and Dillingham Rd. and across from the fire house. Pass in front of the Freewill Baptist Church and you will see the Methodist Church.

Hope to see you on Wednesday at 7 pm.

Blessings,
Susan

Twenty Questions About Quakers

How many of these True/False questions can you answer correctly? Hint: at least one of the answers is "True" and at least one is "False". If you're stumped, see George Gjelfriend for your choice of ridicule, commiseration, or correct answers

1. *One of the major differences between Quaker and other churches is that Quakers don't have paid ministers.*
2. *The typical Quaker is a middle-aged or elderly white woman living in the United States, Canada or England.*
3. *George Fox founded the Religious Society of Friends.*
4. *All Quakers agree that there is no moral justification for war.*
5. *Every monthly meeting is required to belong to a yearly meeting.*
6. *Quaker numbers peaked at about the time of the American Revolution and have been going down steadily ever since.*
7. *Because of the necessity to make "war decisions", there never has been nor ever could there be a Quaker U.S. President.*
8. *In meeting, if you stand up while someone is speaking it means you "stand with" the speaking Friend, i.e. you approve of what's being said.*
9. *Two non-Quakers can be married by a meeting only if they find a member Friend who will sponsor them.*
10. *Only the clerk of the meeting or an appointed substitute can end a meeting for worship.*
11. *It is quite common for First Day School students to become Quakers as adults.*
12. *Any decision made by a Quaker meeting must be unanimous.*
13. *Quakers believe that the Bible pretty much says it all, but not necessarily as literal truth.*
14. *To become a Quaker you first must "pass" the questions put to you by a clearness committee.*
15. *As a general rule, members of un-programmed meetings contribute a higher percentage of their annual incomes than most Protestant churches.*
16. *At Asheville Friends, there is no real difference between members and attenders in worship, business meeting or serving on committees.*
17. *The clerk of a meeting must lead the business meeting.*
18. *Quakers stopped using "thee" and "thou" because it made us too conspicuous.*
19. *Right from the very beginning, Quakers led the way for the equality of women symbolized by having the two sexes worship and conduct business together.*
20. *In the mid 1800's, a Midwestern Quaker meeting rioted over an internal dispute as to who owned the meetinghouse. The state militia had to be called in to put it down.*

Do the Write Thing

Join us in writing to your elected representatives about the issues that concern you. We will supply paper, pens, envelopes, stamps, postcards, a place, and some information about issues we care about, good company, tea and cookies.

We will meet at Westwood CoHousing Community, 43 Vermont Court in West Asheville, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month, beginning with 2/7 and continuing with 3/6, 4/3, 5/1 and 6/5. Then we will decide whether we want to continue meeting.

Please contact one of us to tell us if you are interested in Doing the Write Thing.

Cathy Scott 258-8743
Deb Scott 274-8315
Ursula Scott 253-7490

pjamison@main.nc.us
descott@hotmail.com
uscott@buncombe.main.nc.us

Tidbits:

Introducing Asheville Friends



*Gary Briggs
Gary first met
the Quakers
when he was a
graduate stu-
dent at State
College (PA) in*

1966. He's married with two beautiful adult sons and was with the West Knoxville meeting at the beginning of SAYMA. He also attended the Durham meeting for 20 years, finally retiring from the EPA as a pollution meteorologist in 1999. He tried Tuscon for a while, but moved back east to be nearer his grandchildren – besides he's always liked the mountains. He sings with the Asheville Choral Society and is also a member of The Asheville Gay Men's Chorus Cantari. Currently he's beautifying his house and garden, and building trails to a nearby creek.

Christian Kaltreide

Christian is another relative newcomer, who was actually born in Asheville. He works in a timber framing company building houses, churches and community buildings in a distinct medieval style, e.g. no bolts or screws and prominently displayed timbers. He likes physical activity, especially wrestling and boxing. He's always tried to live a spiritually based life within his notion of Christian ideals. However, he's not been comfortable

in most churches because he's never been able to say that the Bible is the true, given word of God; nor does he believe that

Jesus was God made manifest. He's drawn to the Quaker way of experiencing God directly.



Marie Lee

A recent regular from Bryson City, she styles herself a lover of song (almost any kind)

but especially blues and folk) and dance (especially international folk). She also loves organic gardening and has two daughters, aged 14 and 17. She adds that it feels so wonderful to have finally found this [spiritual] family.



James Collins

How did you come to the Quakers?

He was searching for theological compatibility and this felt right. There were only a few choices to decide among and he had been aware of Quakers right along and had already been to a meeting. He likes the silence and meditation, and he was drawn to how the spirit works in



silence. He also likes the spontaneity of leaderless worship.

How does the meeting nourish you?

At least once a week he can be silent and worship, which he can and does do alone, but it's much easier within the structure of meeting. It also helps him stay involved in concerns and issues at hand.

How do you nourish the meeting?

He admits to being selfish so far. While he does make a financial contribution, he does not serve on any committees.

What skills do you have that the meeting could draw on?

He admits to being drawn to Ministry and Counsel where he thinks his background as an educated seminarian and training as a therapist might be of use.

Asheville Friends Meeting

Weekly Meeting for Worship: 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 3/14 and 4/11, beginning as promptly as possible.

We will break with a full meal around 1 p.m.

Sandwich Sunday: Loaves, fishes, and fellowship after Meeting for Worship on fourth First Day (4/25). Your presence is encouraged, there's always plenty of food!

Midweek Worship and Sharing each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. 30 minutes of silent meeting reflecting on peace, followed by 30 minutes of worship sharing, then a stone soup meal. WestWood Co-Housing Community, 43 Vermont Court. For directions contact Ursula Scott (253-7490, uscott@buncombe.main.nc.us).

Other Nearby Meetings

Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting: each First Day at 9:30 a.m., Common Light Meeting Place.

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

City View Friends Church: each First Day at 10:30 a.m., 59 Tremont Street in West Asheville.

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., Clemson Unitarian Church.

New Moon Worship Group: meets at the Barnardsville United Methodist Church each First Day at 4 p.m. Call for details 626-2572.

Word of the Month

by Lynnora Bierce

Discernment: *the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure; a power to distinguish what is not evident to the average mind.*

synonyms:

Discrimination stresses the power to discern what is true or appropriate or excellent.

Perception implies quick and often sympathetic discernment (*as of shades of feeling*).

Penetration implies a searching mind that goes beyond what is obvious or superficial.

Insight suggests depth of discernment coupled with understanding sympathy.

Acumen implies characteristic discernment combined with keen practical judgment.