

**Minutes of the Fourth Month, 2004**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
Eleventh day, Fourth Month, 2004

Clerk: Evan Richardson  
Recording Clerk Margaret Farmer

The Meeting opened at 11:55 with silent worship. Our clerk offered a reading offered by the clerk from Radical Presence: Teaching as Contemplative Practice by Mary Rose O'Reilly, *“What I’m trying to construct here is a theory of attention that depends little on therapeutic skills and formal training: listening like a cow. Those of you who grew up on the country know that cows are good listeners. And barns, as I said before, are great contemplative spaces – at least the old ones were. I recommend to you this kind of dairy barn listening. We don’t need fixing, most of us, as much as we need a warm space and a good cow. Cows cock their big brown eyes at you and twitch their ears when you talk. This is a great antidote to the critical listening that goes on in academia, where we listen for the mistake, the flaw in the argument. Cows, by contrast, manage at least the appearance of deep, openhearted attention. If you are listening, if you are turning your big brown or blue eyes on somebody and twitching your ears at them, you are earning your silage. You are listening somebody into existence. You are saving lives. You are producing Grade A .”*

A Friend shared a story about nurturing a lamb, a story of waiting patience. Another message was offered: *“Silent is an anagram for listen.”*

There were 25 Friends attending, including: Christy Bischoff, Alice Brown, Peter Buck, Jim Cavener, Karen Cernek, David Clements, James Collins, Valerie Collins, Barbara Esther, Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Marie Lee, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard, Susan Mitchell, Philip Neal, Grace Ellen Oldham, Evan Richardson, Alan Robinson, Ursula Scott, Eda Smith, Gerald Smith, and Jennifer Walker.

Our focus in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is on building our community and peacemaking. George Gjelfriend, from Ministry and Counsel, has offered to serve us as both timekeeper and drift detector.

NEWS OF OURSELVES:

Phil Neal is looking for Friends to step forward as coordinator of FCOR (Friends Committee on Outworld Relations.) He wishes to continue his involvement in a role of lesser activity. Evan, David, Lila, and Wesley will be traveling to Portland Oregon to witness the same-gender marriage of Evan’s sister, and asks that we hold her extending family in the Light.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

AFM

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 10, 2004

AFM Nominating Committee is working steadily to provide nominations for AFM’s servant leaders for the next year-to-two years.

These include both nominations for Individual Positions and for Committee member positions effective July 1, 2004. Surveys of members/attenders and of Individual Position holders/Committee members are providing our Committee information on Friends' leadings for AFM service.

If members/attenders have not yet returned those questionnaires/query pages to us, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. Or if you would prefer to discuss AFM service possibilities one-one with a member of the Nominating Committee, please just let one of us know and we'll gladly arrange to talk together.

In the process of learning Friends' leadings for service, members of Nominating Committee observe that a significant core of Friends are expressing leadings to serve on/be involved with a (Pastoral) Care Team or Committee, if AFM had such a Team. Some of these Friends are established and regular attenders of AMF and a few others are AFM members. It has been suggested that a Care Team could operate under the guidance and oversight of Ministry and Counsel, but not entail membership on Ministry and Counsel itself. Overall, Nominating Committee perceives Pastoral Care as a deeply and widely felt need in our Meeting. Also we observe that there are Friends who are experiencing such a leading for this kind of service to each other in community.

We nominate Martha Huggins to Ministry and Counsel effective July 1, 2004, dependent on a mutually workable meeting time. We also nominate Evan Richardson to Ministry and Counsel effective July 1, 2004 and Evan Richardson to Spiritual Enrichment effective July 1, 2004. We nominate Kristi Gjelfriend and Jennifer Walker to be Co-Clerks of Meetinghouse and Grounds effective July 1, 2004. We also nominate Ellen Frerotte to be a member of Meetinghouse and Grounds effective immediately

Submitted in love and service,

Joy Gossett, Clerk  
AFM Nominating Committee  
(Karen Cernek, Barbara Esther, Joy Gossett)

**Nominations:**

**Martha Huggins to Ministry and Counsel: approved**

**Evan Richardson to Ministry and Counsel: approved**

**Evan Richardson to Spiritual Enrichment: approved**

**Kristi Gjelfriend and Jennifer Walker to co-clerk Meetinghouse and Grounds: approved**

**Ellen Frerette as member of Meetinghouse and Grounds: approved**

**Approved: releasing Paul Endry as clerk of Meetinghouse and Grounds with gratitude and appreciation.**

**Report of the Nominating Committee was accepted.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> MONTH, 2<sup>ND</sup> MONTH (HELD OVER) AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONTH.

**Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Month minutes.**

**Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Month minutes.**

**Approved 3<sup>rd</sup> Month minutes.**

Our Archivist has requested copies of past Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE -- We have received acknowledgement of contributions from the following organizations:

	Amount not referenced
Asheville Islamic Center	
Veterans for Peace and the GI Hotline	\$ 50
Pendle Hill	\$100
Habitat for Humanity Interfaith House Project	\$ 50
International Link	\$ 50
Bountiful Cities Project	\$100
Guilford College, Friends Center	\$100
Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council	\$200
FUM, Ramallah Friends School	\$100
Dogwood Alliance	\$ 50
FWCC	\$250
FGC	\$200
Quaker House	\$100

We also received a letter from Susan Schmidt back in Dec 2003 that reports on her life in Beaufort, NC. I will post it so that Friends who are interested can catch up with her.

The Clerk read two letters from Durham Monthly Meeting and a note from the clerk. The first letter is acknowledging the receipt of our letter of transfer and assurance that once Edith and Talmadge Neece request membership in the meeting, they will acknowledge this to us by correspondence. The second letter is acknowledgement that Durham Monthly Meeting has welcomed David Goldston into membership as of Twelfth Month 2003.

#### CONSIDERATION OF REPORT FROM MINISTRY AND COUNSEL (HELD OVER)

*A number of seasoned Friends have brought to our attention a concern that Ministry and Counsel has not fulfilled its traditional responsibility 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 who have felt led and hold gifts in this area. We recognize that it may serve the meeting well to have a formal mechanism for communicating needs of individuals as they arise. Unfortunately, this committee 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 queries:*

- a. Does the meeting feel there is a need for changing or improving the way we, as a community, meet our pastoral care needs?*
- b. How can the community better meet these needs?*

There was a request to clarify unmet needs; the responder listed

- visiting the sick/hospitalized
- keeping up with members and attenders who “disappear”
- following up on the guest book entries
- visitation to Friends undergoing crisis.

Often pastoral care needs are tended to by individual Friends, but it is not done in any systematic method. Friends spoke to the value of more coordination of efforts.

Friends do not know whom to call in order to organize appropriate assistance for those with needs for pastoral care.

Friends shared that different Meetings have various ways of organizing to meet such needs.

In one small Meeting everyone was sufficiently part of the Meeting to be comfortable expressing their needs. In our Meeting, it is difficult to get to know everyone who attends.

Can a committee be the clearinghouse for concerns or be the provider? It is friendship that drives pastoral care. We can set up a mechanism for caregiver's circles or a buddy system, but it is not as good as the natural channels of friendship.

We will hold this discussion over, knowing that this will take much thought.

Susan Mitchell is willing to convene an Ad Hoc Committee to discern & report back. Joy Gossett and Karen Cernek will join her.

## REPORT FROM SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVELING MINISTRY OF CHRISTY BISCHOFF

*Context: This statement is submitted in order to fulfill the requests made when the AFM approved the minute on behalf of Christy's Traveling Ministry in March 2004. Christy's Support/Clearness committee was asked "to clarify the exact nature of the relationship" between the meeting and her ministry. We were to refer to the guidelines of Central Philadelphia Meeting as we proceeded. - It is also possible that in our combination of ignorance and guidance the Support Committee (and AFM) is here establishing its own precedent.*

*Respectfully, Christy's Support Committee:*

*Ursula Scott, Lindsey Bridges, Jennifer Walker, Peter Buck.*

*Note: Her travel to Hebron with Christian Peacemaker Team will take place from Tuesday May 25 to Sunday July 25, 2004.*

*Expectations of the Asheville Friends Meeting and Christy Bischoff arising from her Traveling Ministry:*

*The substance of her ministry: A short statement of this occurs also in the Minute approved by AFM. --- Christy Bischoff in her person and in her ministry (as she travels to Hebron and back to us) is dedicated to finding ways of non-violent conflict resolution. She is open to and actively seeks practical insights. She is also moved simply to be with those on all sides of the conflict. It is part of her ministry to be with the confusion and "not knowing" what to do there (and here), so that the first motion that really gets her (and us) moving toward more light will become evident. She seeks to walk faithfully on the path of peace, in Hebron and here in our midst.*

***What does Christy request of the Meeting?:***

*Money: Help raising funds to make the journey to Hebron. To travel with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) requires \$1,800 for the full 8 weeks. It has seemed helpful for several reasons to purchase temporary insurance that may cost about \$200. To take care of rent and other expenses while away will take another \$500. The support committee thinks it wise for her to have \$500 of discretionary money while she is away. Total expenses will be in the nature of \$3,000. Christy has raised \$2,300 as of 4/9/04 - so any help in raising the remaining \$700 will be appreciated. - It is Christy's intention to donate any sum beyond these stated needs to CPT since the \$1,800 is only a bare minimum figure. - To date, money has been donated directly to her and a more formal way to handle this has not been used.*

*Upon her return to us it is possible that more funds may be sought to aid her ministry. The Support Committee suggested that some retreat time or use of consultation beyond her current resources might be called for. Funds for travel and communication may also be needed. The AFM is asked to be sensitive to these possibilities.*

*It is finally worthy of remark that the support given to Christy has touched her and increased her sense that she carries a ministry that is greater than herself. Our support with money given in the Spirit is part of the knitting together of this ministry.*

*Prayers: Christy requests that the meeting and its members hold her in the light in as real and substantial a way as possible. Those of us who can are asked to take a minute to hold her in the light each day at noon, which will be 7:pm in Hebron. At a date to be determined (Sunday May*

23 or Monday May 24) Christy asks for a Meeting for Worship to support her ministry and send her in the light to Hebron.

*Our prayers are part of her ministry.*

Discernment: *Christy seeks challenging questions from the Meeting. This will make her ministry more real, helpful and in the open. Our questions are part of her ministry. - In particular Christy seeks the questions, reflections, and insights that will help her to bring her experience in Hebron back to AFM and other communities (other Meetings, schools, local groups, not-so-local groups and settings etc.) in a vital and helpful way. (Remembering that she will be bearing a sense of things practical, of things confusing, and of things that require us to wait upon them with the light.) - Our discernment is part of Christy's ministry.*

Continued Support upon her return: *Just to make it doubly clear. Her ministry is only partly done when she returns from Hebron. She already expects (based on CPT training and her own previous experience) to need time, patience and discerning support from us so that she may appropriately bring to light what she will deeply experience in her travels. - Our patience and hanging-in-there with her when she returns is a vital part of this ministry reaching its fullness.*

**What may the Meeting expect of Christy?:**

A Preparatory Forum (of some sort, given AFM's schedule) before she departs in Mid-May. She is already planning to do Forums at the Swannanoa and Charlotte Meetings (April 18 and 25). - This will help the gathered body more fully know and participate in her ministry. It will help her integrate the concerns of the body with her own.

Weekly reports while she is away - so that we may hold her in the light and otherwise be of support in an informed way. Jennifer Walker will be the contact person for Christy. Jennifer will spread Christy's communications via e-mail (and via the post if requested). Others are invited to e-mail Christy while she is away, but please know that she may not be able to respond to all that gets sent to her. Her new e-mail address will be forthcoming.

A Series of Forums (or good alternatives) given within 3-4 (or so) months after her return. A possible series might consist of:

Forum 1- Giving Christy an opportunity to tell the story of her travels and ministry. Also helping us to begin to reflect on it and take it in with her. Forum 2: Allowing us to deepen the meaning and questions and motion of the Spirit arising from her ministry. Forum 3: Sharpening our focus on how this ministry in Hebron and here contains seeds and motions and outward deeds that are working in the AFM to bring about non-violent resolution of conflict (in ourselves, in our meeting and local communities, and in our world).

The Meeting may expect to be richly blessed.

The forum date of May 16<sup>th</sup> is being reserved for Christy.

We are asked to support her with fundraising, holding her in the Light, continuing discernment and support upon her return. As a Meeting we might make a donation in support of her ministry and have a dedicated fund for pass-through contributions. **Friends approved supporting Christy's ministry. Friends approved setting up a special dedicated fund for individual donations to contributions. Friends approved \$50 seed money from the Meeting and directed the Treasurer to take it from the money contributed in the memory of Pat Lyon and Polly Parker.** The support committee will continue work with Christy to discern what amount of money may be needed from the Meeting to reach the goal of \$700. (If donations exceed this amount, would Christy want to donate this to CPT or to hold it or part of it for future support of her ministry on return from her trip?)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

OUTDOOR MULTIGENERATIONAL WORSHIP APRIL 18

Robin Wells has sent an email inquiring if the Meeting wants to go ahead with the suggestion that in order to handle the influx of the FGC RE Committee, we hold our upcoming multigenerational worship, scheduled for April 18, outside. **Friends approved, weather permitting.** Peter Buck, Marie, Lee, and Barbara Esther will arrive early, to take care of arrangements..

*REPORT FROM AD-HOC RETREAT COMMITTEE (2 MINUTES)*

*An ad hoc committee has been formed to review options for a Fall Meeting Retreat.*

*Thus far Carrie Coward, David Clements, Phil Neal, Steve Livingston and Lynnora Bierce have met three to four times and begun initial planning. Mark Cobb, Sue Stigleman, Chris Parsons, Peter Buck and Margaret Farmer have also expressed an interest in helping, and may get further involved as planning moves forward.*

*At this point we are interfacing with Deborah Fisch at FGC to look at whether a traveling minister may be a good option for helping to facilitate the retreat. We will update the meeting in May after additional discussions with Deborah.*

*For now, we know the dates will be September 24, 25 and 26 at Bonclarken Retreat Center.*

*Thanks, Ad hoc Committee Clerk, Carrie Coward.*

**Meeting approves the formation of an ad hoc retreat committee to consist of Carrie Coward, David Clements, Phil Neal, Steve Livingston, Lynnora Bierce, and Margaret Farmer, with any additional Friends to join as they are led.  
Friends accepted the report.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Report of the Asheville Friends Meeting Finance Committee for April Business Meeting*

- 1. We have scheduled a forum for May 30.*
- 2. We have received an unrestricted contribution in memory of Polly Parker and Pat Lyon. We will discuss at our next meeting whether to recommend a special use for this money.*
- 3. We would like the meeting to formally authorize Valerie Collins and David Clements to be signators for all Meeting accounts: Pax World Fund, Self Help Credit Union, and Wachovia Bank Account.*

*Respectfully submitted, Valerie Collins*

**Friends approved naming David Clements and Valerie Collins as signators.  
Friends accepted the report.**

**CHANGE IN MEETING DATE FOR JUNE due to conflict with SAYMA**

**Friends approved changing the date for Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to the first weekend in June.**

**REPORT FROM PEACE AND EARTH**

- 1. On a snowy day in January, Steve Baumgartner came to speak to AFM about the Pendle Hill Peace Network (PHPN). There was the invitation for AFM to join the PHPN, possibly with surrounding Meetings. The requirements are to send a representative to the meetings in Philadelphia (1-2 a year), to make a commitment for 3 years, and there is no financial obligation besides supporting a representative. If we*

*joined with other Meetings, we would send one delegate and then they would come back and share with all of the Meetings involved.*

*The Peace and Earth Committee would like to recommend to AFM that we consider affiliating with this network and linking up with other area Meetings. We recommend that AFM members/attenders find out more about the PHPN and attend a gathering May 22 at the Common Light Meeting place. **Friends approved.***

- 2. The Peace and Earth Committee would like to recommend to AFM to consider endorsing the Earth Charter. We encourage Friends to read and engage in discussions about the Earth Charter. There will be discussion at SAYMA this year about endorsing the Earth Charter. Peace and Earth feels like this would be a good time for AFM to discern our involvement*

*. Respectfully submitted, Christy Bischoff, Clerk.*

**Friends are asked to read the Earth Charter available at [earthcharter.org](http://earthcharter.org). We will bring this up at next monthly Meeting for consideration. We are hopeful that we can complete this consideration in May in order that we can carry our response to SAYMA in June.**

**The report was accepted.**

#### REPORT FROM SAYMA REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

*Report of SAYMA Representative Meeting*

*April 3, 2004, Nashville, Tennessee*

*Our attention was drawn to three Friends who need to be held in the Light: Jennifer Snow Wolff, Bettina Wolff's daughter, has suffered a stroke and was in a coma as of last week; Connie LaMonte of Birmingham Meeting is recovering from surgery; and Philip Thompford of Crossville Meeting has been unwell. Cards of greeting are welcome.*

*We considered two minutes brought last year from Foxfire and Atlanta. Both were to have been seasoned in monthly meetings. The Foxfire minute on global governmental standards was referred back to that meeting for further seasoning. Has our meeting received and/or discussed the minute? The Atlanta minute supporting Philadelphia Yearly Meeting support of tax resistance will be taken to yearly meeting for consideration of endorsement. Monthly Meetings are invited to either endorse or draft their own minute on the subject.*

*A new committee will begin to serve SAYMA: the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. It will have 3-5 core members, reorganized guidelines, and will have as its purpose to shepherd concerns brought from monthly meetings through a process of discernment. Its role will be supportive rather than gate-keeping.*

*Our treasurer reported that we are operating on a deficit because we are spending down reserves. Monthly meetings are reminded that the fall months of September and October are lean in yearly meeting and that the **preferred payment of assessments is quarterly payments** although 2 or 3 payments is better than a single payment.*

*Ecological Concerns Network clerk Susan Carlyle told us that thirteen of the twenty-one meetings, including Asheville, responded to the Earth Charter. A minute of endorsement will be considered at yearly meeting. Individual monthly meeting discussions, a workshop offered at yearly meeting, and the ECN are sources for further discussion and learning.*

*Faith and Practice Revisions Committee has rewritten Parts I and II of the guide, incorporating responses from meetings. Paper copies or website access will be available for reading. No response is requested at the present time. Those sections completed will be considered for approval at yearly meeting. The name change will no longer be considered by the Faith and Practice Committee. There will be opportunities to share on the subject at yearly meeting.*

*Finance Committee is exploring liability insurance to cover SAYF transportation and incidents at yearly meeting. However, to purchase it, yearly meeting would need to be an entity, such as a corporation, and that can only be done through a state, with an agent. The Finance Committee plans to give committee clerks prompts to submit budget needs in a timely manner (3-4 weeks prior to the spring Representative Meeting). The committee requests that SAYMA representatives to wider Quaker organizations or to special committee meetings report the full cost of their work so that the true cost can be transparent, whether or not reimbursement is sought. Cost of travel to Representative Meeting is the responsibility of the monthly meeting.*

*Two sets of reading matter are available for Friends. Jonah MacDonald, Memphis, brought materials from AFSC. Responses to the SMART security proposed by the Physicians for Social Responsibility are still sought. Responses should be sent to Celo Meeting.*

*Bob McGahy will travel with minutes from both his monthly meeting, Celo, and from the yearly meeting to Barcelona, Spain in July 2004, to attend the Parliament of World Religions. Both Celo and SAYMA have given financial support of \$100 to defray costs totaling about \$2000. Bob will pay his own airfare. Friends may want to support his attendance further. Such support usually brings the ministry back to our monthly meetings, yearly meeting and wider Quaker organizations such as FGC.*

*Clerks are reminded that our census information is due April 30<sup>th</sup> to be tabulated for our perusal at yearly meeting. The state of the meeting reports should also be in process. Friends are reminded that this report should reflect the movement of the Spirit in our monthly meeting throughout the past year. (June to June)*

*The administrative assistant job description: Personnel Committee will propose the job as 1/3 time rather than 1/4 time to better reflect the time needed to complete the tasks.*

*Yearly Meeting: June 10-13 at Warren Wilson College  
Theme: Feeding the Flames of Faith: Integrating Spirit and Action*

*Featured wider Quaker organizations: AFSC national office, Right Sharing of World Resources, and Alternatives to Violence Project.*

*The Nurturing Center will operate again and the Ministry and Nurture Committee has invited Jean-Marie **Bartsch**, FGC traveling minister, of Harrisonville, Virginia to present a workshop entitled "Midwives of Spirit-Led Action".*

*Nominating concerns: monthly meetings are asked to encourage the discernment within our meeting regarding openings as of June 2004. Additionally, we are asked to discern who among us has in his/her heart the spiritual life and growth of the yearly meeting. Ministry and Nurture Committee seeks individuals with this deep concern to be members (different from representatives) of the committee.*

*The vacancies list is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please look it over. Where might you serve? Service always spurs growth and deepens understanding.*

*Respectfully submitted by Barbara Esther, Representative to SAYMA from Asheville Friends Meeting*

**Friends accepted the report.**

**REPORT FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Report of the Religious Education Committee April 11, 2004*

*This a summary report to Asheville Friends of the status of the program for our youth and children in 2004.*

*The committee sponsored a program called "Heart to Heart" to foster intergenerational f/Friendships. Youth and children were paired with adult secret pals to exchange secret gifts of other than monetary value. After several weeks, on the First Day nearest Valentines Day, those involved had a celebration and lunch during which the pals revealed their identities. An adult was pal to a young person, but that young person was pal to a different adult, and the first adult was the focus of a different youth. Thus, we were able to link more Friends across generations. The program was deemed a success and will likely be repeated next year with some modifications. Thanks go to all participants for the imaginative and creative ways in which pals were feted.*

*The committee continues to guide the Junior Business Meeting by scheduling periodic meetings for business, assisting the clerk and members and providing help during committee days that follow each business meeting. The youth group has expressed interest in being more active in agenda setting and Quaker process during the business meetings. We hope it will be so. The service projects taken on this year are coming to a close. We are about to send ten kits for infants to the AFSC, will deliver items to Helpmate on April 25, and have funds to send to both the Heifer Project and to UNICEF.*

*The youth group has been regularly well attended by as many a nine youth under the guidance of George Gjelfriend. Several meeting members have been invited to participate in the youth group's subjects of interest. One area that has repeatedly been of interest is the study of the Bible, which they will continue to explore with the help of videos, reading and discussion.*

*The middle school group, or, more accurately, pair, has been discussing our values with the help of leaders Mark Cobb, Martha Huggins and Barbara Esther and our resource book, What Do You Stand For? Our first experience of having a middle school group has been positive, since the two young people involved are so energetic and insightful.*

*Our elementary aged kids have been examining Quaker history from 1652 through the present, with a keen eye to Quakers of Color within that story. Some of you might remember the birthday party we celebrated for Bayard Rustin.*

*The youngest children have been taking part in a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method in their experience of the parables of the New Testament. They reenact the stories with figures and props and contemplate the lessons that the stories have shown them as they do quiet hand work. Everyone has been enjoying the process, including Robin Wells, the leader.*

*We continue to be blessed with two very lovely care givers: Carly and Arielle. They are faithful and gentle in their care of our children.*

*In May, on the first of the month, we will once again have a booth at the Family Fun Day, which will be held at the Amboy Road Speedway this year; from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to assist us as we help some very special children to enjoy that day.*

*We look forward to the involvement of all meeting in our intergenerational worship on April 18, next week, and in the annual Youth Celebration on May 30<sup>th</sup>, which is a fifth Sunday. Thanks are due to everyone who holds the children and youth of our meeting in the Light.*

**Friends accepted the report.**

**STATE OF THE SOCIETY REPORT**

Our clerk led a discussion to facilitate drafting our State of the Society Report for Yearly Meeting and offered the following queries:

1. How has participation in the life of the Meeting nurtured me during the last year?
2. In what ways is the life of the Meeting alive with Spirit?
3. How does my participation/attendance nurture the life of the Meeting?
4. In what ways are we led to nurture the life of our Meeting during the coming year?

Discussion followed:

We want to know each others names and faces. We want our committees to serve our community. We are interested in a deepened interaction of our community.

Appreciation was expressed to all whose work keeps our Meeting alive and functioning. Waiting on the Light is very nurturing, knowing we are carrying on this living, breathing tradition.

Just show up: that is the first step to being nurtured.

Two of these queries are answered by individuals in an ongoing Newsletter feature. Asking the questions and listening is very nurturing for the columnist, and it also nourishes the Meeting. One Friend was thankful for the freedom that is here, that there is room for each one's two cents. It is wonderful not to have a pastor; it is a great responsibility to learn to work together. This is a very deeply spiritual group, with many dedicated people. Let's tie up the loose ends. Spirit is behind whatever we do.

One Friend expressed that he feels our messages in Meeting are different than they were in the past, when the speakers focused clearly on what Spirit was leading them to say. This remark was not expressed as a criticism, but as an observation.

A Friend has learned from Quakers to watch for the Light within others, not just in our group. We are the unfinished tapestry, with a common warp coming through from all different directions with a lot of threads. It is a fascinating piece of work.

We are a family who, like all families, are there for each other and, at the same time, stuck with each other. We do our best to love each other, to include each other, and to make each other feel safe.

Barbara Esther and Ursula Scott will help Evan complete this report.

#### INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

Happy Birthday (belatedly) to George Gjelfriend.

Today during Youth Group a teen asked if any of the early Quakers who rose to speak might have been schizophrenic.

A Friend shared that the teens feel they do not know the adults in the meeting.

We were encouraged to Invite new attenders to make nametags and take pamphlets.

Religious Education Committee of FGC will be meeting here this upcoming weekend.

The Meeting closed at 3:00 pm with worship.