

# Adelphi Friends Newsletter

Second Month, 2008

Adelphi Friends Meeting  
2303 Metzert Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783  
(301) 445-1114

[www.AdelphiFriends.org](http://www.AdelphiFriends.org), <http://Adelphi.Quaker.org/>

Anne Marie Moriarty, clerk — Michael Levi, assistant treasurer

<p>WEEKLY SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship (except 3rd Sunday) 9:45 a.m. Singing 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship</p> <p>Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. Meeting for Worship</p>	<p>MONTHLY SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Second Sunday (Third Sunday in May, July and August): Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business</p> <p>Third Sunday: Singing begins at 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Fourth Sunday: Junior Meeting at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Fourth Sunday: Potluck at rise of Meeting</p>
<p>Takoma Park Friends Meeting (Preparative) under the care of Adelphi Meeting. Every Sunday: Meeting for Worship 10:30 a.m., currently at the home of Arthur Karpas, 6916 Westmoreland Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Meeting for Worship for the Preparation of Business, fourth Sunday following Meeting for Worship.</p>	

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN AT ADELPHI MARCH 2

On First Sundays in March through June, I will be leading an adult Bible study during Second Hour as part of the Adult Religious Education program at Adelphi. Our focus will be on using the Bible as a resource for spiritual formation. As we can see the journals and letters of early Quakers, we see how their language was permeated with scripture. They certainly found the Bible as a resource for nurturing the inner Light; indeed, they read the Bible so as to claim the spiritual immediacy that the biblical authors had. Liberal Quakers today have begun to appreciate anew the Bible as a stimulus to contemplation and action.

Adelphi's adult Bible study will take a discussion format. I will not be lecturing. (I do enough of that in my professional life as Bible prof at Howard University School of Divinity!) Occasionally, though, I will give some critical background that I think might be helpful for our discussion. My primary role, however, is in asking open-ended questions for our consideration. For example, at the most recent annual session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting I led the afternoon Bible study. (Quaker missionary to Kenya Eden Grace led the morning Bible study.) In keeping with the theme "Nurturing the Seeds of Hope," I focused on the seed parables of Mark 4. Some of the questions that I asked as we studied each parable in turn included:

- What images stand out for you in this passage?
- What rhythm do you sense in the passage?
- What physical sensations do you experience as you read the passage?
- How does this passage relate to previous passages in the same book?
- What can you laugh at in the passage?
- How might you enter imaginatively into this passage, for example, through art, poetry, dance, drama, or song?

When I was in San Diego recently for a professional meeting, I attended LaJolla Monthly Meeting. That Sunday they were having their monthly Bible study prior to worship. A small group gathered to discuss the story of Cain and Abel, for they had agreed some months back to study Genesis. I realized that what I enjoy most about Bible study is delving into a passage and exploring the deep human issues that are raised there. I was convinced that I wanted something like that to happen at Adelphi.

An important image for me in Bible study has always been that of Jacob wrestling with the man/God/angel. (See Genesis 32:22-32.) Jacob says that he will not let go of his opponent until he receives a blessing. In our Bible study at Adelphi, may we wrestle with the word and with one another so that we might receive a blessing. But watch out, we might go limping away! (See Genesis 22:31)

—Michael Newheart

#### COMMENTS FROM JOAN CLEMENT FOR ADELPHI'S CONSIDERATION OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND NURTURE AS PART OF OUR LONG RANGE PLANNING PROCESS

(From 1/6 threshing session:) Since 2000, my greatest spiritual inspiration and source of healing has been reconnecting with nature. I have read and this fits with my experience – that we must reconnect with nature – heal the rift between human culture and the rest of nature -- find a way to once again experience the rest of nature as family – in order to re-learn how to live sustainably on Earth. In this age of ecological unbalance when we know that our current lives and livelihoods are at risk due to global warming, loss of biodiversity and our misuse of non-renewable resources, I believe that we are called as a Meeting to look at the ecological underpinnings of our faith.

Many people of faith have written that our mistaken spiritual beliefs and practices are at the heart of our culture's disconnection with nature. I have a concern that our spiritual seeking at Adelphi is almost exclusively centered on our human relationships and human community. Most vocal ministry at Adelphi is about human relationship issues. The phrase "that of God in everyone" seems most times to be referencing that of God in other people.

I would like for us as a community to consider our role in perpetuating our culture's spiritual and physical disconnection from creation. My vision for Adelphi is that we become a worshiping community that includes the rest of creation in our worship life and Meeting life and that answers to that of God in all of creation. I am hoping to learn more about the Wisdom teachings of our Christian heritage – both in the Bible and left out of the Bible – as they seem to be most related to healing the schism between humans and the rest of creation.

Many of us are questioning the best use of our time and resources as a Meeting. Some of us are expressing feelings of burnout. I believe that Nature, in concert with Quaker testimonies and Quaker practice, can heal our feelings of frustration and can help answer the questions we are raising about what's most important and how to best use our resources. I believe that addressing this issue is a critical part of our spiritual growth and nurture as a Meeting and that looking at it in greater detail will help us address the other issues we are concerned about. My prayer is that we find a way to let nature into our worship life more fully, and to let her healing power and her lessons help guide us as we plan for our Meeting's future.

#### BARBARA GERLACK AND PASTOR JOHN MACK WROTE:

"Many of you knew we had planned to go trekking in the Everest area of Himalayas in early November for our retirement adventure. We made it halfway through our journey to about 17,000 feet when John began to have difficulty breathing from what turned out to be a devastating mix of high altitude pulmonary edema and drug-resistant pneumonia. He was helicoptered from the mountains to Kathmandu on November 26 and ended up first in a clinic, then in intensive care. On December 2 he was air ambulated from Nepal to an excellent hospital in New Delhi, India where he spent another four weeks. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, we were air ambulated to Washington DC where John spent a week at the George Washington University Hospital, where it was confirmed that John's lungs had been irreparably damaged. Although we returned hoping that John might undergo rehab and qualify for a lung transplant, John decided there was no more 'comeback' in his body and came home on January 5. This is what he wrote:

"From family and community networks you have heard about my six week captivity in hospitals and ICU's in Nepal and India. Last Saturday I was Fed Ex'd back to Washington. After a week at George Washington University Medical Center, I finally made it all the way home. In addition to the care of family and friends, I am now in hospice care. My bed is centrally located in our living room, a setting conducive to good conversation. We all come into the world in basically the same way, but the ways of leaving are innumerable. The fortunate get to have some influence over their dying. I am one of the fortunate. I look forward to having you join me in the conversation.'

Pastor John removed his own oxygen mask and slipped gently away on Wednesday with his family, children, and grandchildren attending."

Thank you, Friends for holding them all in the light.

--Harold Confer

#### TAKOMA PARK FRIENDS MEETING IS MOVING ON A TEMPORARY BASIS

Takoma Park Friends Meeting is moving on a temporary basis, until a satisfactory long-term location in Takoma Park is found. From February 10 through July we will meet for weekly worship and monthly Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business at: Friends Community School, 5901 Westchester Park Drive, College Park, MD 20740.

Directions from Takoma Park and Silver Spring: Follow University Blvd. (MD 193) heading east. The name will change to Greenbelt Road. Turn right (south) onto Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201). Continue for 1 block. Turn left onto Westchester Park Drive for 1 block. The school is on the right. Parking is available. Go through the front doors; Friends will be meeting in the library, immediately across from the entrance.

#### UPDATE FROM YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Because of Long-Range Planning activities, Nominating has postponed the annual contacting of all members and attenders to discuss Meeting participation. However, there are some openings on committees, which need to be filled NOW.

Newsletter Committee needs members to distribute the monthly newsletter via internet and snail mail. Finance Committee needs 3 new members. Adult Religious Education needs 3 new members. Religious Education needs several new members. Ministry and Worship needs 3 or 4 members.

Please consider these openings and how you might be able to serve. Descriptions of the purpose and activities of each committee are described in the new Practices and Procedures manual, available at Adelphi's website. Thank you!

--Wendy Eck, Emory Baldwin, Karen O'Brien and Shelly Grow

#### NEWS FROM FRIENDS' COMMUNITY SCHOOL (FCS)

FCS parents were very pleased to meet the new Head of School, Larry Clements, at a PTA and State of the School Report last month. We also celebrated Martin Luther King with workshops about: bullying: letters to Martin about how he has changed their lives: making artwork from his words; and writing songs about peacemaking. Then thoughts from the workshops were shared before our weekly, whole school Meeting for Worship.

FCS Summer Camp: Friends Community School Summer Science and Art Camp engages kids in real science and real art, with real scientists and real artists. Through engaging activities and experiments, kids investigate their environment, becoming nature detectives, junior park rangers, and champions for planet earth. The art program features expressive experimentation and the use of a wide range of media including natural materials. We emphasize creative and analytical thinking, hands-on learning, cooperation, and team building. The Quaker values of environmental stewardship, service, peacemaking, and a genuine search for truth are at the heart of our fun, challenging, and exciting summer camp experience.

Sessions: We offer one, one-week and three, two-week sessions from 9 AM to 4 PM daily. Mornings will focus on science and afternoons on art. Every will session will feature distinctly different content. Campers will be divided into age appropriate groups—kindergarten through second grades, third through fifth grades, and sixth through eighth grades. A Camper in Training (CIT) program is available for youths ages 15 and up. In addition, we are offering a week of recreational activities from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., June 16 to 20, 2008.

#### AWESOME JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Students, join in the fun with other JYF's from the BYM area at three JYF gatherings sponsored by BYM, March 1-2, 2008 at Baltimore, Stony Run, 5116 N Charles Street, Baltimore, MD. Contact: the Registrar at the BYM office with any questions by phone at 1-(800) 962-4766 or by e-mail at [admin@bym-rsf.org](mailto:admin@bym-rsf.org).

#### DEAR MONTHLY MEETING CLERKS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE CLERKS

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Nominating committee is beginning its task of considering individuals for three-year BYM committee appointments (2008-11) to be formalized at the August Annual Sessions. Please help us identify Friends in your meeting who might be interested in serving at the Yearly Meeting level on a committee or as a representative to a Friends' organization.

Serving on a BYM committee can be a very special experience. It is an opportunity to engage in meaningful work, deepen Quaker roots, and widen horizons by working with Friends from the 53 Monthly Meetings. The growing knowledge and inter-visitation experience gained strengthens the Friend serving and your Monthly Meeting as well.

A member of the BYM Nominating committee will call you soon to answer your questions and to learn your suggestions for committee service. With your permission, the Nominating Committee member will contact those you think may be interested to explore with them further how their gifts may match with 2008 committee openings.

In anticipation,  
--Barbara Thomas, Clerk, BYM Nominating Committee, [Bthomas60@comcast.net](mailto:Bthomas60@comcast.net),  
(410) 867-2473

#### LEARNING WAYS TO HELP THE COMMITTEES WE SERVE ON TO MINISTER MORE EFFECTIVELY TO OUR MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Friends Meeting of Washington Ministry and Worship Committee and Nominating Committee invite you to join us on Saturday February 23 in learning ways to help the committees on which we serve minister more effectively to the Meeting and to committee members. The session will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Friends Meeting of Washington Assembly Room, 2111 Florida Avenue, NW.

You will receive resource materials addressing all aspects of committee work including preparing for committee meetings, conducting meetings, getting clarity on responsibilities, implementing committee decisions, following up on work commitments made by committee members, and reporting to the Meeting.

Our goal is to enable committee members to focus on their committee work rather than stumble with mechanics and procedures. We will outline the tools and resources of the Meeting available to committees and help committee members understand their interaction with other committees and groups both inside and outside the Meeting. We will ask Friends from other Meetings to share with us any differences in the way things are done in their Meetings.

The workshop is for all committee members--not just clerks--first because clerks rely heavily on committee members to help them be good clerks, and second because there is a constant need over time for current committee members to become clerks.

It is also for any Friends who are in the area regardless of where they worship. We are making a special effort to design the workshop so Friends from different Meetings can learn from one another.

Registration is not necessary, but if you know you are coming please call the Meeting office at (202) 483-3310 so we can estimate how many sets of materials and snacks to have on hand.

#### WASHINGTON QUAKER WORKCAMP COORDINATOR SOUGHT BY WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

William Penn House's Coordinator of Washington Quaker Workcamps, Felix Unogwu, has been recruited by Search for Common Ground, an international NGO that works for peace. Felix will be working with young people in the Congo, Liberia and other African and Asian countries that are experiencing civil stress. Following is a job description for the position he has vacated:

Washington Quaker Workcamp Coordinator, available February, 2008:  
Washington Quaker Workcamps was founded in 1986 and is a program of William Penn House. The Coordinator plans and leads about 40 Workcamps each year. The Workcamps include working in distressed hamlets of West Virginia, reconstruction work in New Orleans, helping the elderly of Washing-

ton, DC remain in their homes through rehabilitation of those homes, serving as partners with other DC social service agencies that provide meals and services for the homeless, rehabilitation of city parks and working with public and private schools to address issues of poverty and privilege. Many Workcamps fill an entire week, some are for a weekend. The Workcamp participants include adults, upper and middle school students from a broad spectrum of faiths and traditions.

The position is full time and permanent. The responsibilities include the following:

- Overall supervision of the Washington Quaker Workcamp's (WQW) programs and activities.
- Strategic involvement in fund raising
- Develop and manage the WQW budget and coordinate the WQW fundraising efforts.
- Coordinating Workcamps activities to include:
  - Setting up and leading Workcamps.
  - Coordinating service projects for Workcamps.
  - Supervising home repair projects.
  - Arranging guests speakers and workshops
  - Establishing the spiritual and service learning framework for the Workcamps.
  - Marketing Workcamps to Quakers and other constituents.
  - Supervising intern(s).
  - Serving as part of the William Penn House senior staff and providing support to other staff as needed.
  - Representing William Penn House and Washington Quaker Workcamps throughout the broader Quaker community.
  - Collaborating with Program Coordinator on outreach and program planning.

The candidate should have the following qualifications:

- Experience in youth education or youth development, especially experiential education or service-learning programs.
- Basic familiarity with construction and home repair work.
- Ability to think creatively and work independently, and to inspire others.
- A strong commitment to social justice and the Quaker social testimonies of integrity, simplicity, equality, peace, and community.
- Familiarity with computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and desktop publishing.
- Experience as a youth leader desirable.
- College degree or equivalent experience.

This is a full time position. Benefits include:

1. Competitive salary based on experience.
2. Health insurance.
3. Paid annual and sick leave.
4. Opportunities for professional development.
5. Contribution to retirement account.
6. Participation with the broader world of Friends.

Residence at William Penn House may be provided.

Since this is a faith based organization:

- Preference will be given to members or attenders of the three traditional peace churches; Quakers, Brethren and Mennonites.
- The coordinator will participate fully in the spiritual life of the William Penn House.

This individual should understand the spiritual traditions of the Religious Society of Friends.

To apply, send resume, cover letter, and three references to: Byron Sandford, Executive Director, William Penn House, 515 East Capitol St., SE, Washington, DC 20003, (202) 543-5560, fax: (202)

543-3814, [byron@williampennhouse.org](mailto:byron@williampennhouse.org), [www.WilliamPennHouse.org](http://www.WilliamPennHouse.org).

#### AFSC ACCEPTS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN KENYA

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is accepting financial donations for Kenyans affected by post-election violence. After the results of the latest elections, conflicts have erupted which have claimed the lives, homes, and livelihoods of many Kenyans. About 250,000 Kenyans have been displaced from their homes, and many do not have food, water, and other necessities needed to survive. A little more than 500 are believed to have died.

Natlyn Bernard of AFSC's Nairobi office says, "The violence is destroying the peace that many Kenyans have built and practiced for years in communities of diverse ethnic and political identities. We hope that our support of direct aid and peace-building projects will aid the victims of violence and encourage those working for peace and healing."

AFSC has already made grants from its Crisis Fund to two local partners providing relief supplies and medicines and also to a network of local NGO's supporting dignified burials for victims of the violence and longer-term peace-building measures.

Cash donations to the AFSC Crisis Fund can be made via the AFSC website at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) or by calling 1-(888) 588-2372. Contributions by check should be made out to the "AFSC" with a note referencing "Crisis Fund—Kenya" and mailed to: AFSC Development, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Backed by a 90-year history of peace-building and humanitarian work, the American Friends Service Committee has provided aid in war and disaster zones around the world. AFSC accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of Quakers worldwide for humanitarian relief work in 1947.

#### MARCH POTLUCK AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE: KENYA

You are invited to a potluck & Quaker dialogue at William Penn House Sunday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. Our Program this First Day is presented by David Zarembka of Bethesda Friends Meeting: "Relief, Reconciliation, and Healing from the Violence in Kenya".

The talk will emphasize the Quaker response to the violence that occurred in Kenya after the December 27 election. This will include relief work such as the 62 families housed in the Eldoret Friends Church, reconciliation by Lumakanda Friends Church, violence prevention programs with the looters in Kakamega, and personal observations on the conflict and its aftermath. Means of supporting Quaker peacemaking work in Kenya will be outlined.

David and his wife Gladys live in Kenya. David is Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative/Friends Peace Teams ([www.aglionline.org](http://www.aglionline.org)). In the spring of 1998, the Coordinating Committee of the Friends Peace Teams Project discussed the situation among the many Quakers in the Great Lakes Region of Africa where conflict has been acute in the last thirty years. How were the Quakers surviving among these conflicts? Were they doing work in peacemaking and reconciliation? What kind of assistance would they need in their endeavors? In January, 1999, the Friends Peace Teams Project's African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) sent an international, interreligious delegation of seven members to visit Quakers and others in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. While the delegation was there, they conducted numerous trauma healing, non-violence, Alternatives to Violence Project and other peacemaking workshops. The team found that Quakers and others in Burundi and Uganda were actively working on peacemaking projects, while people in Rwanda and Kenya had interests in these areas, but were not as of yet well organized in their endeavors.

As a long-range project, AGLI is working with Burundi Yearly Meeting to set up a Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Center in Burundi. Details are being worked out. The plan is to have two Burundians and two international trainers work together over twenty-five months to set up this Center.

William Penn House is located at 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003  
Tel: (202) 543-5560, Fax: (202) 543-3814 e-mail: [Info@WilliamPennHouse.org](mailto:Info@WilliamPennHouse.org),  
[www.WilliamPennHouse.org](http://www.WilliamPennHouse.org).

*(continued on next page)*

## Working

Work is more fun than fun.  
–Noel Coward

For years our motto was,  
"Work is love made visible,"  
Yet I suspect our volunteers  
also found equally compelling  
work, well done, is just good fun.

Far surpassing video games  
and trips to King's Dominion,  
The experience of building a new house  
with homeowners who are contributing  
their own sweat equity and earning  
credit toward graduation is also  
good fun.

To be able to start with the floor  
package on Saturday morning  
and by Sunday noon nailing  
on the roof is awesome.

To be able to paint the primer coat  
on Saturday morning and by  
Saturday evening to have  
finished priming three  
complete houses  
is compelling.

To have been able to have  
done a fourth house on Sunday,  
confounding the job supervisor  
who did not have enough paint  
made these kids laugh.

Kids, whose primary skill was willingness,  
who at the beginning of the weekend  
did not know which end of the hammer  
to put in the paint bucket, these kids  
made their mark on this housing project  
and in the hearts of the homeowners  
while having good, wholesome fun.

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Submitting material to the newsletter: Ann Marlowe, the Newsletter Editor, welcomes any material of interest to the Adelphi Friends Meeting community. The best way to submit material is by e-mail to [afm-newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:afm-newsletter@earthlink.net). Either attach a Word file to the e-mail or type the information directly into the e-mail. You may also submit clean, typed copy and photographs to the newsletter box in the meetinghouse. No handwritten material please. Deadline for submissions is noon of the last Sunday of each month.

Contributions:

Please place in box in the foyer, or send to Michael Levi, 702 Malibu Drive, Silver Spring MD 20901.

**Adelphi Friends Meeting**  
2303 Metzert Road  
Adelphi, MD 20783

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