

Maury River Friends Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business First Month, 22nd Day, 2012

Katherine Raiford Smith, clerk

Attending:

Mary Barnes, Richard Barnes, Mary Helen Brainerd, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, Neil Ripani, Mary Stratton, Wil Stratton, Sandra Stuart, Morris Trimmer, Jim Warren, John White, Christine Williams.

Meeting began at 11:30 with a brief moment of silence.

Interim recording clerk Eli Fishpaw read the minutes of Eleventh month meeting for business which, with a minor correction, were approved. Eli was thanked for having brought recording clarity to a relatively complicated series of discussions.

Mary Helen Brainard announced that the Blue Ridge Gathering--for Friends from Roanoke, Floyd, Blacksburg, Abingdon and Maury River meetings--would be held April 29 at Blacksburg meeting house. Baltimore Yearly Meeting presiding clerk Betsy Meyer and Chuck Fager, director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC, will give presentations.

Christine Williams reported for Religious Education that under direction from John White, the children made Mexican decorations for Christmas. In 2012, the children have read the 23rd psalm and will be studying Quaker process and the meaning of being a Friend.

Speaking for Fellowship Committee, Clerk read a letter from committee member Kit Jones describing the escalating price of coffee and asking for direction about the future. Several questions emerged from the fairly unsettled discussion that followed: did Friends customarily submit bills to the treasurer for out-of-pocket expenses; was the oversight of meeting fellowship the duty of the committee or the obligation of the meeting as a whole; was the fellowship committee largely understaffed in relationship to other committees; was there a fellowship committee clerk? Clerk read the January 2007-approved list of fellowship responsibilities charged to committee: these include facilitating food and hospitality following Meetings for Worship (and) Meetings for Worship with concern for Business; helping plan special occasions such as our Goshen Pass picnic and Christmas Eve Celebration; sponsoring other special events that bring Friends together for socializing and fun; keeping the kitchen stocked with necessary refreshment supplies and coordinating occasional potluck suppers.

Responding to the question of fellowship clerk, Nominating Committee clerk Mary Barnes said she had received the resignation of former fellowship clerk Phil Hyre and contacted the Nominating Committee about finding a new clerk. Kit Jones agreed to serve as clerk with help from Eric Sheffield. Several Friends offered what they hoped might be answers to other questions, among them convening an ad hoc committee charged with enlarging the fellowship committee, instituting a system of rotating fellowship clerks and giving up the drinking of coffee. Friend Christine Williams offered to donate Fair-trade coffee for the meeting during 2012 and

give the receipts to the treasurer. This solution was gratefully accepted. Friends were encouraged to also provide the treasurer with receipts for personal money spent, noting either “reimburse” or “gift.” With no clarity achieved on other issues, and no action taken, Clerk advised friends to contact Nominating if they wished to serve on the fellowship committee.

Sandra Stuart gave the results of a survey of Friends about the use of the meeting house library room. There were 29 responses and apparently at least that many varied replies. Some respondents liked the current room; others wanted to move into a larger space. Sandra offered to serve as an ad hoc committee on further investigation of the issue. Clerk advised her to post a copy of the survey on the library bulletin board and turn the question over to House and Grounds committee.

Finance and Stewardship, slated to present the 2012 budget, asked that the item be removed from the agenda and visited in Second Month. By then, meeting will have had a second hour on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting apportionment request.

The Clerk had two items of business to bring up. The first was a request from Greenbrier Friends Worship Group, which has been under the guidance of Maury River Friends, asking to be released from that relationship and placed under the guidance of Charleston, West Virginia meeting. For Maury River, Clerk replied in a letter stating our agreement and good wishes and notifying Greenbrier that on their behalf we would contact Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The second item of business concerned the newsletter. Editor Richard Barnes told meeting that all items for the newsletter needed to be sent to him electronically by 8am Friday following meeting for business. He urged Friends to let him know about upcoming events of interest to our Quaker community. Clerk, after reminding meeting that Richard was the editor, not the writer of the newsletter, suggested adding items of personal information.

Treasurer John White distributed copies of the 2011 Treasurer’s Report and called attention to the thousand dollar contribution that Young Friends had made to charities with the proceeds from their annual spaghetti dinner and simple meal. The report was accepted.

Kathy Fox gave the report for the Peace and Justice Committee: Despite a relatively small turnout—8—and some minor difficulties, Friends participation in the annual Lexington Christmas parade went well. Work during the committee’s January 17 meeting included discussion of the lifting of the moratorium on uranium mining—now postponed by the Virginia legislature—and work on the Right Relationship with Creation Minute.

For Peace and Justice, Jim Warren read a revised version of the “Minute on Right Relationship” discussed earlier in First Month during a Second Hour. Clerk reminded members that approving a minute and owning a minute were two separate actions and asked if meeting approved the minute. The discussion following several affirmative and one negative comments was complicated enough that one Friend said he “felt a stop.” What became clear was that the Peace and Justice committee had assumed the Right Relationship minute was being presented for a first reading, not approval. Peace and Justice was easy with holding the minute over. The Right Relationship minute being presented ends with a sentence germane to its discussion: “We

therefore seek ways to uplift one another, to work in hope and faith, and to celebrate the beauty and power of the Light within and around us.”

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Raiford Smith, clerk

Maury River Friends Meeting

February Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Second Month 26th day

Katherine Raiford Smith, clerk

Attending: Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, John Friedrichs, John Hoogacker, Kristen Hoogacker, Bill Jones, Devan Malore, Daphne Raz, Eric Sheffield, Wil Stratton, Mary Stratton, Sandra Stuart, Morris Trimmer, Jim Warren, John White, Christine Williams.

Meeting started at 11:30 with a brief moment of silence and a reading from the provisional edition of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's new Faith and Practices.

Clerk, reporting for Recorder Sarah Giddings, said Maury River has 31 members and 31 faithful attenders among whom are two who hold membership in other meetings. There are also five Associate Members.

For House and Grounds, Clerk Daphne Raz said the committee met February 15, with all members present. The spring workday will be Saturday, April 7. A task list—cleaning, repairing, painting, staining and etc.—will be available next First day. Concerned friends are working on a plan for an expanded library in the back meeting room and will provide the committee with projected costs. In the meantime, the committee is installing new fluorescent ceiling lights in the current room. As a way of controlling costs and environmental impact, the committee requests that space heaters not be used in the building. The discussion on photo-voltaic energy panels, started last fall, will be continued during a Second Hour to be scheduled this spring. In response to a Friend's inquiry about discussing other energy-saving methods, Daphne said only photo-voltaic would be discussed. The final House and Grounds item was announcing the use of the Meetinghouse Saturday, March 24 for a memorial service for Haines Sprunt Tate, Elise Sheffield's sister.

Christine Williams, reporting for Religious Education, said the committee had met February 19. Children's activities for the month included making valentines for Mel Leasure and Flossie Cook as well as cards and brownies for Young Friends away at college. Planned programs for March include studying Quaker life with stories about Friendly heroes. The RE committee, as a reflection of its charge to involve adults in our First Day school program, invites anyone either to simply visit the Junior Young Friends room during First Hour or to lead the children in a study program, with help from an attendant RE committee member. Suggested topics might be Quaker process, or the stories of early Quakers. The committee has reported to the Records Clerk that there are 17 young people in our program: infant to pre-kindergarten—Ethan Massie, Tristan Ripani, Laurel Ripani, Alexander George and Sebastian George; Junior Young Friends—Sarah White, Alex White, Emma Massie, Evan Massie, Eli Massie and Celie Hayslette; Young Friends—Laurel Sheffield and Maya DeHart and, away at college, Silvia Sheffield, Rosa Friedrichs, Russell Trimmer and Katie Lauck.

Sandra Stuart, clerk of Finance and Stewardship, read aloud the letter the committee will send to Baltimore Yearly Meeting presiding clerk Betsy Meyer concerning the re-apportionment of financial contributions from monthly meetings.

Some points in the letter, which is attached, were these:

The apportionment for Maury River Friends, a suggested \$5,000 for 2012, was discussed First Month, 29th day during a Second Hour “threshing session” attended by 17 Friends. Lively discussion, with many questions and observations, followed an introduction by three friends who provided information on the history of apportionment since 1982, the earlier method of determining apportionments dependent on reporting from individual monthly meetings, and the apparent need for changing that method addressed at the 2011 Baltimore Yearly Meeting annual session. This change would create a model based on 2011 levels of apportionment with annual increases of approximately 10%.

Among the questions and answers were at what point could a meeting’s apportionment be reassessed—a drastic change in the meeting; what would the result be of Maury River’s not contributing its share—the charge would be distributed among other meetings; and can Maury River afford an increase from \$4,000 to \$5,000--the treasurer said that Maury River could afford the \$1,000 increase and Finance and Stewardship encouraged generosity, but would like the contributions to be made quarterly in order to track the expense; and why is the apportionment asked of Maury River 25% rather than 10%--to bring the meeting’s apportionment up to the level of other meetings of our size.

Observations included information that Baltimore Yearly Meeting expenses rise annually, that the expenses of running the camps is offset, largely, by camp revenues, and that we agreed, when becoming part of BYM, to the apportionment process.

Included in the letter was a recapitulation of the annual session figures about Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s apportionment: Out of 39 meetings, Maury River ranked 20th in 2011, 16th in 2012. The increase for all meetings was averaged at 4%. Increases range from .1% for the four largest meetings with annual contributions of \$24,000 to \$60,000 (which may be experiencing financial stresses due to national economic problems), to 25% for Maury River and Nottingham.

Response to the queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting to monthly meetings about reapportionment indicated that those attending the threshing session felt that the proposed method would have an unfair impact on Maury River and that the former method of figuring apportionment should continue to be used. “If the new system is adopted, then 2012 apportionment numbers (based on 2011 data) should not be the base line...we had already had a difficult time with the 25% increase for 2011.”

The letter was approved and will be sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Sandra was thanked for the good work of making clear a complicated series of issues.

Treasurer John White presented for approval the 2012 budget. The method of preparing the new budget has changed, John said. Formerly, budgets were built on the basis of examining actual expenses from the previous year. Working with Finance and Stewardship, the Treasurer this year is proposing a budget based on possible, perhaps even desirable, goals. The question, John said, is “how should meeting spend its money?” After a brief survey of suggested changes—among them the \$1000 rise in our contribution to Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and a

\$2000 increase in designated benevolences--John said \$1328 was the average monthly amount of money given to Meeting in 2011. In order to meet the suggested budget of \$20,000, that amount would need to be increased to \$1667 per month. Clerk said that John had asked meeting to decide how Finance and Stewardship and the Treasurer should regulate our outgoing money. Discussion followed. Among the questions were how much of the income was spent on the building fund—none—and how much money is in the building fund now—about \$1000. Several friends expressed concern about the new budget model and others expressed preference for the old model, seen as less risky. Clerk advised that the budget had been before us, along with the new way of managing funds, since Tenth month. If not approved now, then we would continue to use the 2011 budget. Speaking on behalf of Finance and Stewardship, Sandra Stuart said she believed the new model was a good way to set out goals, that it was a symbol of hope that might encourage friends to meet these financial goals. The new budget model was not in fact a risky shift.

Clerk, reminding friends that money was never the root of Quaker process, asked if meeting approved the budget, if understood that it would be used experimentally.

The budget was approved.

Worship and Ministry clerk Jim Warren gave the first reading of The Spiritual State of Maury River Meeting. Two keywords were constants: “support” and “deep.” Describing the deep joy of the growth of love among us, the report mentioned the gift of our children, the support for a minute on Right Relationship with Creation and the success of our Second Hours on individual spiritual journeys. This last “has fostered a growth in trust, a willingness to take risks, and a building of confidence that we are large enough to surround differences.” Committee work was mentioned as trying, and the lack of a full-time clerk as challenging. Clerk suggested that friends could read the hand-out and discuss potential changes with the committee. The report will return for us for a second reading Third Month.

Speaking as Clerk of Worship and Ministry, Jim Warren said the committee had met three times during January and February, and had planned a series of Second Hours. In addition, in response to questions by clerk Katherine Smith, the committee is planning a clerks’ workshop for the discussion of charges to committees. Clerk asked that the report be forwarded to Richard Barnes for inclusion in our newsletter.

Clerk Kathy Fox gave the report for Peace and Justice. The committee met Second Month, 15th day for work on the Right Relationship with Creation minute. Friends are urged to contact committee members Jim Warren, Bill Jones, Kit Jones, Colquitt Meacham, Eli Fishpaw or Kathy Fox with any concerns or ideas about the minute. The Committee will present the minute Third Month for approval. Gratitude was expressed to Peggy Dyson-Cobb for preparing and leading a well-attended Second Hour on “Muscle Building for Peace and Justice.” Friends had been asked to contact state senators urging defeat of the “Triggerman” bill designed to extend the death penalty to accessories to capital crime. The Virginia Senate Court of Justice struck down the bill. Friends are also reminded to contact US senators urging defeat of legislation that would approve the Keystone Pipeline. Phil Hyre was thanked for sending out this information via emails.

Speaking for Nominating Committee, clerk announced that Kathy Fox had volunteered and was approved by the committee to serve on the Fellowship Committee. Clerk also said that Sandra Hayslette had stepped down from Peace and Justice.

Mary Stratton gave the Care and Counsel report for clerk Mary Barnes. The committee met Feb. 26, reviewed the committee charges and added what they called a "task time-line." One such task is encouraging friends to complete the "Wishes for My End of Life" form. Thus far, 21 friends have completed the forms and two have done so online. Instructions are securely private. The committee is also supporting the sharing of personal information in the newsletter. Those who wish to have their birthdays acknowledged are invited to include the date in a calendar kept in the meeting room.

Clerk had two items of business. A copy of the request from Greenbrier Friends Worship Group to be released from the guidance of Maury River Friends has been sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Second, a reminder that Baltimore Yearly Meeting's interim meeting will be held March 17 in Charlottesville. Inquiring about the clerking workshop held February 18, clerk was told that five friends from Maury River attended. Total attendance was 40.

Morris Trimmer announced that he would be clerking next First Day.

The Meeting ended with a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Raiford Smith, clerk

Maury River Friends Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Third Month, 25th day, 2012

Morris Trimmer, clerk

Attending:

Mary Helen Brainerd, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, John Friedrichs, Suzanne Friedrichs, Phil Hyre, Bill Jones, Kit Jones, Colquitt Meacham, Daphne Raz, Katherine Smith, Sandra Stuart, Jim Warren, Christine Williams

Meeting began with a moment of silence followed by clerk's reading, from the provisional edition of the new Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practices, two paragraphs: one focusing on the need to remember that our business meetings are in fact, meetings for worship; and the second, quoting Barry Morley's explication of sense of the meeting.

The minutes from Second Month, 26th day were read and approved as corrected.

Clerk suggested making a reference to the Memorial Service for Haines Sprunt Tate held March 24 in the Meetinghouse.

Jim Warren, clerk of Worship and Ministry, reported that the committee had met at Ruth Woodcock's Kendal apartment 12 March after lunch. Second Hours were set through May, 2012 and work was done on the March 18 Internal Disarmament Second Hour. Note was made about the scheduled March 31 Clerk's Meeting, at the Meetinghouse, to discuss committee charges, schedules and processes.

Warren then introduced, for a second reading, the 2011 Report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting to be sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He said that no changes other than an editorial correction were suggested after the first reading: the very young friend actually said that the annual fundraising spaghetti supper was "like holding someone in the Light only more efficient." Friends were satisfied to dispense with the reading and approved the report.

Christine Williams, speaking for Religious Education, said the committee had discussed the upcoming camping season and reminded Friends that scholarships were available. The children continue studying Quaker history and as a correlative to meeting's projected Right Relationship with Creation minute the natural world. They are also making a quilt that will be auctioned off as a fundraiser. The RE committee also studied its charges, in particular the need to involve more adult friends in Religious Education classes. In view of the lack of Friends' response to Second Month's invitation to either sit in on or teach a class, committee members have decided to approach individuals and ask them to participate. The committee expresses gratitude for the "quiet and capable" care that young friend Laurel Sheffield gives to our youngest children during worship.

Clerk Kathy Fox, clerk, said the committee had followed FCNL's suggestion and advised Maury River friends that there was still time to contact the two Virginia senators about Resolution 380. Friends Committee on National Legislation is preparing to address priorities for its future work. A list of potential areas of focus has been sent via email and Kathy brought to meeting printed versions of the list. The committee would like us to study the list, pick our personal preferences, and respond by April 15. Kathy also announced that the US senate has prohibited continued work on the Keystone pipeline and said the committee again thanked Peggy Dyson-Cobb for her second hour work on Internal Disarmament.

Kathy said the committee was grateful for all the work that those outside the committee had done on the Minute of Right Relationship with Creation. With approval, the committee will be seeking discernment on moving forward with the Minute.

Within the Peace and Justice report, Jim Warren read Maury River Friends Meeting Minute on Right Relationship with Creation. The report, in its entirety, is attached. The introduction, with a slight revision, read as follows:

“We believe that right relationship with Creation is a testimony in accord with our traditional Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality. We are called to live in right relationship, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected. Our individual and corporate choices significantly affect the lives of our fellow humans, the well-being of other species, the functioning of the natural environment, and future generations. We have a leading to act so as to do less harm in a continuing transformative process to find right relationship.”

The final paragraph, also with a small editorial change, read as follows:

We recognize that a testimony of right relationship with Creation calls for mindfulness in a continuing process of transformation, both personal and corporate. Mindfulness is spirit-led. We see ways to uplift and nurture, rather than be overwhelmed with environmental despair. We encourage Friends to proceed with divine guidance, love, and a commitment for action in our daily lives.”

An extemporaneous silence settled on meeting after the reading. The discussion that followed centered on meeting’s deep satisfaction with the minute and included approval of the spiritual content and language of the minute. A friend, who had earlier reminded meeting of the difference between approving a minute and owning it, said “if we own this we won’t walk away from it, we won’t put others on the defensive, and we are going to be leaders. Clerk said the work of the committee and meeting as a whole that resulted in the minute was not an end but a beginning. Jim said the committee believed it was a continuation. A being led. A friend who had submitted to the committee for its evaluation a different version of the minute said he was satisfied with this version. Another expressed regret that there were so few present to hear the minute. This prompted clerk to ask Peace and Justice to submit the minute to newsletter editor Richard Barnes.

The minute was approved.

Clerk for House and Grounds Daphne Raz said the committee had met March 14 and worked on various upcoming projects, including final arrangements for the April 7 workday. She said the committee called attention to the many ways our meetinghouse cares for us and the implied duty we have of taking care of the building.

For Fellowship, clerk Kit Jones said the committee had met 2nd day of 2nd month and reviewed and discussed their charges, set in 2007. The committee will supply the treasurer with receipts for expenditures, and it thanks Christine Williams for buying the coffee for meeting. Volunteers will provide snacks and will brew coffee. The responsibilities of the Fellowship committee include finding volunteers who can be expected, among other things, to host potlucks in their homes, organize the Goshen potluck picnic, manage the food and drink for post-meeting socializing and host the Christmas parade potluck. Assisting in the set up for Meeting for Business potluck and the Christmas Eve potluck, buying kitchen supplies and looking after the tidiness of the kitchen are also committee responsibilities. During a short discussion of the

charges, a friend said there had not yet been a decision made about whether or not we would have a Christmas Eve celebration.

Kit said she had two questions she would like meeting to consider. Clerk asked if these questions could be treated as queries and addressed outside meeting. Kit said the questions were short and germane to the meeting. Could a final check on coffee machines and the like be included in the closing list posted by the door? This suggestion was approved after a short discussion.

The second question involved the limits of fellowship responsibilities stated earlier outside the areas already covered. These included use of the Meetinghouse for weddings, funerals, workshops, workdays, seminars and the like. This was described as a good question, one that threw light on grey areas. One friend said Care and Counsel had been involved in the recent use of the Meetinghouse, another said it might be possible to ask a donation for such uses, and a third urged flexibility. Clerk advised that we needed to close the discussion and move on.

Katherine Smith, speaking for Care and Counsel, reminded friends that the End of Life directives were due and committee members intended to contact those who had not yet either submitted a new form or updated one filed earlier. Sandra Hayslette is going in for surgery and Keely Massie will coordinate help with food.

Mary Helen Brainard reminded Friends that the Blue Ridge Gathering will be held April 29 in Blacksburg.

Morris Trimmer, clerk

Maury River Friends Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Fourth Month, 22nd Day, 2012

Mary Stratton, clerk

Attending: Mary Barnes, Richard Barnes, Mary Helen Brainard, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, Phil Hyre, Daphne Raz, Nancy Rose, Elise Sheffield, Katherine Smith, Wil Stratton, Sandra Stuart, Morris Trimmer, and John White.

Meeting began at 11:30 am with a few minutes of silence followed by clerk's reading a poem about simplicity published in the current edition of Friends Journal.

The minutes from Third Month, 26th day were read and approved with no corrections.

John White began the treasurer's report with an analysis of meeting's profit and loss for the first quarter. Net income is \$1342.42 with monthly giving at an acceptable level. The \$2172.58 spent includes \$1,000 sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting as partial payment of our total apportionment responsibility. Bookkeeping balances are also in healthy shape. Discussion followed. Questions included categories for ordinary meetinghouse expenses such as housekeeping and lawn care—general fund or building fund, depending on the amount; the Sufferings Fund—John said the fund had not been active since 2005, and Finance and Stewardship co-clerk Sandra Stuart explained that it was kept open as a line item in order to quickly fund it in case a need arose; another friend asked if the \$1,000 apportionment contribution was based on annual meeting proceeds of \$15,000 or \$20,000—meeting is committed to \$4000 per year and can afford that amount. Clerk noted that Maury River was not represented at the April 21 Baltimore Yearly Meeting apportionment meeting. Sandra said she will request that minutes of that meeting be sent to us. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Peggy Dyson-Cobb gave the Worship and Ministry report for clerk Jim Warren. Three members of the committee met April 4 at Kendal. Work done included suggesting "Quakers in Transition" as a theme for Second Hours in 2012-2013. Another suggestion was tracking responses to Second Hours focused on Right Relationship with Creation as a way of discerning patterns which could lead to answers to the question: "What are we called to do?" For the present, in response to Jemma Mayer's offer to lead singing each third First Day, the committee suggested singing after summer meetings for worship initially before fellowship, then, after fellowship.

The committee also worked on clarifying and organizing Maury River's committee structure, a result of the March 31 clerk's committee chaired by Jim Warren. Peggy chose not to read the charges or guidelines, but will post them on the bulletin board. Some of the directions included in the guidelines were: Committee meetings, excepting those of Care and Counsel and Nominating, are open. Each committee receives its charge from monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and is responsible for representing that charge within the meeting and larger communities. Committees are to meet regularly and report on those meetings at monthly meeting for business. And summaries of committee work are to be prepared at the end of the year, submitted to meeting for business First Month, and sent to presiding clerk and the

clerk of Worship and Ministry. These summaries are also to be reviewed during the committee's first meeting of the new year.

In addition, Worship and Ministry reminds friends that announcements are not for partisan political purposes. "Issues are fine, but electioneering is not, because partisan announcements assume everyone is of the same political view."

Lastly Peggy said meeting had received three tickets from BYM, each good for two free days at annual session in August for any first time attender. The purpose is to encourage those who have never been to annual session to try it out.

The Peace and Justice report was given for clerk Kathy Fox by Eli Fishpaw. The committee met 12th day, Fourth Month. Among subjects discussed was the dissemination of our Minute on Right Relationship with Creation. Jim Warren will bring to Fifth month meeting for worship with concern for business a letter, which, with meeting's approval, will be sent with the minute to other monthly meetings within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The BYM Friends in Unity with Nature committee has already received a copy of the minute. The committee will continue to work on ways to implement the minute both within our meeting and in the larger community. For help with this, the committee again thanks Peggy Dyson-Cobb for her second hours.

The committee requests meeting participation in the May 12 US post office drive for the Food Pantry. Following a short discussion which included determining if the drive was actually occurring, meeting's participation was approved.

As part of the report, an announcement was made about a fund-raising reception to be held May 20 at the home of Colquitt Meacham, a member of the local Court Appointed Special Advocate board. CASA, a program supported by the Department of Justice for the benefit of children in the court system, may lose its funding,

The Fellowship Committee report was read for clerk Kit Jones by Morris Trimmer. Events planned by the committee include a hike and potluck 28th Fourth at the home of Richard and Mary Barnes and an intergenerational contra dance to be held as part of Religious Education's traditional end of First Day school/graduation celebration held this year on 3rd Sixth. Wil Stratton was asked and has agreed to lead the dance for all attenders, young and old. Other planned events include the Goshen picnic, tentatively set for August 18 with Kathy Fox as lead planner. The committee invited Kendal to host a potluck in the fall. A coordinator is needed for a possible fall camping trip. Finally, the committee thanks those who make refreshments after meeting for helping "in the spiritual life of the Meeting through fellowship with one another."

Clerk Daphne Raz read the report for House and Grounds. The April 7 workday went well and was well attended with much-needed work done in addition to routine cleaning and maintenance. The main focus of the report was a recapitulation of the April 15 worship-sharing Second Hour devoted to discussion of the possible installation of photo-voltaic energy panels. "While there was much enthusiasm for taking this step, there was enough reluctance to let us know that we are not ready as a meeting to go forward." There was agreement to a variety of ways in which our committees can work together to protect and promote our minute on Right

Relationship with Creation and House and Grounds will be ready to implement leadings as they pertain to the meeting house. "In summary, our path to corporate discernment, as always, is through worship and active participation in the life of the meeting. We appreciate the deeply considered sharings of the day and look forward to continued exploration of our way forward together."

There was no Care and counsel report, but clerk Mary Barnes said one family is still under the committee's care. She also urged attention to the end of life documents which can be filed with meeting.

One friend thanked the committee for their work with members of her family.

Co-clerk Mary Helen Brainard gave the report for Religious Education. Many Easter and spring activities occurred in April, and lessons centered on the natural world, including Maury River's minute on Right Relationship with Creation. Each first day begins with candle lighting and quiet and ends with joining adults in the meeting room. RE is working with Fellowship on the June 3 festivities which will mark the end of classes. The committee again addressed the ways in which adult meeting attenders could help with RE, This summer, that includes being Friendly Adult Presences during creekside playtime and, potentially, helping with infant care. Emma Massie, Evan Massie and Katie Lauck will attend Shiloh camp this summer. Devan Malore and Kurt Massie will provide three weeks of work grant assistance. Maury River has contributed \$1275 in camp scholarships. The committee encourages friends to contact either co-clerk about RE ideas or thoughts. And reminds friends that Elise Sheffield is on sabbatical.

Clerk Sandra Stuart gave the report for Finance and Stewardship. The committee met Ninth, Fourth with all three members present. \$1275 has been spent for camp scholarships and \$1,000 was sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting as a one-fourth payment of our apportionment. The treasurer by mail or email notified friends about their personal contributions for first quarter. A table indicating total amounts given and amounts necessary to meet expenses will be included in the newsletter. The 2011 benevolences, totaling \$2700, have been paid.

A short discussion about the April 29 Blue Ridge Gathering in Blacksburg closed out the business.

The meeting ended with short period of silence.

Mary Stratton, clerk

Maury River Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Fifth Month, 27th day, 2012

Wil Stratton Clerk

Attending: Mary Barnes, Mary Helen Brainard, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, John Friedrichs, Joseph Martinez, Donna Sheffield, Eric Sheffield, Daphne Raz, Nancy Rose, Katherine Smith, Mary Stratton

Clerk read from the book Quaker Spirituality a selection by Caroline Stephen on discerning simplicity. A moment of silence followed.

Clerk began a series of announcements by recommending to Friends the emailed document describing Baltimore Yearly Meeting 2011-2012 activities. He offered to forward the document to those who wished to read it. He also passed along a warning from Australia Meeting to be aware of a scam using Friends' names as a way of enticing the unwary into sending money to an address in the Philippines. Further announcements included the information that there will be no Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in June and that he, Wil Stratton, would fill in for Jim Warren, the named clerk of that meeting.

There was no treasurer's report, but clerk referred to a report from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Stewardship and Finance Committee concerning proposed 2013 apportionments. The committee met April 21, 2012 in Dayton, VA to finalize plans for reapportionment. The original BYM apportionment called for an across the board increase of 3% for monthly meetings. Since that meeting, the committee received a "number of positive changes to the budget..." The result was adjusting apportionments downward. For Maury River, the apportionment declined from \$5,000 to \$4590. Clerk reminded Friends that a major portion of the BYM budget is spent on Quaker camps. Since many Maury River children attend camp, we are supporting the yearly meeting in that way as well.

Finally, Baltimore Yearly Meeting again plans a clerking workshop led by Arthur Larrabee. The 2013 workshop will be held in Frederick, Maryland.

No Worship and Ministry report, but clerk passed on to Friends an apology from Jim Warren for missing a planned Second Hour based on his workshop for Maury River clerks.

The Care and Counsel report was given by clerk Mary Barnes. The committee met Fifth month, 24th day and reviewed possible needs of any meeting's members and attenders and meeting's response to filling out the end of life forms. Other work included organizing a clearness committee for membership, requested by Eli Fishpaw and assigning committee members to contact individuals who sign the meeting's guest book. The committee was pleased to help coordinate the service for Haines Sprunt Tate, sister of Elise Sheffield, and checked to be sure that the service was included in meeting's minutes.

The Religious Education Committee report, read by co-clerk Mary Helen Brainard, focused on the June 3 "graduation" celebration for our young friends. At the rise of meeting, Mary Helen will

recognize each young friend and describe his or her summer or fall plans. Following a light lunch, Wil Stratton will lead dancing. June 3 marks the end of our First Day School year and volunteers are needed to supervise Junior Young Friends during Meeting for Worship. A sign up sheet has been posted. Laurel Sheffield, who cares for our infants and toddlers, will not be able to work during July. The committee is looking for a replacement for that month. At the end of the report, a friend expressed our meeting's gratitude to the committee "for all you do."

There was no report from the Fellowship Committee. Clerk conveyed Fellowship clerk Kit Jones' apology.

The Peace and Justice report was given by clerk Kathy Fox, The committee met Tenth day, Fifth month will five members attending. Among issues addressed were legal action being taken against the Virginia Dept. of Corrections for prison guards, rather than medical personnel administering lethal injections. On a happier note, the committee thanked Tasha Walsh for her Second Hour presentation and noted that three Maury River friends participated in the annual post office food drive. The work of Eli Fishpaw was singled out.

The committee suggests adding CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, to the list of Maury River benevolences contributions and reminds friends that the committee would like us to consider all benevolences for 2012. Committee member Eli Fishpaw will forward to Richard Barnes the sustainability queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Friends in Unity with Nature for meeting's consideration.

Lastly, the committee asked if Maury River was interested in once again participating in the Community Festival, set this year for August 25. The discussion that followed was very positive and included observations that meeting's participation was a "nice outreach" and a "pleasant way for fellowship" with the larger community. Questions centered about a possible theme such as the American Friends Service Committee's informative poster about the amount of money being spent daily on war. Such specificity gives viewers a reminder of the moral aspects of our national budget. A sign up sheet has been posted.

The House and Grounds report was given by clerk Daphne Raz. The committee met 24th day, Fourth month, and was joined briefly by Sandra Stuart and Ann Preuss, the ad hoc library committee. The new light fixture in the library has markedly improved the lighting—"everyone is quite amazed"—and the committee will continue to experiment with the best use of space, heat and natural light. Committee work included reviews of its charges and discussion of summer projects, including some painting and work on the shed. Future work includes methods of making the back door entrance more inviting, perhaps with a portico. Lastly, the committee discussed committee meeting minutes with the hope that "spirit-led discussion will give us greater understanding of the place of our minutes in our committee work."

In response to clerk's question about other business, a friend, who had run for local public office, asked for clarification of the Fourth Month minutes on Worship and Ministry's item concerning political announcements. That item read as follows: worship and ministry "reminds friends that announcements are not for partisan political purposes. 'Issues are fine, but electioneering is not, because partisan announcements assume everyone is of the same

political view.” Much discussion followed, with some friends expressing strong feelings. The language and energy used in such announcements was mentioned and friends were reminded that “there are many shades of gray” among even colorfully clad Quakers. Peggy Dyson-Cobb, who had read the worship and ministry report, said the committee had been approached by someone who was shocked at the tone of an announcement and asked Worship and Ministry to adjudicate. She said the committee’s better route would have been to suggest that meeting discuss the issue. A friend agreed, saying the issue was a Worship and Ministry decision, but her “sense is that we perhaps should not have come so quickly to a decision.” The subject closed with the expressed sense that “we need to talk more about this.” Clerk thanked the friend who had brought up the issue.

After reminding friends that several tickets for two days’ participation in Yearly Meeting were available at no charge to first-time attenders, clerk closed the meeting with a few moments of silence.

Wil Stratton Clerk

Maury River Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Seventh Month, 22nd Day, 2012

Clerk Jim Warren

Attending: Mary Helen Brainard, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, John Friedrichs, Phil Hyre, Daphne Raz, Elise Sheffield, Eric Sheffield, Katherine Smith and Judy Wiegand

Meeting opened with a reading by Morris Trimmer of a Friends Journal poem on the metaphor of weeding.

Minutes for Fifth Month (there was no Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in Sixth Month) were read. A friend questioned the basis used by the recording clerk for including names of individuals who speak during Meeting for Business. The Recording clerk said she uses names of those friends who give reports and friends who participate in discussions or ask questions are mentioned and sometimes quoted anonymously. Several Friends spoke in support of this method. The minutes were approved as read.

Clerk's business followed with two important communications. The first, from Palm Beach (Florida) Monthly Meeting was in response to Judy Wiegand's request that her membership be transferred to Maury River. The request, which was granted, was accompanied by a letter from clerk Shauna Coolican. "We are pleased to know that Judy has found a home in your meeting and we know that she will continue as a faithful Friend and devoted member of Maury River Friends Meeting." Judy's membership was approved and acknowledged with joy. The second communication was from Care and Counsel Clerk Mary Barnes. The Clearness Committee for membership that met 24th day, Fifth Month recommended Eli Fishpaw for membership in Maury River meeting. Eli's membership was also approved with joy.

Jim Warren, as clerk of Worship and Ministry, reported that the committee met 16th day, Seventh Month at Ruth Woodcock's home. Planning for fall was on the agenda. Second Hours, which begin in September, will include several led by Peace and Justice.

Clerk Kathy Fox gave the report for Peace and Justice. The committee, with three members present, met 12th day, Seventh Month. The committee discussed the RARA food pantry drive. The committee mailed 15th day Sixth Month to all Baltimore Yearly Meeting meetings copies of Maury River's Right Relationship with Creation minute along with a cover letter. No responses have thus far been received. The committee discussed Second Hours which Peace and Justice will lead. Two Second Hours in September will focus on benevolence. The first, September 9, will be devoted to personal giving. The second, September 16, will address corporate giving at Maury River. These second hours were considered timely because Maury River's 2012 budget includes a significantly higher amount for benevolences. Kathy said the committee felt it was important for meeting to be clearer about what we support, actually look at our benevolences and perhaps make changes. In response to friend's question about the form of these Second Hours, Kathy said queries would be prepared and disseminated before the meetings. Peace and Justice will also lead a Second Hour in October; this one based on the Sustainability Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Committee in Unity with Nature. Ending the report,

Kathy said the committee would like suggestions for possible themes for Maury River's booth at the August 25 Community Festival. Past suggestions included showing relative military spending. A friend suggested that this might be a good year to present Right Relationship.

Daphne Raz, clerk gave the report for House and Grounds. The committee met 19th day, Seventh Month at the home of Wil and Mary Stratton. All members, excepting Flossie Cook who was supervising tree removal and yard clean up at her home, were present. Among items of business was acknowledgement that the destructive Derecho storm that wreaked havoc in the surrounding area did no damage to the meeting house. Not so the mice, who have made a reappearance. Friends are asked to be mindful of mouse prevention—cleaning up food, watching out for possible nesting places—as well as cleaning up after the mice. Gravel will be spread at the shed porch area by Joseph Martinez and Phil Hyre. This marks the completion of the decade-long shed building project and the committee hopes the area will be a site for Friends to enjoy. Wil Stratton will repair the casings of the door between the kitchen and the meeting room. The old faux finish, which is expensive to reproduce, will not be used. The committee will select a finish “that respects the integrity of the meeting room as well as the high use of this particular opening. Friends are invited to give suggestions.

The fall work day has been scheduled for September 29.

Other committee business included discussion about improving the back (kitchen) entrance. Concerns were several, including the wisdom of investing funds “in a building that requires so much transportation energy to access,” and “hesitation to invest in our own comfort when so many are in great need.” The report ended with a statement that the committee felt comfortable with the following conclusions: “Until there is a clear leading to conduct our worship in another location, this building will continue to be the center of our corporate spiritual life, and it is the responsibility of this committee to maintain and improve it within our means. At all times we strive for simplicity and integrity, with faith that a functional building contributes to a strong meeting, which in turn allows for a powerful expression of spirit.”

Clerk, speaking the mind of many Friends, said the statement about the place of the building in our meeting's life, was excellent. A Friend said that he is the one who keeps bringing up what he sees as the problem of energy use. “I know there are people who love this Meetinghouse, but I continue to have concerns about the location.” He said he wants to explore the suitability of other locations.

The fellowship committee report, read by Eric Sheffield, included the committee's thank you for Friends' help with the end-of-school year Meeting celebration. Food expenses for that annual event might well come out of the fellowship budget. And, the committee will create a new budget to be included in Meeting's new budget. The Goshen picnic will be held September 15. Friends are asked to bring ice for cool beverages during the summer month. Included in the report was an expression of gratitude “for the wonderful fellowship our committee has been able to help facilitate for our meeting this year.”

Clerk asked if there was other business. In response a friend offered to work on the entry stepping stones. House and Ground clerk Daphne Raz thanked him and said they would discuss it.

The meeting ended with a short period of silence.

Clerk Jim Warren

Maury River Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Eighth Month, 26th day, 2012

Clerk: Jim Warren

Present: Mary Barnes, Richard Barnes, Mary Helen Brainard, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, John Friedrichs, Bill Jones, Kit Jones, Daphne Raz, Eric Sheffield, Mary Stratton, Wil Stratton, Sandra Stuart, Judith Wiegand.

Clerk opened the meeting with readings from the 2012 draft of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's revised Faith and Practice. Clerk praised the excellence of the draft, and read aloud a passage from Rainier Maria Rilke on spiritual journeys urging that rather than seeking answers, we live the question. Clerk also read a quote of Elise Boulding, reminding us that The Kingdom of God is Within. A gathered period of silence followed.

Recording clerk read the minutes from Seventh Month which were approved with several corrections.

The Peace and Justice report was read by committee member Eli Fishpaw. The committee met Eighth Month with four members present. The meeting began with a reading on advices for committees and clerks from the 2012 draft of BYM's Faith and Practice. One reply to Maury River's "Minute on Right Relationship with Creation" has been received. This, from Little Britain Monthly Meeting, included an invitation to discuss the minute at Little Britain's quarterly meeting, December 2. Peace and Justice will ask Maury River for a travel minute and, if successful, invites interested Friends to accompany committee members on the trip. {NOTE HERE WE NEED TO VOTE ON THIS} The Maury River booth at the August 25, 2012 community festival in downtown Lexington displayed a set of banners: "We are Called to Right Relationship with Creation," and "Let us then try what Love can do," the latter a William Penn quote. The committee announced again that Peace and Justice will be leading two September second hours on benevolences. In response to a question from a Friend, clerk Jim Warren clarified the intent of the second hours: the first, September 9, will focus on private giving; the second, September 16, will be devoted to our meeting's annual giving to other organizations.

The Religious Education report was given by clerk Mary Helen Brainard. Co-clerks met Eighth Month, 5th day and the entire committee met Eighth Month, 19th day. Journal keeping will be added to First Day School curriculum this year and will be part of a routine that includes candle lighting, worship and sharing. Of primary concern to the committee is the overly thin roster of teachers for the upcoming year. Several routes to address this problem are seen: either request another, rotating teacher now or wait until the nominating process begins in the fall. But as a way "to lighten our perceived load" immediately, the committee plans to ask adults "to spend a structured few minutes" with the children on first days throughout the year. This approach will also fulfill the committee's mission of supporting intergenerational involvement. In addition, meeting adults are urged to consider volunteering a few minutes each First Day to help with RE work.

The Worship and Ministry report was read by clerk Jim Warren. The committee met Eighth Month, 20th day at the home of Ruth Woodcock with four members present. Second Hours for autumn 2012 were planned and include continuing the series on individual Friends spiritual journeys. Also planned is use of the DVD and book, *Journey of the Universe*. The committee discussed Friends General Conference's "Quaker Quest," a program "for inreach and outreach" that offers public sessions on basic Quaker principles. This program "requires a big commitment, especially for a small meeting." One committee member will investigate the possibility of FGC initiative with BYM meetings. Finally, the committee discussed repeating the successful workshop for meeting clerks, possibly for the fall.

Clerk Daphne Raz gave the report for House and Grounds. The committee met recently with all members present except Flossie Cook, who is adjusting to life at Kendal. The primary business was preparing for the Fall Work Day, scheduled for September 29. A list of available jobs has been posted and Friends are invited to sign up for specific duties.

The Care and Counsel Report was read by clerk Mary Barnes. The committee met Eighth Month, Fifth day and reviewed possible Friends needs that might require special attention. Among other matters, committee members sought a way of continuing to help Jemma Mayer and Shelley Fleming and, with the permission of Jemma, opened a request to Meeting as a whole for aid. The committee also recognized Meeting's Seventh Month approval of the membership of Eli Fishpaw and transfer of Judith Wiegand {Another Issue: has FL. Been notified?}. Finally, clerk announced to the committee that a Clearness Committee for Marriage had been arranged for Sandra Hayslette and Phillip Coulling.

Sandra Stuart gave the Clearness Committee for Marriage report. The committee met Eighth Month, 17th day at the home of Sandra Stuart. Though the couple, long-time attender Sandra Hayslette and Philip Coulling, will be married at the Nature Camp with Lexington Presbyterian Church pastor Bill Klein officiating, they sought meeting's counsel as they prepared to take this step. Meeting was happy to comply, though the couple will not be married under the care of the meeting nor after the manner of friends. Notes were taken and these were given directly to Sandra and Phillip at the close of the clearness meeting. Queries, selected from those suggested in Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice, led to "frank and open discussion of their concerns." It became clear that Sandra and Philip are "devoted to and respectful of one another and to the loving inclusion of Sandra's daughter, Celie, in the upcoming marriage." Committee members "expressed their enthusiastic support for the union" and agreed to hold another meeting six weeks after the wedding if the couple wishes.

Clerk Jim Warren, who served on the committee, said it was another reminder to him that in such Quaker committee work "you get so much more than you give."

In response to clerk's asking if there was other business, a Friend brought up for discussion an issue raised at this year's annual meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Regarding transfers of

membership from one meeting to another, would a clearness committee for membership be an appropriate addition to the process? Much discussion ensued. Among various and many comments was one friend proposing that including a clearness committee could be helpful if the transferee was troubled and might pose problems for meeting. Another said a troubled person would be troubled whether an attender or a member. One friend spoke against adding levels of what might be unnecessary and essentially Un Friendly complications to the process, hoping that we “would approach such a situation with love.” A reminder was made about the length of time individuals usually attended meetings before asking for transfer from their home meetings. This insured that both attender and meeting had an opportunity for mutual learning. Another friend pointed out that there was “still a certain amount of choice” on the part of the receiving meeting about receiving a transfer.

More questions were raised, more comments made. Clerk read a portion of the draft version of Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s revised Faith and Practice on Transfers:

“Members wishing to transfer need to notify their Monthly Meeting. Following that Meeting’s approval of the request, the Clerk writes to the Clerk of the receiving Monthly Meeting to ask that the member be accepted. The receiving Meeting normally accepts the transfer request at the Business Meeting at which it is presented. When the transfer has been accepted and recorded, and the original Monthly Meeting notified of the acceptance, the Friend becomes a member of the receiving Meeting...Transfer members should be welcomed into the Monthly Meeting in the same manner as other new members. However, a clearness committee is not required for the transfer of membership.”

Clerk pointed out the determining word was “normally.”

More discussion followed with comments including seeing no difference between new and transfer membership and suggestions that Care and Counsel could be called upon, even encouraging those considering transfer to seek a clearness committee. The discourse was undertaken with charity and an openness to entertaining differing opinions. Clerk said he was hearing a range of opinions and suggested that meeting leave the issue in the hands of Care and Counsel.

Meeting ended with a period of silence.

Maury River Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Ninth Month, 23rd Day, 2012

Morris Trimmer, clerk

Attending: Mary Barnes, Mary Helen Brainard, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, Kit Jones, Elise Sheffield, Eric Sheffield, Katherine Smith, Mary Stratton, Wil Stratton, Sandra Stuart, Jim Warren, and John White.

Meeting began with a period of silence followed by clerk's reading a selection by Barry Morley on the difference between consensus and sense of the meeting from BYM's Faith and Practice.

The minutes of Eight Month were read and, following a discussion about the appropriateness of including possibly sensitive personal information such as that found in clearness committee reports, were approved.

The Worship and Ministry report was read by clerk Jim Warren. The committee met Ninth Month, 10th day at the home of Peggy Dyson-Cobb. As a prelude to the screening in the Meetinghouse, the group watched "Journey of the Universe" video. The book on which the film was based will be used during Second Hours in November and December.

The Care and Counsel report was read by clerk Mary Barnes. The committee met Ninth Month, 5th day. Following a review of possible needs of members and attenders, the committee focused on the issue raised in Eighth Month's Meeting for Business of transferring membership. The committee decided that a Clearness or Listening Committee would be a desirable step for attenders to take who wish to transfer their membership to Maury River. In addition, the committee would encourage the referring meeting to submit a more detailed letter of intent, and recommended the BYM Faith and Practice template. During discussion following the report, a friend asked if meeting was being asked to approve the committee's decision and suggested the matter be presented in Tenth Month as a minute for consultation.

Other Care and Counsel business included the committee's recommendations to meet the deadline that Baltimore Yearly Meeting has set for Maury River's response to changes proposed to Faith and Practice. This includes advising Maury River committees to survey sections in Faith and Practice that correspond to their charges. Committee clerk said that orders for bulk copies of Faith and Practice must be submitted by October 1. A friend, who has been in contact with BYM's Jim Rose, said Rose, who has worked on the revisions, would like to pay a visit to Maury River in January or February to discuss the changes. A member of Worship and Ministry suggested that that committee could handle arrangements.

Co-clerk Mary Helen Brainard gave the report for Religious Education. Among items on the agenda was setting curricula themes for the year: Fall: Bible, Thanksgiving and Jesus; Winter: Famous Quakers and Quaker process; Late Winter: Quaker Activists and Quaker process; Spring: Environment and Rebirth. The annual Simple Meal hosted by the children will be November 18, 2012. And the End of School celebration will be held June 9, 2013.

The committee again urges Meeting adults to become involved with the children either as volunteers or as scheduled auxiliary teachers. A schedule is being prepared.

Clerk Kathy Fox read the report for Peace and Justice. The committee discussed Meeting's response to the two Second Hours on Benevolences. At issue was allocating what could be \$5,000 to various charities. Opinions expressed during the Second Hour included retaining last year's list of beneficiaries at

approximately the same level—about \$2700 in all—and using the increase in one or two lump-sum gifts, perhaps to national Quaker organizations. Basing benevolent gifts as percentages of the whole budgeted amount available rather than computing on a dollar basis is committee's preferred method of arriving at their decision. Friends interested in influencing the committee's decision are invited to contact committee members.

In other business, responses to Maury River's Minute on Right Relationship have been received from both Adelphi and York monthly meetings. The committee's Second Hour on the Sustainability queries will be held October 21. Kathy also reported that Katherine Philipson and Stephen Donahoe, Friends Committee on National Legislation staff members, would like to visit Lexington in advance of what is hoped to be a massive lobbying effort in Washington in mid November, on "Shaping a More Peaceful Federal Budget." October 17 was the date preferred for the local meeting.

Finally, the committee would like Meeting's decision about continuing to participate in the annual Lexington Christmas parade. Among reasons to end our participation are a general change of tone to the parade (less militaristic) and the rapid pace of the walk, making difficult the distribution of our Peace Cranes. Perhaps another Maury River committee could undertake the parade charge. In the discussion that followed, a friend asked if the Peace and Justice committee would make a recommendation of which committee should undertake the charge and bring it before the meeting.

The Finance and Stewardship report was read by clerk Sandra Stuart. The committee met Ninth Month, 10th day and discussed various expenditures--\$700 for mowing, \$70.75 each to two attenders to help with costs of attending Friends General Conference Gathering and \$1300 to three young friends who attended Camp Shiloh. Also discussed was meeting Maury River's \$20,000 general budget goal. Giving has increased this year--quarterly notices to individuals and monthly newsletter reports have served to remind friends of our financial status--but it is still too early to safely predict meeting the goal. Nevertheless, the committee has advised Peace and Justice to allocate benevolences based on a \$5,000 budget. That amount will be lowered if the \$20,000 is not reached. The 2013 budget will be discussed at next month's meeting for business.

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer John White. The report, which covered 2012 to August, indicated income of \$11,324.94 and expense of \$8,671.40. The report was presented as a preliminary to the Tenth Month budget discussion. The categories shown in the Expenses portion of the report--Spiritual Life (\$2,348.35), Meetinghouse (\$2,865.49) Baltimore Yearly Meeting apportionment (\$2,300.00) and "Funds" and Building Account (\$1,157.56)—were the basis of the discussion that followed. The treasurer's asked if meeting wants to do a budget based on percentages. John suggested that this method "has worked well for us this year" and likes using the percentage basis to figure our budget as a way to clearly analyze income and expense. Given that basis, a further question is whether or not the one quarter allotment to each of four categories adequately reflects real expenditure. A cursory look at the figures indicates a disparity. Such a division "may not be workable," and, if not, "how do we change the percentages?"

Clerk asked John if the ideas about percentages were for future discussion. John answered yes, and Sandra Stuart, speaking for Finance and Stewardship, said comments would be welcomed today as the committee will soon be working on the budget. A further question addressed the apportionment figure for Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Has it been changed? The treasurer said it had not been changed for this year, but would change for 2013. Changes reflect the income level for each Meeting. One friend asked if this, in effect, meant a never-ending cycle: we make more, then we give more to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Treasurer said this was how it worked, and suggested that making our fair contribution was a friendly way of participating in BYM.

Mary Barnes, clerk, as a First Reading, distributed copies of the Nominating Committee's choices for 2013. A Second Reading, with final approval, will occur in Tenth Month.

The Fellowship Committee report was read by clerk Kit Jones. Two recent events-- a potluck Seventh Month, 28th day at Elise and Eric Sheffields, and the annual Goshen Pass picnic held Ninth Month, 15th day—were successful examples of Maury River Friends fellowship. Comments included the announcement of an October 20 potluck at Katherine Smith's.

Clerk reminded friends of the September 29 fall work day at the Meetinghouse. And made note that the FCNL lobby day in Washington is November 15-16.

The meeting ended with a period of silence.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

MRF Tenth Month 2012 Minutes

Mary Stratton, Clerk

Attending: Mary Helen Brainard, Mary Barnes, Richard Barnes, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Eli Fishpaw, Kathy Fox, Kit Jones, Daphne Raz, Nancy Rose, Donna Sheffield, Eric Sheffield, Wil Stratton, Morris Trimmer, Jim Warren, Judith Wiegand, John White, and Christine Williams.

Clerk opened meeting with a reading on right Stewardship from the revised version of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice. A brief moment of silence followed.

Treasurer John White introduced the 2013 budget. Saying the projected spending amounts shown were "imaginary numbers," John explained that two models could be implemented: leave funding as it is, or make significant changes. In short, "which imaginary numbers do we keep." The models shown reflected Finance and Stewardship's decision to divide Maury River expenses into four categories which each would receive a quarter of meeting's income. Actual spending indicated that certain categories used more than others, and some did not use what had been allocated. Clerk said this was the first year Maury River had used the quarter system and asked how friends felt about it. The discussion that followed indicated that friends were generally pleased. One friend suggested focusing on which categories were fixed, such as Meetinghouse expenses, and deciding on allocating to other categories. Equal spending on benevolences and the meetinghouse was favorably commented on as "part of our moral statement." One friend, while supporting the division of expenses as shown, opposed spending more in certain categories "just to meet the numbers." Another suggested contributing any unspent allocation to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Some friends admitted earlier reservations about the percentage basis but had come to favor it. One friend said that a one-year trial of the process seemed inadequate and that he favored what he called the general experiment, one he thought might be of interest to BYM. John said the plan was formulated as a way of making the budget process seem more honest, more rooted in our values. In addition, the inclusion this year, for the first time, of in-kind contributions offered a clearer look at actual expenditures. Clerk asked if meeting was in agreement with the plan, which was having its first reading. Meeting agreed.

Clerk Mary Barnes read the Care and Counsel Report. The committee, which met Tenth Month, 24th day, reviewed possible needs of attenders and members and made plans to go forward with Maury River committees' responses to Baltimore Yearly Meeting's revised Faith and Practice. In addition, in view of the recent deaths of Sam Dobyms and Russell Smith, the committee plans to renew its efforts to encourage members to complete a "Wishes for the End of Life" form. Also on the agenda was the creation of a Minute for the transfer of membership: "We at Maury River Friends Meeting recognize the value of having a Clearness Committee for a person wishing to transfer membership. Such a procedure could help even long-term attenders feel a 'grounding' with our meeting. To help with such a Clearness Committee, we would like to

have the originating meeting fully introduce the person by sharing that person's contributions to the life of the meeting. The Clearness Committee would bring their recommendation for transfer to the following Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business." In response to a question, Mary said requests for transfer would be made to Maury River's clerk. The minute was approved.

Clerk Kit Jones gave the Fellowship Committee report. The committee, which has met only three times thus far in 2012, agreed to try to meet the second Firstday of each month. A sign-up sheet for Christmas Eve Celebration will be provided at the November 11 meeting. Other business included a review of snacks for meeting's fellowship hour, with recommendations of providing snacks during the summer months and creating an electronic sign up form for those who wished to bring snacks throughout the year. (Richard Barnes will email the form.)

Daphne Raz, clerk of House and Grounds, extended the committee's thanks to all those who participated in the recent workday.

Clerk Jim Warren gave the Worship and Ministry report. The committee met Tenth Month, 15th day and set the calendar for rise of meeting and Second Hours through December. Ordering copies of the book Journey of the Universe was discussed, as was a possible visit by Tai Chi Chih teacher John Smallwood. The meeting ended with holding committee member Ruth Woodcock in the Light.

Clerk Kathy Fox gave the Peace and Justice Report. The committee met Tenth Month, 18th day and discussed, among other things, the recent visit of Friends Committee on National Legislation staff members who came to Lexington to promote the November 15-16 meetings in Washington DC focused on influencing the national budget and the amount spent on defense. The committee suggests, for those not attending the event, contacting Senator Mark Warner. The committee held a Second Hour, Tenth, 21st, based on the Sustainability Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Unity With Nature committee.

On the subject of Eli Fishpaw's Twelfth Month, 2nd day visit to Little Britain's Quarterly Meeting, clerk asked Kathy, if, as was customary, she was being asked to write a travel minute. But Kathy had brought the minute, composed by the committee with help from Peggy Dyson-Cobb. No Maury River member offered to accompany Eli, and a Gunpowder Meeting friend will join Eli on the trip dedicated to presenting Maury River's Right Relationship with Creation minute. One friend reminded meeting that it was customary for two friends from the same meeting to undertake a minuted travel. Another said that was Quaker tradition, but that circumstances had changed. The travel minute, which Kathy asked clerk Mary Stratton to sign, was approved. A copy is appended to this document.

In other business, the committee recommended laying down Maury River's participation in Lexington's annual Christmas parade.

The committee also brought forward, for a first reading, the 2012 budget, based on a \$4,000 total, for Maury River's benevolences. Copies were distributed and much discussion ensued. One friend voiced concern with a \$400 increase to Quaker Earthcare Witness; another

suggested enlarging the \$100 contribution to Friends General Conference. A friend asked about the deletion of the undesignated benevolences category—some of those had been moved to other subheads—another, who commented on the large number of recipients, asked about the inclusion of Maury River Senior Center. One friend suggested a Second Hour for discussing the benevolence budget, since not all friends attended the recent corporate giving discussion. Another friend suggested redundancy, saying meeting had already had such a Second Hour. A friend said she understood that there were two overall recommendations: one, we keep the regular list of beneficiaries and change the recipients of annual large donations. Finally, a friend asked for a more full explanation of the budget, since these are large amounts of money going to a few recipients. Clerk reminded friends that the budget was still under consideration and told the committee to bring it back for approval Eleventh month.

Mary Helen Brainard, co-clerk, gave the report for Religious Education. The committee continues to work on curricula. The aim is to weave together Quaker way and history with Bible stories and art, music and environmental and social activism studies. Efforts are made to “right size” the offerings in view of sporadic attendance. Work is being done on the Simple Meal set for Eleventh Month, 18th day. RE is looking for an electronic keyboard.

Nominating committee Clerk Mary Barnes presented for second reading the list of Nominations for 2013-2014. The list, which is attached, was approved with gratitude from meeting for all the hard work the committee had done.

In other business, Wil Stratton announced that Jim Rose, who has worked on the revisions to BYM's Faith and Practice, could come to Lexington either February 10 or March 10 2013.

The meeting ended with a period of silence.

Maury River Friends Minutes

MRF Eleventh Month, 2012

Clerk Peggy Dyson-Cobb

Attending: Kathy Fox, Daphne Raz, Elise Sheffield, Eric Sheffield, Mary Stratton, Wil Stratton, Sandra Stuart, and John White.

Clerk opened meeting by reading from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice selections on Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business as a way of reminding friends that in our conduct of business we are looking for truth as a body, seeking the sense of truth as a whole. Silent worship followed.

The minutes of Tenth Month 2012 were read and, following a suggested change, were approved.

Clerk Kathy Fox gave the report for the Peace and Justice Committee. Business conducted included examining the portion of BYM's revised Faith and Practice pertaining to the committee's work, allocating \$50 from the undesignated benevolences budget for Eli Fishpaw's travel expenses, and considering requesting a Second Hour for discussion of sustainability issues in the meeting house.

Major work was preparing the final version of the 2012 Benevolences Budget which is brought forward today. Mentioning the two Second Hours planned for discussion of benevolences, Kathy said the committee had "seriously considered" the wishes expressed by friends during those second hours. Kathy reported that the committee had heard from several people after the first reading at Tenth Month Meeting for Business and the committee wanted "those who are concerned about the process to feel that they have been heard." Though the committee did not accept all suggestions, it felt confident that its decisions had been carefully made. Kathy distributed copies of the budget, which differed slightly from the version brought to Tenth Month meeting. (\$100 was added for Pendle Hill and \$200 to the American Red Cross for relief for the recent devastating storm). Much discussion, some of it strongly felt, followed.

One friend asked if a letter from a friend expressing concern about the division of allocations to Quaker organizations and suggesting that each organization receive the same amount had been received and considered. Yes. Another friend asked why three organizations—Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Earthcare Witness and Boxerwood Education Association—had each received such large amounts. Clerk answered that earlier, the committee had suggested using a two-pronged allocation system to deal with a much-larger benevolences budget: keeping the previous benevolences list pretty much unchanged and using the larger budgeted amount for larger donations to a few organizations. Kathy said those amounts were set by the committee after the Second Hour discussions. One friend said that she was "upset" at the many references to budget decisions arising from Second Hour discussions. Second Hours, unless designated as being for business, were for adult education, she said. Business should not be carried out. Another friend said he was "still troubled." He didn't know, he said, that he had to be present at the Second Hours to have his views considered. He was very uneasy.

Clerk said there were a variety of opinions being shared, and that Maury River had always had trouble with budgets that consisted of many small parts. The Second Hours were seen as a way of sharing views in a more relaxed way and of letting the committee know how meeting felt, the committee has done its work. We have the option, she said, of not approving the budget. She suggested we go into silent worship and when we come out, either approve or disapprove the budget. Silence ensued. The budget was then approved with one friend stepping aside.

Treasurer John White brought forward the Meeting's 2013 budget for its second reading. With no discussion and with meeting's gratitude for his work, the budget was approved. Giving, he said, was healthy. "We are definitely in the black."

For clerk Kit Jones, the Fellowship Committee report was given by Eric Sheffield. The committee met 11th day, Eleventh Month with two members present. Work included assessment of the electronic signup sheet—which seems to be going well and can be augmented by announcements at meeting. Other business was the approval of the final draft of the summary of the year's work, which will be submitted to Worship and Ministry this month—the summary is attached—and deliberation about the clean-up time after our Christmas Eve celebration.

For clerk Mary Helen Brainard, the Religious Education report was given. The Simple Meal held 18th day, Eleventh Month, raised \$850 which will be spent on Heifer International animals. Young Friends also have decided to give \$50 each to I Love Mountains and CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. The Simple Meal was well attended. Mary Helen did all the cooking—black beans, rice and fruit salad—and young friends did everything else. The young friends have said they are ready to be more engaged in the cooking in the future.

Clerk Daphne Raz gave the report for House and Grounds. The committee met 14th day, Eleventh Month with three members present. Among topics discussed was the kerosene tank, with a suggestion made—with the treasurer's support—that the tank be filled annually. Other work focused on the back entrance, with painting and kitchen floor replacement suggested for the coming year. In addition, the committee continues to explore the possibility of adding a roof over the back door and Eli Fishpaw has drawn up plans for the project. "We are sensitive to concerns in meeting regarding allocation of resources and sustainability...and will allow considerable time for comment..." The committee is discussing asking for a Second Hour on the Meeting House. Lastly, the committee accepted the resignation of Joseph Martinez.

Clerk read the Worship and Ministry report for clerk Jim Warren. The committee met 12th day, Eleventh Month with four members present. The calendar for 2012 and early 2013 was set. Other business included discussion of Faith and Practice revisions, the hope for an early start on the Spiritual State of the Meeting, discussion of the clerking workshop attended by several Maury River Friends and finding ways to build community resilience.

Clerk also read the Care and Counsel report for clerk Mary Barnes. The committee met 14th day, Eleventh Month and, as is customary, discussed possible personal needs of members and

attenders. The committee also reviewed the portion of Faith and Practice revisions relating to Care and Counsel and, appreciating the wording employed in the draft, felt suggested changes reflected practices already in place at Maury River. The committee also discussed the 19th day, Eleventh Month Clearness Committee for Membership requested by Devan Malore.