Be still and cool in thine own mind and spirit.

George Fox

Hold in the Light: Hap Taylor, Anne and Phil Haisley, Connie and Tim Ray, Arnold Von der Porten

Calendar of Events: (online at www.gainesvillequakers.org)
Every Sunday: 11:00 am Meeting for Worship; 11:15 am First Day School
Every Monday: 5:30 pm Yoga with Gary
Every Monday: 5:00 pm Witness at Corner of 23rd Ave and 43rd St to Support Immigrant Justice (weather permitting)
Every Tuesday: 5:30 pm Tai Chi with Arun
Wednesdays (2nd and 4th): 5:30 pm Spiritual Explorations and Meeting for Worship

Sunday, November 4
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
9:30 am Library committee
9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

Sunday, November 11
1:00 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Tuesday, November 13
12:00 pm Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

Friday, November 16 - Sunday, November 18: AVP (Advanced) Workshop

Sunday, November 18: Meeting for Worship in Nature
9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee
12:45 pm Earthcare Committee

Thursday, November 22 - Sunday, November 25: SEYM Half Yearly Meeting

Wednesday, November 21
Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at gfquakernews@gmail.com

Friday, November 23
Deadline for Agenda Items for (next month) Meeting with a Concern for Business

Sunday, November 25
9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee
1:00 pm Biblical and Spiritual Explorations

Friends are reminded that it is the responsibility of the entire community to assist with cleaning up the kitchen area after the social hour.

On Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business:
Consensus: a secular method, involving a rational process and producing general agreement. The authority is the group.
Sense of the Meeting: a religious method, involving a spiritual process and producing a spirit-led decision. The authority is the Spirit as discerned by the group in worship.

Arthur M. Larabee, 2002
When opinions differ widely and the need for spiritual discernment becomes crucial, the best of Quaker business techniques alone will not suffice; then we are driven, as never in a meeting for worship, to seek that spiritual covering which alone can give the fruits of the Spirit, which can sustain harmony while waiting for the right leading. Thus, God’s work among us becomes more real, and faith is both tested and strengthened in the business meeting.

There are two ever present and very real hazards in the Friends business method: impatience and a vacuous boredom. The Friend who recognizes that these hazards can be a spiritual call to go deeper into worship brings great power to the work of the church as well as an opening of his or her own spiritual gifts, including discernment. Thus the Friends business meeting is not just the peculiar Quaker form of getting things done; rather it should be seen as an essential part of the spiritual formation and the spiritual growth of every seasoned Friend, for it is that place through which we learn to walk hand in hand with each other and the Spirit out into the world to do the work of committed and obedient disciples.

Bill Taber. The Mind of Christ: on Meeting for Business. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 406 pp 6-7

George Fox writes, “Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town or parish business, . . . but to wait upon the Lord.” Quakers have used this method with a large degree of success for three centuries because it has met the religious test, being based on the Light Within producing unity. . . At its best, the Quaker method does not result in a compromise. A compromise is not likely to satisfy anyone completely. The objective of the Quaker method is to discover Truth which will satisfy everyone more fully than did any position previously held. Each and all can then say, “That is what I really wanted, but I did not realize it.” To discover what we really want as compared to what at first we think we want, we must go below the surface of self-centered desires to the deeper level where the real Self resides. The deepest Self of all is that Self which we share with all others. This is the one Vine of which we all are branches, the Life of God on which our own individual lives are based. To will what God wills is, therefore, to will what we ourselves really want.

Brinton, Howard H. Friends For 300 Years.

New from QuakerBooks: Be Still and Listen: Experience the Presence of God in Your Life by Amos Smith

The various crises we experience in society and culture today, at their root, reveal a spiritual problem: a profound lack of meaning. The mystical truths revealed in scripture can surely help. With Be Still and Listen it is possible to explore the contemplative dimensions of the Bible, either on your own or in a group setting, as you perhaps never have before.

Part One, “Entering the Desert,” introduces the reader to principles of awareness, deep listening, and contemplation as essential for “hearing” what Scripture has to say. Part Two details the importance of mystery and struggle in the process of healing from any past or present wounds. And Part Three explores the “undivided heart” that is possible when we come to know God in silence and stillness. -Publisher's website

“Amos Smith’s unique voice is rooted in his long-term centering prayer practice and his international background. Be Still and Listen is a trumpet call to the inner treasures of contemporary Christian mysticism.”

—Reviewed by Richard Rohr, author of Falling Upward

A Walk in the Quaker Woods — Jean Larson, with photographs by Bill Mitchell

October 27, 2018

We started our walk at the pollinator garden we are developing in the utility strip at the entrance to the meeting property. It was the same place we started our walk earlier this month with a group of individuals from the local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. I admired the blooming blazing stars (*Liatrus spicata*) and pointed out a small flower that I thought was called railroad vine for its creeping form with a sturdy green stem and matched pairs of leaves running in straight lines. A trip to the Department of Agriculture office in town let us know it is actually creeping indigo (*Indigofera spicata*) or the closely related trailing indigo (*Indigofera hendecaphylla*) which are toxic to large animals like horses. While Bill focused carefully on taking photographs of the small flowers, I pulled some beggarticks (*Bidens alba*) in the area.
Then we headed down the drive stopping by the split rail fence near where the remnants of hurricane Irene toppled a tree to admire the small plant with a string of buds along one stem that someone from the Native Plant Society had recognized as a member of the *Persicaria* species. Then we continued down the drive dragging some fallen branches out of the drive and the parking bays to prepare for meeting the next day.

Once in the woods with our branches deposited in and among the piles Bill has been building to temper the overflow of water from the ditch, we went to inspect the ditch from our northern border at the west border of the Shir Shalom grounds down to its junction with the creek. Along the way we spotted an attractive plant with many buds of tiny flowers which would likely lead to a profusion of seeds. Not recognizing the plant we decided to inquire further about it, but at this point have not yet heard from the local office of the Department of Agriculture.

We continued down the ditch, then downstream along the creek and followed a trail of trash that led to some skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*) on the berm on the south side of the creek. We found ourselves walking along the densely vegetated berm and then down the south side into an area that is mucky when it has been raining for some time. It was walkable, so we headed to the cyclone fence that is the south border and headed up to the southwest corner. Since we had not been this way for a while, there were bottles and cans to pick up, and a no parking sign we left in place as too heavy to move at this time.

We finished our walk moving from the southwest corner across the creek where it turns to the Henderson property, then into the woods and down to the grandfather oak to skirt the edges of the pond area and eventually come out in the meeting parking lot near where we started.

We rarely climb over that berm, but decided to take a different route than usual and were pleased with the result. Do you allow yourself to wander a bit now and then with an eye to a fresh appreciation of a familiar place or person?
Queries for the Eleventh Month:

Do we live in harmony with nature? Do we live in keeping with the spirit of the unity, sacredness, and integrity of all creation? ▪ Do we seek to minimize our consumption of the earth’s resources? Do we encourage equitable and sustainable use of those resources? ▪ Do we walk gently over the earth, seeing that of God in all of nature? ▪ Do we seek to educate ourselves, our children, our meeting, and our community about how our lives can be more in harmony with the earth? ▪ Does the meeting strive to bring all its practices in harmony with the natural world?

Advices for the Eleventh Month:

Maintain in ourselves and encourage in others a sense of responsibility for the environment, both for the present and for future generations. ▪ Avoid amusements that stimulate destructive emotions, are detrimental to the health or tranquility of others, or are damaging to the natural environment. ▪ Show a loving consideration for all creatures, cherishing the beauty and wonder of all God’s creation. ▪ Share our sense of reverence and stewardship for the earth.

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
702 NW 38th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607