

State of Society Report
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Approved February 12, 1995

Jacksonville Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends meets for worship on First Day mornings in the library on the Bartram Campus of Bolles School. Adult discussion is held weekly before Meeting for Worship. Children are encouraged to join in worship as they are led. In addition, First Day School and child care are provided during worship time. We welcome visitors! Because we occasionally gather in our homes for worship and potluck, we encourage visitors to call in advance to verify the time and location of Meeting for Worship.

In the past year, Jacksonville Friends have welcomed a number of new attenders. We have approved two new memberships within the Meeting community, and we now delight in the regular presence of several children, ranging in age from two to thirteen years. As a result, Friends are pleased to find that our "core" has grown both in number and commitment. We continue, as well, to value our ties with numerous Friends at a distance, and are exploring ways to strengthen our relationship with Friends to the immediate north. We value the opportunity to gather for worship and fellowship with Friends from St. Simon's Island, Tybee Island, and other areas of Southeastern Yearly Meeting's northern edge.

Even modest growth expands our sources of spiritual nourishment and energizes both children and adults in our meeting community. Tanya Lawrence reports on behalf of the children:

The youth in our Meeting have gotten a first day school put together this year. We've done a lot, but I think the biggest projects are the banner we made and a fund we have started for Nicaragua. The fund is something the youth have started to purchase school supplies for Nicaraguan children. All Friends who wish to may contribute every first day. A young Friend has been selected to count the money donated and give it to the treasurer of our Meeting. We have collected \$28.00 so far.

Our adult study group explores topics relevant to individual and corporate spiritual life. "Quakerism 101," our current focus, stimulates newcomer and seasoned Friend alike to examine Quaker faith and practice at its source, and to apply that examination to life in the world around us.

Still a small monthly meeting, we make corporate witness as we can. Through the Interfaith Council of Jacksonville, Friends participated in a local gun buy back last summer. Our representatives have served on the Interfaith Council's race relations committee throughout the past year. Recently, our children contributed art work to a citywide interfaith worship service.

Individual Friends continue to follow the Spirit's leading into a variety of concerns including the Florida Coalition for

Peace and Justice, Amnesty International, prison ministry, and many others. Henriette Groot, representing Southeastern Yearly Meeting, researched and presented a concern over the international arms trade at the Friends' World Committee for Consultation Triennial Gathering in New Mexico. ShawnaKim Lowey-Ball, a young Friend, is pursuing her Quaker badge in Girl Scouts under the care of meeting. Recognizing a wide and wonderful variety of spiritual gifts among us, we strive to maintain a supportive worship community in which individuals are nurtured and strengthened to pursue God's leadings.

At this time of our annual gathering, Jacksonville Friends extend warm greetings to all within the Southeastern Yearly Meeting family. We thank our community of Monthly Meetings for fellowship and support, and ask that we all continue to hold one another in the Light as we pursue our witness into the coming year.

Submitted by:



Tanya Lawrence



Deborah Rasmussen

on behalf of Jacksonville Friends Meeting.