

2001

JACKSONVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

A small group of Friends meet for discussion the hour before Meeting for Worship. Topics on which we have focused have included: the meanings and implications of some Christian terms, worship sharing, prayer, and clarifying Quakerism for ourselves and others.

One of the more interesting potlucks of this year was held on the evening of All Souls' Eve (Hallowe'en). A couple in meeting hosted a "dumb supper," which is based on a pre-Christian European traditional feast. During this time it is believed that the living can communicate with their deceased loved ones by sharing their stories. We've found it to be a remarkable way to deal more openly with death.

As a meeting we composed a letter-to-the editor of The Florida Times Union regarding our concerns on the American war in Afghanistan and the September 11th tragedies. The process was a good practice in Quaker consensus-building. This process was further applied when we considered changes in The Faith and Practice sections pertaining to "Meeting for Business" and "Membership."

We have supported the Alternatives to Violence Program being sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church. One of our members is treasurer of the group, another a facilitator. Sojourning members have also acted as facilitators here as well as actively assisting in the establishment of AVP in Jamaica, West Indies.

- Members have participated in the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice programs, including the "Peace Camp" in Hampton, Florida. Others have participated in the Hiroshima Witness for Peace Day at Kings Bay Naval Base, St. Marys GA., AFCS's National Community Relations Unit, St. Augustine-Baracoa (Cuban) Friendship Association, the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, and support for the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda.