

Date: Sat, 7 Jan 2006 23:06:57 -0500

Subject: Dear Friends, Here's a draft of the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. See you at Business Meeting on the 8th.

We regularly worship First Day mornings in the library of Bolles School - Bartram Campus, except periodically when we meet in a home on First Day for worship, discussion and a potluck meal. Usual attendance varies between 4 and 13, mostly attenders.

E-mail, the meeting newsletter, and phone calls keep Northeast Florida Friends in connected over the great physical distances between us. A core group of Friends live in the same geographic section of Jacksonville and regularly visit between First Days and eat First Day lunch together at a restaurant with other Friends joining them occasionally.

Several new attenders were welcomed in 2005, and we bade farewell to Joanne Herrmann when she moved to Milwaukee, WI. She was a faithful attender, organizer of the local exhibiting of Eyes Wide Open, and is a peace activist and inspiring practitioner of nonviolence. Originally, Julia Geiger had the confidence to invite Joanne to attend meeting for the first time. For a periodic visitor from Madison, WI, attending Jacksonville Meeting led him to finally join his home meeting.

Most visitors find Jacksonville Meeting through FGC's quakerfinder.org or through our website, jacksonvillefriends.org, as we find the phone book listing too costly. Many attenders find value in the silence, fellowshiping with Friends, and Quaker philosophy, and want to read the newsletter and be on the e-mail list, but they seldom participate in First Day corporate worship. For some Friends, the driving distance is far, but they are regularly irregular in their attendance at First Day mornings. Then there's Noel and Daisy Palmer, who regularly attend meeting in Jacksonville while wintering in St. Augustine. Their whole being is in such a depth of Friendliness that the rest of Jacksonville Meeting treasures, especially, meetings with them and savors their flavors they contribute to meeting the rest of the year while they reside in New York.

Beverly Bird of Halifax Meeting is sojourning in Jacksonville while undergoing chemotherapy and regularly shares her warmth, spunk, and wisdom with Friends on First Days.

In 2005, Friends participated in: the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice Youth Peace Camps; peace vigils and activities of the local group, Wage Peace (wagepeace.net); humanitarian aid shipments, art exhibits, and delegations to Cuba through the St. Augustine-Baracoa Friendship Association (staugustine-baracoa.org); the Alternatives to Violence Project; the annual Alternative New Year's Gathering of peace activists from the Southeast U.S. held in St. Marys, Georgia; FUM's chain of prayer; a musical play-in for peace in New Hampshire; the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist temple dedication in Cosby, Tennessee; and, Yearly Meeting, Half Yearly Meeting and Winter Interim Business Meeting and Michener Lecture.

Handwritten signature 'SOM' and initials 'JG' in black ink.