

THE GCRO



Guilford Council of Religious Organizations'

College Activities of Worship

10/27/2006

A Newsletter of Guilford College Campus Ministry

Vol. 17 No. 5

Ecologists, Peacemakers and the "Attack Quaker"

Ron Sider to Visit Guilford

Ron Sider, author, professor of theology at Eastern Baptist Seminary, president of Evangelicals for Social Action, and inspiration behind the Christian Peacemaker Teams, will speak at Guilford October 30-31. He will be at a tea & discussion in the Hut at 4:00 pm on Monday, Oct. 30; have supper with the Spiritual Gifts in Ministry group at 5:30 pm in the Walnut Room; and speak at New Garden Friends Meeting (801 New Garden Rd.) at 7:30 pm. The title of his Monday evening talk is "Why on earth would anybody want to be an evangelical Christian?"

On Tuesday, October 31, Sider will appear in classes and meet with students over meals in the cafeteria. He will respond to questions raised by his Monday night talk in a Tuesday "Sider and Doughnuts" discussion at 4:00 pm in Boren Lounge.

Sider is the author of the influential *Rich Christians in a World of Hunger*, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience*, and other books challenging Christians to live out their profession of faith in all realms of life. His visit is sponsored by Friends Center, Friendly Hills Presbyterian Church (PCA), and the Initiative on Faith & Practice.

Submissions to the CAW!

Send any religious announcements or inspirational musings that you would like featured in the CAW to gcro@guilford.edu by 5pm every other Wednesday.

Deep Ecology Workshop

Bob McGahey, a leader of workshops on Earthkeeping, a Quaker, and member of the Celo community in North Carolina, will lead a Deep Ecology Workshop at Guilford November 3-4. The workshop will begin Friday evening at 5:00 pm in Boren Lounge with QLSP worship and a potluck and will continue through Saturday with Deep Ecology systems lectures, meditation, nature walks, spiritual exercises, and other activities to bring participants into a deeper awareness of nature.

For the full schedule, contact Friends Center at 316-2445. Free for students, faculty, and staff. \$10.00 registration fee for others. Sponsored by the Environmental Studies Concentration and Friends Center.

Peacemakers Art and Peggy Gish Return

Christian Peacemaker Teams veterans, noted Christian communarians, simple living advocates, and authors Peggy and Art Gish will make another visit to Guilford November 7-9. They will give a public presentation on their work in Hebron and Baghdad at 7:30 pm, Tuesday, November 7 at New Garden Friends Meeting. On Wednesday, November 8 they will lead a nonviolent direct action workshop in the Community Center, beginning at 2:30 pm. For the rest of their schedule, contact Friends Center at 316-2445.

Cartoonist Signe Wilkinson to Speak

Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist Signe Wilkinson will visit campus November 16-17 as the Judith Weller Harvey Quaker Scholar. A Quaker from Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill Meeting, Wilkinson has visited campus several times before, always to the delight of those who have met and heard her.

Popularly referred to in Philadelphia as the "attack Quaker," Wilkinson's hard-hitting cartoons spare no targets and often poke fun at Friends themselves.

On Thursday, November 16, she will share on a 4:00 pm panel in the art gallery about constraints on a cartoonist's freedom. The panel will be titled "Drawing the Line" and will consider the controversy over the Danish cartoons about the Prophet Mohammed. Joining Wilkinson will be the editors of the *News & Record* and the *Rhinoceros Times* (Allen Johnson and John Hammer, Jr.); the papers took different stands on publishing the cartoons last spring.

At 7:00 pm on the 16th, Signe will speak on "Drawn to Quakerism: Quaker Influences on the Cartoonist's Craft." The talk will be at New Garden Friends Meeting, 801 New Garden Road.

On Friday, Wilkinson will speak at the Friends of the Library banquet and comment on the installation of a sampling of her cartoons in the art gallery.

Concordance Caper

Raleigh Stout and Bryan Brendley both named Leviticus 19:34 and Romans 13:1 as the sources for favorite biblical quotes of those on either side of the immigration issue. Evidently the notion of responding to a politically-inspired caper was "alien" to the rest of our regulars – that or the peculiar (and unreadable!) way the *Caw* wound up posted electronically!

This week's question comes with an implied Hallowe'en theme. In an October 9 article in the *News & Record*, Guilford alumnus Jim Schlosser wrote about a local family graveyard that is under restoration. Commenting on the interesting history of the cemetery, he cited one of the epitaphs found on a marker: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away." The former paucity of caper responses, we hope, will pass away. Where might this inscription be found in the Bible? And would that the sentiments on the headstone applied to the raft of slasher flicks showing in cinemas this time of October!

Contact the Campus Ministry Office at 316-2445 with your response.

On-Campus Worship Opportunities

Daily: **Quiet worship in the manner of Friends**, 8:05-8:20am, Hut

Sundays:

- . **College Meeting for Worship**, 1:00pm, Moon Room
- . **Student-Athlete Bible Study**, 8:00pm, Boren Lounge

Mondays:

- . **Guilford Christian Fellowship Prayer**, 7:30am, Gazebo outside Founders'
- . **Vespers**, 9:30 – 9:45pm, Hut.

Tuesdays:

- . **Vespers**, 9:30 – 9:45pm, Hut

Wednesdays:

- . **Midweek meeting for worship**, 5:30pm, Hut
- . **Guilford Christian Fellowship**, 8:00pm, Moon Room
- . **Pagan Mysticism**, 8:00pm, Hut
- . **Buddhist meditation**, 9:00pm, Hut

Thursday:

- . **Vespers**, 9:30 – 9:45pm, Hut

Fridays:

- . **QLSP worship in the manner of Friends**, 5:30pm, Hut
- . **Shabbat candle-lighting**, 6:30pm, Hut

Mark your Calendar!

A quick reference guide for all the upcoming events in this week's CAW.

October 27

"Am I the Only One?" passionate attraction group; Friday fun night in the Hut

October 30

Ron Sider tea & discussion, supper with the Spiritual Gifts in Ministry group, and talk: "Why on earth would anybody want to be an evangelical Christian?"; Matt Salisbury on-campus to speak about Teach for America

October 31

Ron Sider visiting classes, meeting with students; "Sider and Doughnuts" discussion; Matt Salisbury on-campus to speak about Teach for America; lantern-led walk through the Quaker cemetery

November 3-4

Deep Ecology workshop

November 7

Art and Peggy Gish present on their work in Hebron and Baghdad

November 8

Upcoming College Meeting For Worship Speaker

Tristan Wilson will lead the service on Sunday, October 29th. Tristan's majors are Philosophy and Music, and he also co-edits this fine publication.

College Meeting for Worship is an informal opportunity for the Guilford College community to gather in weekly interfaith worship. Worship is held Sundays, 1 – 2 p.m. in the Moon Room of Dana Auditorium. The timing is intended to allow worshipers to gather with the College community but still engage in worship opportunities with local congregations. College Meeting for Worship is generally semi-programmed in format, with a typical worship consisting of music, readings, a message, and a period of silent worship after the manner of Friends (Quakers). The meetings for worship are sponsored by the Campus Ministry Office and the Guilford Council of Religious Organizations. All are welcome. For more information call x2326.

From the Back Bench...

While other Guilfordians were out over fall break pursuing less dangerous adventures (operating power saws in volunteer work in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; living off-grid and working at a mountain organic farm; explaining mid-term grades to parents), I was in the state of New York leading a workshop on Quaker testimonies for a Friends Meeting. By the end of the weekend retreat, even heading off to be the “token Quaker” at an evangelical, holiness Friends college’s Quaker Heritage Week seemed less than a daunting task.

I had been asked to be the facilitator for the Meeting’s annual getaway to the Adirondacks by a former Guilford student who is a member there. We had agreed on a rather benign set of sessions considering the traditional spiritual and social testimonies. We sailed through a Friday night exercise of “Quaker Squares,” a bald knock-off of Hollywood Squares in which all the trivial questions are from Quaker history and lore; Saturday morning’s programs on Light-centered worship and simplicity raised few hackles. I was beginning to think that this facilitating a bunch of Northeastern Friends was a piece of cake.

Wrong.

The afternoon session focused on integrity, and at the hour’s end, one Friend chimed in that the Meeting had an issue with integrity, and they might as well bring it out in the open. Come to find out, the retreat center had reiterated a policy of no alcohol on the grounds – and the Meeting had a tradition of breaking out the wine and beer at its Saturday night bonfire (remember; these are NORTHEASTERN Quakers!).

What to do?

There was lively discussion, more animated than I thought the issue deserved. After all, the place had a policy, and one night of abstinence wouldn’t do a body harm – even if they were NORTHEASTERN Quak-

ers. The afternoon closed with no particular resolution to the issue, but at supper time, the announcement was made that cider had been purchased, and the bonfire would proceed *sans* the hard stuff.

I dropped in on the bonfire that night to see how Quakers north of the Mason-Dixon amuse themselves around a fire while wielding sticks tipped with marshmallows and under the influence of apple juice. I found that it is a contact sport! Evidently, some took the testimony of integrity to mean that they could integrate the surreptitious imbibing of moonshine (the Mason jar part of “Mason-Dixon,” it seems) into the evening. And under the influence – or in quest of the said *likker* – these fine Friends found themselves embroiled in a shouting and shoving match!

It was all quite confusing, and I wasn’t the only one at a loss for knowing how to respond. But in such crises, Friends often rise to their best. Late into the night, several of us huddled to figure out how to respond: Ignore it? Proceed with the next morning’s scheduled sessions? Confront the combatants? Wait to handle it back home? The decision was finally made to suspend the next morning’s program and have a called morning-long worship-sharing group to address the concern.

Giving a Friendly twist to the old joke, I attended a fight – and a Quaker meeting for worship broke out.

Being the outside guest, I drew the short straw and was asked to facilitate this worship-sharing. I’ve seldom faced a more daunting task. I had no idea who all these people were (except the few Guilford alumni in the group). I didn’t know the history these people shared or the underlying issues that would lead to such anger, animosity, and violence. But I have confidence in Quaker process.

The protocols for worship-sharing were laid out: We would enter



into expectant, waiting worship with the confidence that the Spirit of Christ was present to lead, guide, and direct; we would speak only from our personal experience and would share briefly and sparingly; we would create a safe space in which all could share openly and forthrightly; the facilitator would “elder” those who abused the sense of the meeting.

With the “rules of engagement” explained, all enemy combatants present, and not knowing where the morning might lead us, the Meeting and one nervous facilitator entered into the uncharted waters of Quaker worship.

And then a miracle occurred. The process actually worked! In round after round of ever deepening worship-sharing, person after person spoke from their own experience of the pain of alcohol abuse and recovery; of feelings of betrayal during times of loss and loneliness; of anger and hurt; of hope and progress. Occasionally someone got off task, and they were gently herded back. Mostly, though, truth was spoken, and Truth emerged. Issues long denied or hidden away were exposed to the light of day. Self-delusion was unmasked; anger was expressed; forgiveness and understanding were called for; way seemed to open for the Meeting to proceed in a positive direction.

After two and a half hours, the worship-sharing closed, not with all feeling “Kum ba yah-ish,” but with a sense of having been led by God.

It took a willingness on everybody’s part to risk trying what Quakers say they believe: making ourselves

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receptive in silent waiting to God's guidance, confident that the Spirit is present, ready to instruct, illumine, encourage, and reveal.

What might we all accomplish if we had such faith and used such process?

We certainly have ample opportunity! Guilford is sometimes awash in the surreptitious use of spirits – and the occasional tiff erupts. The place is no stranger to even deeper

disagreements and issues; and we profess to practice decision-making and worship based on the same principles outlined above. Might we find worship-sharing an effective means to the goal of truth-seeking in our community?

If the challenges of wielding chain saws with liberal arts students and putting on metal roofs during lightning storms seem too tame, we could always try Quaker process!

-Max Carter

UPCOMING ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES (NOW WITH CHOCOLATE)

Friday Fun Night in the Hut

GCRO is bringing back the popular "Friday Fun Night in the Hut" with an activity at 7:00 pm October 27. Combined with Take Back Your Time Week and events planned by FYE "Plain People," the evening's focus will be a "chocolate passionate attraction group." Gourmands will munch on various kinds of chocolate, learn about their history and interesting factoids, and sip hot cocoa while making S'mores over the fire.

Am I the Only One?

GCRO and campus ministry offer occasional "passionate attraction" groups or "seekers sessions" for the campus community. These short-term, small groups are organized around mutual interests or pertinent topics.

"Am I the Only One?" is a repeat from last year and welcomes people who feel they are isolated on campus because of lifestyle choices, faith and

moral decisions, and preferences that may marginalize them. The first meeting of the semester considered the question of how to share appropriately ones beliefs and moral convictions; subsequent meetings have discussed substance use.

AITOO? meets each Friday at 4:30 pm in the Greenleaf, but the October 27 meeting will join with others who are the "only ones" who enjoy chocolate, joining in the GCRO Friday Fun Night in the Hut at 7:00 pm.

Lantern-led Hallowe'en Walk in the Quaker Graveyard

Join in the annual Quaker cemetery walk on Hallowe'en, 8:00 pm, Tuesday, October 31. Max Carter will lead the procession from the porch of the New Garden Friends meetinghouse.

Not to worry, Quakers are as harmless in death as they are in life!

Guilford Alum to Discuss Teach for America

Guilford alum Matt Salisbury (c/o 2005) will be on-campus Monday - Tuesday, October 30 and 31, to recruit for Teach for America. Matt has been teaching in New York City for the past year. If you're interested, give Matt a call at (917) 882-8524 or email him at salisbury.matthew@gmail.com

"Ground Truth" to be Shown on Campus

Students are bringing the award-winning film "Ground Truth" to campus on Monday, November 27 in Bryan, Jr. auditorium (time coming soon!). The documentary film takes a hard look at the Iraq War through the words and experiences of those US soldiers who have fought in it.

Contact Martin Shoffner (mshoffne@guilford.edu) for details.

CELEBRATION DAYS

COMING SOON...

October 31 **Samhain** celebrates the Celtic New Year. The dying God returns to the womb of the Goddess in preparation for rebirth at Yule. The souls of those who have died during the turning of the past year's wheel are bid farewell. It also marks the third and final harvest nuts, the kernels of which are symbols of wisdom. As the veil between the physical and spiritual worlds is thinnest at this time, ancestors can join the celebrations.

November 1 **All Saints' Day** is a day to honor Christian saints throughout the ages.

November 4 **Qudrat**, Power, is the 13th month of Baha'u. Work is suspended on this day.

Did You Know?



by Ted Wilkinson,
Religious Guru (Kinda)

The Aum, the primary symbol of Hinduism, is also a sound many associate with meditation. However, the Aum is also seen as the first manifestation of the divine.