



# Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends

Asociación de los Amigos de Monteverde

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Fifth Month, 2014

Dear Friends Everywhere:

Phew! That is our overall feeling of the moment. We are proud of what we have accomplished in recent years and glad the pace is slowing down. This time of reduced activity – the absence of overwhelming work to be done – allows us to appreciate what we have and provides a time of rest and restoration.

As many of you know, 2012-2013 was an intense period for us, including building a new kinder and a new meetinghouse. We continued working at a great pace through July of 2013, getting the roof of the meetinghouse up and the space enclosed. Since then, we have proceeded with less pressure, as funds and energy become available. We are enjoying our new space. The windows facing the forest and sky are a joy during Meetings for Worship. We have already used the space for special events such as coffeehouses, school programs and graduations, concerts, and Christmas activities in addition to regular community happenings such as yoga, dancing, and AA meetings.

Light and life are being nourished in our meeting in many ways. Our business load is lighter after several intense years. Many volunteers at the school and meeting enrich our lives and lighten our loads. We joyfully welcomed Nicollette Smith into meeting membership. Our active children's meeting nurtures the children, families, and leaders alike. Our religious education activities have included sharing of spiritual journeys, a workshop on nature and spirituality, small spiritual sharing groups, Friendly Bible study, and a workshop encouraging us to put our experience of the Spirit into words. At times, we have arranged for fruitful overlap between children's meeting programming and the adult religious education themes. Our meeting united with the local Catholic community to raise funds for our yet-to-be completed houses of worship. Catholic neighbors joined us for Sunday meeting, then we proceeded to the new unfinished church in Santa Elena for food, music, dancing, skits and mass. We now feel more connected to the larger spiritual community in our area.

Of course, there are always ways we are trying to grow and improve. We are working on being more open to leadings of the Spirit in our meetings for business. Despite many valiant volunteers, it always feels like there is more work to do than people to do it. We feel a need to spend more restorative time with each other outside of business and work. How can we focus on what is most important and let go of what is less important? How can we live out our values in our other work and projects? How do we allocate our time to honor our commitments to our families, our work, our different projects, and each other? How do we work through difficult situations while seeing and acknowledging that of God in everyone?

Wishing you all joy, rejuvenation, and love as you too walk in the Light given to you.

On behalf of the Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends,

Carol Evans, clerk

Jean Stuckey, recording clerk

(2014 Epistle Committee: Harriet Joslin, Katy Van Dusen, Heather Gosse)