

SAYF Worship Journal
August 2022 SAYF Nurturing Retreat
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meetinghouse

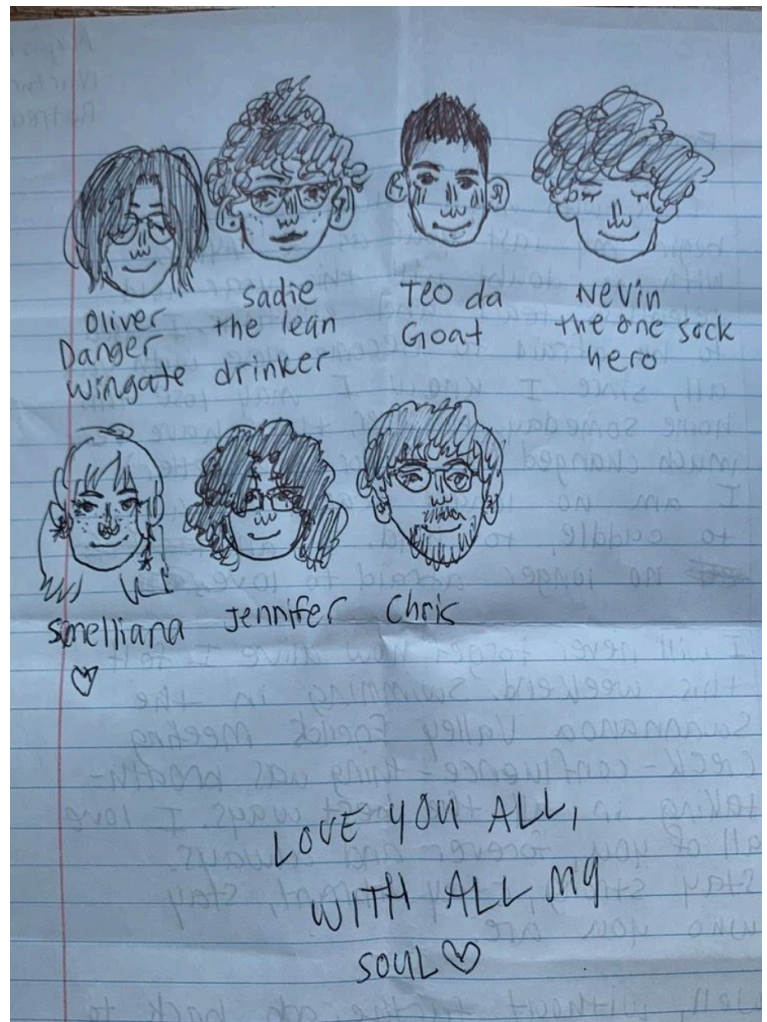
On the weekend of August 19-21, 2022 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

This was my first retreat as an official clerk of course. Nobody has given Ellie or I a badge yet, but I'm sure it was a simple oversight. I get to spend my senior year of SAYF with a truly amazing group of people. Thank you for that. I never know how much I need a weekend sitting quietly while mosquitoes drain my blood until I love it. Crazy how peaceful I felt while being eaten alive. Lots of love for all of you - we're gonna kill this year (Quakerly).

Love, Sadie

Friends,
It is with much reluctance that I begin my last year as a SAYFer. With no doubt will this year hold relentless tears and emotions. I used to be afraid to become close with you all, since I knew I may lose this home someday. However, times have very much changed (100% for the better). I am no longer scared to hug, to cuddle, to hold. I am no longer afraid to love. I will never forget how alive I felt this weekend. Swimming in the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting Creek-confluence-thing was breathtaking in all the best ways. I love all of you, forever and always. Stay strong, stay vibrant, stay who you are.
Well, without further ado, back to my usual broadcasting.

Lots of love,
Elli Saderholm
(picture on back)



As I sat in worship this morning I realized I didn't know who was going to speak for us or when or what they would say...Normally this would cause me some anxiety...but this morning it brought me peace as I looked across at the group and realized I trusted that any of the young friends across from me could and would say exactly what needed to be said whenever it was time. We are in good hands this year - a small but mighty crew of nurturers to carry us through - help us grow - build us up before many of them go. Thank you for trusting SAYF, for hanging in there and for looking forward! I'm excited for this year ahead!

With love and admiration,
Jennifer Dickie, SAYF Steering Clerk

SAYF is an ongoing, everchanging group, and yet it's also a stable presence for so many of us. The river is always moving, shifting banks, dry some times and flooded others. Always the river though. This retreat I've been loving this particular snapshot of SAYF. A group that grew up together, found their own voices, and are now comfortable being nurturers, looking at new horizons and creating space for others to grow into being SAYF. Each of you is wonderful, and I'm so grateful to know you. As a group I am amazed at what you can do.

Love always,
Chris de Beer, SAYF Steering Member

I had sorta assumed I would graduate last year, what with finishing high school and all, but I'm glad I'm sticking around just a bit longer. Still, that odd ambiguity of not knowing where or when I am in my life/existence has started to grow into a main contention point in my mind. I remember looking at toddlers and thinking how wild it must be to experience intense, powerful emotions but not have the knowledge or experience to identify or consciously work through them. Dude, I'm like totally a toddler right now then.

Anyways, sorry to vent through epistles, but I promise it does connect back to SAYF. Even if I don't have a master plan with me, I still am able to feel places, people, and experiences that enrich my soul and lead me in the right direction. If I'm lost at sea with no map, SAYF is a constellation helping me chart the path on my own. And more specifically, that constellation would be nothing without the stars that each of you are in my life. Yup, cheesy analogy alert! Bangers only. To conclude, y'all are the best, SAYF has remained because of you, and I'm glad to finish it out with you.

Love, Oliver