

Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

Atlanta Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). All are welcome.

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 -11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-2474
afmquakers@hotmail.com

Clerk of the Meeting
Steve Collins

Assistant Clerk of the
Meeting
Georgia Lord

Recording Clerk
Bill Holland

Treasurer
Pete McCaughan

Administration
Karen Morris

Care & Counsel
Dwight Harriman

Ministry & Worship
Suzan Kenworthy

Religious Education
John Adams &
Folami Prescott-Adams

Social Concerns
Julia Parker Ewen

Newsletter Editor
Stoph Hallward

Young Friends Coordinator
Laura Norlin

Office Coordinator
Jonah McDonald

June 2008

Query:

Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way to fuller ministry from others. Pray that your ministry may arise from deep experience, and trust that words will be given to you. Do you come to meeting prepared to speak or not to speak?

Submitted by William Holland, Member of Ministry and Worship Committee

Several summers ago, the woman in charge of the children that First Day gave a wonderful description of how to speak in meeting as they were coming in to join their parents for the last few minutes. "We're quiet until God tells us to speak," she said, "and then we speak so everyone can hear us." Here's some hints to help us all speak so everyone can hear us.

- When you speak from the silence, you may feel self-conscious because your voice sounds so loud to you, but the people behind you and on the other side of the room want to hear your message.
- Because you're in a bigger room than usual, speak a little louder than usual and think about your voice traveling to the far side of the room. It helps to look there too, because the sound will follow. (If you look at the floor, the sound will end up on the floor, and if you look across the room, the sound will travel across the room, too.) You can look at the wall or window just above people's heads if you like.
- Take slow, deep breaths, fill your lungs up completely with air. That makes your voice carry better and you feel calmer and more relaxed.
- Don't rush. Give people time to hear what you're saying.
- Speak more clearly. Often when we say we have trouble hearing, the problem isn't really volume, it's clarity. Say your consonants more precisely, since it's the consonants that help us distinguish between words, between meeting and needing, for example, in the sentence "I've been needing to come to Meeting."
- To speak more clearly, which makes it easier for others to understand us, it helps if you open your mouth nice and wide and move your lips and tongue more than usual.
- A fun way to practice speaking more clearly is to find a Dr. Seuss book at your local library and read it out loud--with or without a child. Dr. Seuss only sounds better the more clearly you speak.
- Be aware of other sounds around you. If the AC or heat kicks on or the subway goes by underneath or the train goes by outside, speak even more loudly and clearly. If needed (for example, while the train is blowing its whistle), wait for the sound to subside again.

Forum on Racial Justice using Friends Journal Articles Sun. 6/29 11:45 PM

Fifty years ago this June, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to Quakers at the FGC Gathering in Cape May, NJ. Friends Journal has reproduced the text of Dr. King's remarks in the upcoming June 2008 issue. King's address is one of three major articles on racial justice in this issue. Readers will find a way to live up to the legacy of King and of our Quaker faith. "I think of the great work that has been done by the Society of Friends," said King to the gathered meeting of Friends. "It gives all of us who struggle for justice new hope, and I simply say to you ... continue in that struggle, continue with that same determination, continue with that same faith in the future."

At a Sunday 6/29 11:45 AM forum sponsored by the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting and Our Roles As Individuals In America's Racial History, we will discuss Dr. King's address and other articles in the June issue of Friends Journal. The other articles are Jeff Hitchcock's "Quakers and Reparations for Slavery and Jim Crow," and "The Power of Fearful Faithfulness: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy for Friends" by Steve Chase. We will have copies of the issue available at the Meetinghouse for Friends to read in advance, but reading the articles is not a requirement to attend. For more information contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883

Announcements

Adult First Day for June and July

On June 1, Renda McCaughan will share her spiritual journey with us. Therafter we will be exploring the practice of lectio divina using the resource book, **Too Deep for Words:**

Rediscovering Lectio Divina by Thelma Hall.

For July, we will be reading and discussing Thomas Kelly's **Testament of Devotion**. Books for available from Bill Holland and all are welcome to meet with us in the Library from 9-9:50.

FGC Gathering (6/28-7/5)

2008 University of Pittsburgh at Johnston, PA
Come Join Us at the 2008 Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends, as we explore what it means to be courageously faithful. The Gathering will challenge you to draw inspiration from others' courageous acts of faith, reflect inward to see where you are now, and look forward to dream the future into being. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's presentation to Friends General Conference in 1958. His words are as meaningful today as they were 50 years ago! Come hear his voice and reflect on his message. There are over 50 workshops to choose from, with scholarship assistance available. Check the greeting table for a copy of the Advance Program.

Educational Scholarship Fund. The Meeting has funds to distribute as scholarships to members and attenders of the Meeting who plan to attend an accredited post-secondary vocational or liberal arts school during the 2008-09 semesters/quarters. Scholarships are not available for graduate study and are not based on financial need. The maximum amount awarded to one individual in one year is \$500 and the total amount awarded to one individual over several years is \$2000. Applications are due by June 15. Please contact Harry Lefever for an application form or more information. (404) 270-6052(w), (404) 525-6916 (h), [<hlefever@spelman.edu>](mailto:hlefever@spelman.edu).

Quaker Wedding, Saturday, June 14th, 1:30pm

Meredith Reynolds and Steve McLaughlin will be married under the care of the Atlanta Friends meeting on Saturday, June 14th at 1:30 pm at the Friends meeting house.

Members and attenders are invited to the wedding. The bride will wear white. There will be child care available and a cake reception afterwards.

The couple requests that Friends please let them know you are coming with a word in person or a note to MerAndSteve@gmail.com

Personal Reflections on Race and Racism ~ Committee on Undoing Racism
" We encourage other Friends to share their personal reflections on race and/or racism."

HOW DO WE FIRST LEARN THESE ATTITUDES?

Definitions of racism usually include a power relationship. My parents treated everyone equally and were harsh with us for using racist terms and 'bad' words we picked up on the playground. My black friend Joyce was in our Girl Scout troop and we had what today would be called 'play dates'. Mom would drive me out to Joyce's family farm and we would hang out for hours. There were just a few black kids in our little elementary school in Selma, Ohio (pop. 100+) The first time I heard a group of people called a name, it was a white group of migrants from Appalachia. My best friend Barbara said her father called them "Hilligans". I didn't like the name. Bertie Bayes from Kentucky was also in my scout troop and I also played at her house.

The word 'Negro' was a descriptive word for Black people. 'Hilligan' was put-down descriptive. By the time I was four years old I knew the other "N" word. If I or my siblings used it we would have our mouths washed out with soap. It had a lot of power that I did not understand. So my early awareness of racism was just about words that I did not dare use, or risk the taste of soap.

One day when I went to play with Joyce her grandmother was there, and they greeted me with exciting news! Joyce's grandmother was working for my grandmother! We were both excited at this new commonality in our lives. However, over time I began to feel uneasy about this new commonality. Nothing really changed in our friendship, and we moved away to Yellow Springs a few years later. But that moment of unease has stayed with me to this day. I didn't tell my mom about it, or best friend (and Quaker) Barbara. It felt un-discussable. How to say to anyone, "Joyce's grandma works for my grandma and it makes me feel all wrong!" Nor did I say anything to Joyce, or ask her if she felt strange too.

In the past few years, after much reading about racism and whiteness, I have begun to understand my unease. Joyce's (black) grandma did housework for my (white) grandma. It was not an equal relationship. My fear was that my friendship was also unequal, and threatened. And I didn't know why. It was just a feeling. And we did stay friends until my family moved away.

My grandmother had other, mostly white, housekeeping help before this. The maids of the early 20th century in central Ohio were predominantly German immigrants. If Joyce were white and her grandma German, would I have felt the same unease? Possibly, but without as much strength. There were two power relationships here, that of employer and employee, and of white employer and black employee. My grandmother had more economic power. She never worked after marriage. Joyce's grandmother needed the money.

Joyce and I were still equal in my view, even if our grandmothers were not. But by the time I was ten or eleven my skin had absorbed enough of my culture's attitudes to fear losing a friend, and it took another fifty years to achieve some understanding of that moment of 'unease'. – Eleanor Soler

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business
As Recorded Pending Approval
Fifth Month 18, 2008

Jonah McDonald shared the query for *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*: “In the growing complexity of life, do we strive to keep true to our ideals of sincerity and simplicity, to keep before us the essential truths and test our lives by them, and to keep our family life from the distraction of useless activities?”

A friend described his challenge in seeking to maintain a consistent practice of simplicity and how this creates greater complications. Another Friend spoke of a developing practice of seeking to undertake that which is necessary and important. A third Friend described the message received from a young Friend insisting, “Look, Daddy, Look!” She encouraged us to notice that which is around us, looking and listening for God’s presence.

In attendance were: Heather Barbour, Don Bender, Carolyn Coburn–Allen, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Parker Ewen, Susan Firestone, Roland Heath, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Susan May, Harry Lefever, Jonah McDonald, Sally MacEwen, Beth Martinson, Pete McCaughan, Renda McCaughan, Steve McLaughlin, Karen terHorst Morris, Lissa Place, Rick Stoops, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Bette Turlington, Austin Wattles, Pat Williams, Mark Wutka, Steve Collins (Clerk) and Bill Holland (Recording Clerk). (29 Friends).

1, Approval of Minutes of Fourth Month Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business.

Minute 08-05-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes for Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business of Fourth Month 2008 with amendments.

2. Treasurer. Peter McCaughan reported that April contributions were slightly below our five-year average. With 33% of the year completed, the meeting currently carries a deficit of \$16,489, and 17.8% of budgeted contributions have been received. Contributions are encouraged. The meeting will begin paying insurance for the Gwinnett Friends Community Worship group upon the signing of the lease with the church whose facilities they will be using. The cost is \$780 a year.

Minute 08-05-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts the Treasurer’s Report of April 30, 2008.

3. Ministry and Worship. Suzan Kenworthy asked the meeting’s approval for a traveling minute to be issued to Ceal and Mark Wutka supporting their travels to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative.

Minute 08-05-03: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following traveling minute:

The Atlanta Monthly Meeting is glad to provide Ceal and Mark Wutka this travel minute in support of their plans to again participate in the annual gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

They are active members of our meeting and have found significant inspiration from your annual gathering.

The clerk will issue the travel minute on behalf of the meeting.

Suzan reported that Ministry and Worship recommends Morgan McDonnell for membership. She noted that Morgan now lives in Vermont, but grew up in the meeting and there are no other meetings in the area. Morgan came to Atlanta and participated in a clearness process.

A friend expressed a concern that membership entails a commitment to participation in the life of the meeting and this may not be possible in this case. At the same time, it is appreciated that someone who grew up in the meeting feels a connection and wants this recognized. She encouraged meeting to consider ways to educate middle and high school young friends about the membership process. Another friend suggested ways to reach out to distant young friends perhaps involving them in young adult friends retreats. A friend expressed concern that membership without commitment to connection was symbolic. Another friend encouraged us to be explicit about our expectations for membership. A member suggested that membership constituted a link that might bear future fruit. Morgan will be going to college and may be closer to a meeting to which he could transfer his membership.

Minute 08-05-04: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the application of Morgan McDonnell for membership in the meeting.

4. Administration Committee. Peter McCaughan presented the revised Office Coordinator job description. The suggestions offered at last monthly meeting have been incorporated into the revised description.

Minute 08-05-05: On the recommendation of Administration Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the May 2008 Office Coordinator position.

Karen Morris reported that the Administration Committee has negotiated a lease with a new long-term tenant. Smart Toddlers is an early childhood education program for children aged 2-4 years. They will be using the nursery and preschool rooms Monday-Thursday mornings. A discussion followed. Approximately \$4800 a year is expected in rental income. Several friends expressed concerns about signage and modifications to the building that had occurred. A friend recommended that all signage for the building have a similar style and contain similar information. A friend encouraged repainting the current meeting sign and including the meeting telephone number to reduce possible confusion. A concern was raised over the implicit endorsement of a for-profit venture, while others felt comfortable with the arrangement. Administration will report back to meeting on these issues.

Karen reported that Administration Committee is considering the development of a volunteer Clerk of Personnel position and described a range of possible duties and responsibilities of such a position. The growth of meeting employees (to four) has led to the need for a more formal relationship between the meeting and employees. Several friends expressed concern over the term clerk, when a committee is not proposed. Possible alternatives suggested were liaison, supervisor, or director. A friend expressed concern over a tendency toward creating hierarchies and hoped this will be minimized. There was general support for the further development of the proposal.

Minute 08-05-06: On the recommendation of Administration Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting supports the direction and further development of the proposal to create a volunteer position that will be responsible for Meeting employees. The meeting asks that Administration,

working with Nominating, bring forward a recommendation regarding specific duties and processes.

5. Nominating Committee. Sally MacEwen reported that Mary Jahntz is nominated to serve as clerk of the Religious Education Committee. In addition, the four lead teachers have discerned their leading to continue their service for another year and are recommended by nominating. Gina Bailey Herring, Jennifer Dickie, Terri O'Neill, and Maggie Hasbrouk-Lay are nominated for a one-year term as lead teachers. Approval will be requested in Sixth Month.

6. Friendly 8's Refugee Concern. Betsy Eggers reported on the formation of a small ad hoc group working to provide support to Quaker African war refugees who are interested in participating in the life of our meeting. The group has identified opportunities for service and engagement including transportation, visitation, and incorporation into the life of the meeting through volunteer service and worship exchanges. Members are encouraged to contact Betsy for additional opportunities to participate.

7. Hospitality Committee. Renda McCaughan, for Carol Gray, reminded the meeting that the June 1 Meeting for Worship will be held in Adair Park beginning at 10:30 with a potluck to follow.

8. Report of Traveling Ministry. Mary Ann Downey reported on travel she undertook in Fourth Month among meetings and worship groups in the Ohio portion of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Traveling under the auspices of FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, Mary Ann worshipped and led discussions with six gatherings of Friends around the theme of "Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting." Bill Holland accompanied Mary Ann as her elder. Mary Ann carried a travel minute from Atlanta Meeting and Bill one from FGC. Copies of these minutes with endorsements will be attached to the minutes. A Friend encouraged that the endorsements be shared in the meeting. Mary Ann will write a report of her travels for the newsletter.

9. Solicitation of funds for China earthquake relief.

Minute 08-05-07: Atlanta Friends Meeting agrees to receive donations to support Chinese earthquake relief activities. The treasurer will work with interested members of meeting to determine the appropriate group to receive any funds contributed.

10. Clerk's Items. Steve reported that we have received solicitations from the Friends Church in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Blacksburg Friends Meeting to contribute to building programs.

A friend reminded the meeting of our practice to be recognized by the clerk before speaking.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Collins, Clerk

Bill Holland, Recording Clerk.

Calendar for Sixth Month, 2008

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day, 10:00 a.m.— In the Meeting Room and a small meeting in the Library.

Every First Day, 2:30 p.m.— Friends Community Worship Group, Call M.J. Robinson, 678-217-4098.

Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 770-720-4669 or wrlpeas@mindspring.com.

Every Fifth Day, 12:10 p.m.— First Thursdays at AFSC office, 92 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta 30303, other Thursdays at East Lake Commons, 404-378-5883 or bertskellie@gmail.com.

Every Sixth Day, 8:45 a.m.— Friends School of Atlanta, 121 Sams Street, Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Third Day (Tuesday)

7:30 Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

7:00 Bible Study, Library

Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30 ORAIARH (*childcare available*)

Every Sixth Day (Friday)

12:00 Vigil at Colony Square

Other Events

6/1, First Day (Sunday)

11:15- Potluck

11:15-1:30 Green Friends, AB

6/2, Second Day (Monday)

8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers, Nursery/playground

6/3, Third Day (Tuesday)

8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers, Nursery/playground

6/4, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers, Nursery/playground

7:30-10:00 Administration Committee, Library

6/5, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Peace, Library

6/8, First Day (Sunday)

11:15 Listening Ear, Atrium

11:30-2:00 Care and Counsel, Jr. Teen Room

11:30-1:30 Ministry and Worship, AB

11:45-1:30 Finance Committee, Library

6/9, Second Day (Monday)

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group, Mtg. Room

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Healing, Teen Jr. High Room

6/12, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:30 Social Concerns Cmte, Library

6/14, Seventh Day (Saturday)

10:00-2:00 AFGE, Library

1:30 McLaughlin?Reynolds Wedding under the Care of the Meeting

6/15, First Day (Sunday)

11:45-2:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Meeting Room (*childcare available*)

6/18, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:00 Newcomers Welcome Dinner at Sally Ferguson and Jim Tolmach's home. Please call 404-523-0683 to let us know you are coming.

6/20, Sixth Day (Friday)

Newsletter Deadline

6/22 First Day (Sunday)

11:15 Listening Ear, Atrium

11:30-2:00 Ministry and Worship Cmte, Mtg Rm.

6/23, Second Day (Monday)

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group, Mtg. Room

6/28, Sixth Day (Saturday)

10:30-2:00 Democratic Socialist of America, Kitchen / Library

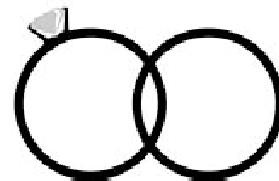
6/29, First Day (Sunday)

11:45-1:45 Possible Forum see Announcements

Please confirm unique events by checking the announcements sheets and or contacting the Meeting.

Special Announcement:

Jonah McDonald has accepted the position as Office Coordinator, providing 20 hrs/wk of administrative supportive to the Meeting.



Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 West Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902
Phone: 404-377-2474

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

701 West Howard Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

Clerk: Steve Collins, 404-687-8715; shcollins75@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Pete McCaughan, 770-730-0872; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Stoph Hallward, 703-946-0229; grasstoe@gmail.com

Office: Hours M-W-F 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; E-mail address: afmquakers@hotmail.com

NAMETAGS: If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name, address, phone, e-mail address, etc to Nina Gooch by e-mail at nina-gooch@mindspring.com or by phone 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both. This also applies to any change in existing database information, e.g. change of address.

To receive the AFM newsletter via e-mail, simply send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; simply hit reply and you will be added to the list. There is no subscription fee for the newsletter.

To receive general announcements and participate in discussion, follow the same instructions only address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoo.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannoncements-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting can be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse, or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR 7TH MONTH NEWSLETTER: 6TH MONTH 20

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, poetry, calendar notices and anything else of interest to Friends.

Items should be sent directly to:

Stoph Hallward
grasstoe@gmail.com
703-946-0229

This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.