

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
afinquakers@hotmail.com

Clerk of the Meeting
Steve Collins

Assistant Clerk of the Mtg
Georgia Lord

Recording Clerk
Elizabeth Tolmach

Treasurer
Meredith Reynolds

Finance
Paul Mangelsdorf

Administration
Georgia Lord

Care & Counsel
Dwight Harriman

Ministry & Worship
Suzan Kenworthy

Religious Education
Mary Jahntz

Social Concerns
Julia Parker Ewen
John Adams

Acting Newsletter Editor
Renda McCaughan

Young Friends Coordinator
Laura Norlin

Office Coordinator
Jonah McDonald

Resident Manager
Valerie Barlow

February 2009

Query:

What do we mean when we repeat Fox's admonition to "Let your life speak"? This simple sentence reminds us that it is our lives, not our words, that speak most reliably about who we are and what we believe. Our lives are our ministry, not the specific acts we think of as "official" ministry, such as speaking in meeting, following leadings, or carrying out our roles on committees. Jesus teaches us not to hide our lights; but to let them shine – as the gospel song would have it, "every day, every way." Outreach in this broad sense is not something we think about and plan; rather, it simply happens as we walk our paths in the world, lighted by "that of God" within us.

Advancement and outreach are natural and integral aspects of the Quaker way of life. Realizing that we are all children of God means that there is an infinite opportunity to search for God in our relations with others. Our fellowship begins, grows, and is nurtured in home and meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our love of God and humankind to our relationships with persons in the wider community of which our Meeting is a part, with members of other Meetings, and with all persons whom we meet.

How does my life witness to my Quaker faith? – Baltimore Faith & Practice

Submitted by Georgia Lord, member of Ministry & Worship Committee

Travel to Meetings in Michigan for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Mary Ann Downey

The gifts of traveling in the ministry among LEYM meetings in Michigan began with a Friend leading us on a walk in a beautiful garden the afternoon we arrived. As we traveled the time to slow down and enjoy brilliant fall days continued throughout the trip. We were welcomed, well fed and given gracious hospitality in six different locations, and were blessed with worship and worship sharing in each place. Bill's prayerful presence as traveling companion kept me grounded and guided, while also taking care of all the travel logistics. The meetings and worship groups I visited were Pine River, Tustin, Grand Rapids, Holland, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, Red Cedar and Kalamazoo during the week of October 17-26, 2008.

Reflecting on the time of travel, I am clear that my ministry is not as much about what I teach or say as it is helping Friends create an occasion to come together, to be obedient to the truth, and to seek a richer spiritual life together. Working with members of each meeting to discern what the meeting needed, we came prepared to follow a plan, while being open to the unplanned, inviting God to gather us, heal us and lead us. During worship sharing on the last day of our trip several Friends spoke of coming to meeting needing rest and I realized how tired I was. I was given the message that scripture assures us we can gather in worship to be healed. As the prophet Isaiah wrote, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Later a Friend from this last meeting sent the words to "On Eagle's Wings", a beautiful hymn written based on this Bible verse. These words are with me still and the gifts from this time of travel among Friends continue. These words are with me still and the gifts from this time of travel among Friends continue.

Chorus: "And He will lift you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His Hand."

Educational Scholarship Committee for the 2008 Meeting annual report:

The Educational Scholarship Committee awarded \$500 scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to eight students in the Meeting: Ruby-Beth Buitekant, Wesleyan University; Camille Clement, Guilford College; Gabriel Klein-Kuhn, Berklee College of Music; Paul Mangelsdorf, Haverford College; Grace Oedel, Yale University; George Pettis, Guilford College; Carson Phillips-Spots, Colby College; Morgan Phillips-Spots, Williams College. Harry Lefever

Finance Committee – 2008 Annual Report, Sue May, Clerk

The year began with an unusually large surplus, which prompted the Finance Committee to recommend disbursements to a number of different areas that we judged could use an increase in the amount budgeted. Others in the Meeting had a different perspective, however, and upon reflection, we scaled down our recommendations, which led to holding most of the surplus in reserve.

The year was characterized with significant demands on the budget in some areas and requests for new and expanded funding for others...Coupled with a marked decrease in contributions and low rental income, this forced us to make some hard choices. In the early part of the year, we monitored cash flow, made recommendations on a health benefit policy for employees, and established a Refugee Fund with a large individual contribution. By fall the general economy was in crisis and we saw a large decrease in contributions compared to 2007. Rentals, while slowly improving, continued to be under budget. The Fundraising Committee focused on creating a website and adding amenities to attract renters, but produced no income.

Therefore, the committee labored to make realistic recommendations for the 2009 budget. All fall we struggled to make the hard choices necessary. We entertained suggestions about how to increase contributions. We heard from several committees about pressing needs and new opportunities. Individuals made impassioned pitches for their favorite area. More than in most years, this was an active interaction both among the committee members and between Finance and Business Meeting. In the end, we approved a budget that retained all employees and that promised a reexamination of the cuts if we ended the year in the black.

The treasurer continued to serve as liaison with Administration Committee. Judith Greenberg replaced Betsy Eggers as Asst Treasurer when the latter resigned. Three other new members joined the committee: Karen Skellie, Meredith Reynolds, and Rick Stoope. Cathy Fike and Sue May completed their long service.

Friendly 8s Refugee Support Group – Contribution to annual state of the Meeting

Two Burundi men walked 8 miles from their apartment complex to come to our Meeting for Worship in the fall of 2007. These men, refugees recently relocated to this country from refugee camps in Tanzania, are Quakers who attended a programmed Friends church in Africa. Their Quaker church was of utmost importance to them in the refugee camp, and they sought out a Quaker church in here in America. They and their families, along with another Burundi family, have been attending regularly since their first visit.

The Refugee Support Group began as a Friendly 8 (social) group meeting once or twice a month in April 12, 2008. This group came together to brainstorm ways to support the Burundi families in their transition to American life and unprogrammed Friends worship. As we saw needs we reached out to the meeting community to find resources to match the needs.

We began by establishing an on-line carpool/calendar to help arrange transportation to up to 18 people to and from Meeting. We also began ESL classes for the women of the families, along with other Burundi women living in the same apartment complex. We provided picture dictionaries for the 4 Quaker families and over a dozen additional refugee families in the ESL classes, and arranged a training session for meeting attenders interested in being volunteer ESL teachers. Music is an important part of African Friends' worship, so we compiled an English-Kirundi hymnal to help American and Burundi Friends sing together. We have also begun a monthly Bible worship sharing in Kirundi or Swahili and English, to help Burundi Friends become more accustomed to speaking in worship. We have also provided guitars for the two guitarists, computers for two families, and helped with driving lessons, testing, clothes shopping, and other community visits.

Building relationships with our new Burundi Friends has enriched our spiritual lives and our own connections to each other and the Meeting. Burundi Friends have brought a new spiritual energy and life to our Meeting. The language differences, differences in worship, transportation needs, cultural differences, and special needs of those who have experienced the ravages of war first hand present new opportunities for the Meeting to learn and grow--- both for the old-timers and the newcomers.

Announcements

Adult Religious Education

On February 1, Ceal Wutka will tell us about her spiritual journey, and on March 1 we'll hear from Steve Collins.

Through March, 2009, we will read and discuss *This We Can Say: Australian Quaker Life, Faith and Thought*. This book invites us to consider not only what Friends in Australia say, but also what we can say. It is a great way to learn about Quakers if you are new, as well as great inspiration to consider on your spiritual journey at any stage. We will practice sharing our own written statements on different aspects of faith. We will continue to reserve the first Sunday of each month for meeting members to share their journeys.

Schedule:

- * December 28-January 11: Chapter 2- The Religious Society of Friends: our practice
- * January 18-25: Chapter 3-Living our faith
- * February 8-15: Chapter 4-Finding our way through life
- * February 22-March 8: Chapter 5-Facing the challenges of time and place
- * March 8-15: Chapter 6-Advices and Queries
- * March 22-29: Chapter 7- Hist. perspective

29th Annual Poor People's Day At the Capitol

February 11th & 12th, 2009

EDUCATION DAY

February 11th

Georgia Citizen's Coalition on Hunger

9 Gammon Ave, 30315

ACTION DAY

February 12th

"The People's Bailout" Caravan starting at the

Task Force for the Homeless

477 Peachtree Street 30308

Destination: State Capitol

For more info contact Bert Skellie at

bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883

Friends' Book Club We meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month. On February 22, the club will be discussing *Peony in Love* by Lisa See * Host - Mary Ann Downey 404-892-2358 (madowney@mindspring.com)

NEWS/VIEWS

Readers of the Meeting's publication, News/Views, no longer have the printed version available, it having been replaced by its no-charge electronic equivalent on the web:

www.newsviews.8m.net

Issues will continue to come out 21 times a year, twice each month on the 2nd and 4th first days. Exceptions are: no issues in August and only one in December.

Priscilla Padron has volunteered to send an email reminder notice for each issue to anyone who wishes to receive one. Please send your request to Priscilla, along with your email address. Priscilla's address is: ppadron@comcast.net

Workshop Proposals for SAYMA 2009 Needed

John Potter, workshop coordinator for SAYMA's 2009 gathering at Warren Wilson College, June 10-14, is soliciting workshop proposals. The 2009 theme is "Spirit Woven in Our Lives: a Tapestry of Light."

Possible workshop ideas could be Adult Education presentations, topics on Quaker history, clerking, and non-Quaker topics such as art- or music-oriented activities, dance, meditation, chanting, or travels.

A copy of the Workshop Application form can be downloaded from the SAYMA Web site in both RTF and PDF formats at http://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm.

If you have any questions, please contact John at doctorbitmap@bellsouth.net or at 615-356-6356 (home).

Have you wanted to get to know people in the Meeting? **Friendly Eights** are groups of 8 Quakers who agree to meet once a month to get to know one another better. Many groups are focused around an activity. Previous groups have included hiking, Quaker reading, eating at ethnic restaurants, knitting, and photography. You can sign up in the greeting room each First Day, or you can sign up online at: <http://tinyurl.com/Friendly8s>

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
First Month 18, 2009
As Recorded Pending Approval

Suzan Kenworthy presented the query: "What have you shared with your spiritual community in the last year that added depth and understanding to your life? What have you struggled with in the last year and how might you cope differently in 2009?"

A friend said that she was grateful to get to listen to the spiritual journeys of other friends. She finds that sharing our journeys makes it easier to build a life of the spirit together. Another friend queried how our meeting does spiritual outreach among those who are drawn to friends.

In attendance were: Mike Aland, Michael Allison, Cynthia Berg, Marty Bray, Muireann Brennan, Susan Cozzens, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Parker Ewen, Susan Firestone, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Harry Lefever, Georgia Lord, Susan May, Caroline Morris, Sally MacEwen, Pete McCaughan, Renda McCaughan, Jonah McDonald, Laura Norlin, Ronald Nuse, Christina Repoley, Meredith Reynolds, Bert Skellie, Henry Slack, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Pat Williams. Steve Collins (Clerk), Elizabeth Tolmach (Recording Clerk). (34 friends)

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

Minute 09-01-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of Twelfth Month 2008 with corrections.

2. Treasurer. Pete McCaughan reported that the 2008 budget deficit of \$10,040 was the largest we have ever had in our meeting. We were under budget in expenses and income in almost every category with the exception of building maintenance. Though we still have a significant amount of money in our checking and savings accounts, the bulk of this money is allocated to specific funds and not available to cover general operating costs. One challenge is how to address the decline in the number of donors.

One friend reported that the drop of income at the Atlanta Friends Meeting is very similar to that at AFSC. Another friend hoped that we create a way for people to sell services to others in the meeting and have the payment donated to the meeting. There is a sign-up sheet on the doors to the kitchen, and she is hoping to build an index or directory of peoples' gifts and services in the Meeting. One friend reminded us of a Quaker principle of thirds; spending 1/3 of our assets on the physical Meeting House, 1/3 for spiritual social activities and 1/3 for outreach. We spent half of our expenses on the building this year, and he expressed concern that this was too much, considering the Quaker testimony of simplicity.

3. Nominating. Sally MacEwen requested approval of the candidates proposed in 12th month, 2008, including: Meredith Reynolds (Treasurer), Georgia Lord (Clerk of Administration), Dana Goldman (Clerk of Young Friends Support) and Perry Treadwell (SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Representative).

Minute 09-01-02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Meredith Reynolds as Treasurer.

Minute 09-01-03: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Georgia Lord as Clerk of Administration.

Minute 09-01-04: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dana Goldman as Clerk of Young Friends Support.

Minute 09-01-05: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Perry Treadwell as SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Representative.

Some friends suggested that we temporarily stop publishing the newsletter until we found someone to replace Stoph Hallward as editor. Renda McCaughan stepped forward as interim newsletter editor, until Nominating Committee can find another one.

The following names were put forth for approval at the February Business Meeting: Beth Martinson, Ministry and Worship; Mark Wutka, Ministry and Worship; and Folami Prescott Adams, Clerk of Fundraising. Remaining open positions are one member of Ministry and Worship and a second SAYMA representative.

4. Naming. Perry Treadwell brought forth two names for approval for Nominating Committee in Second Month: Lynn Leuszler and Carolyne Noyes.

5. Ministry and Worship. Suzan Kenworthy reviewed the recommendations of Twelfth Month and asked the meeting's discernment.

Minute 09-01-06: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, we approve the membership of Christina Repoley, and welcome her.

Minute 09-01-07: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the transfer of Ian Simpson's membership to Multnomah (Oregon) Friends Meeting.

Suzan presented the first request for membership transfers to Atlanta Friends Meeting for Maia Hallward, Stoph Hallward and Denny Webster.

6. AFSC. Susan Cozzens reported that there are three national-level changes at AFSC

- Strategic planning. There will be more coherence among programs. The four areas AFSC has chosen to focus on are peace, immigration, poverty and criminal justice.
- Budget. The budget has changed to a "use/lose" budget.
- Process of simplicity. AFSC has many committees with unclear goals, and has chosen to simplify these committees.

Immigration programs have traditionally been funded by international external sources. This support is now drying up. In the southeast region, the AFSC office on Piedmont Avenue in Atlanta is moving to 260 Walton St, three blocks from Five Points.

A friend expressed concern about what would happen to the mural on the back of the current AFSC building. Another friend said AFSC has contacted the artist and is looking for creative ideas to address this concern.

7. Young Friends. Laura Norlin gave a report of Young Friends' activities from June 2008 through December 2008 (attached). Highlights included:

- June: Twelve young friends attended SAYMA, including one young friend, Ruth, from Burundi.
- July: Heather Barbour did a workshop for young friends on mystics. The initial Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) classes were conducted. Young friends from our meeting attended a memorial service for a young friend from Chapel Hill. There was a concurrent memorial meeting at AFM for those who could not attend Chapel Hill's.
- August: Intergenerational forum at Atlanta Friends Meeting with Christina Repoley. Third – sixth grade overnight at meeting.
- September - Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) retreat hosted by Atlanta young friends (44 youth and 16 FAPs).
- October: Young friends, including those from Burundi, went to Asheville for a SAYF retreat.
- November: SAYF retreat at Knoxville meeting house. First intergenerational hang-out. Field trip to southeast regional office of AFSC.

8. Other items. A friend requested a list of all people on all committees in 2009. The Clerk will work with Nominating and other committee clerks to assemble the list.

9. Clerk. The Clerk reminded committee clerks that committee reports for 2008 are due to him January 31 and thanked those who had already submitted theirs. The Meeting's draft annual report will be shared at 2nd Month Meeting for Business, for approval 3rd Month. The Clerk also announced that the annual Corporation meeting of the meeting's "officers" would be held immediately following rise of Business Meeting and that anyone was welcome to attend.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Collins (Clerk)
Elizabeth Tolmach (Recording Clerk)

Calendar for Second Month, 2009

Area Meetings for Worship

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

Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 770-720-4669 or wrlpdeas@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, 862 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Week Day (Monday – Friday)

8:30-9:30 Morning Silent Worship, Library

Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)

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

Every Third Day (Tuesday)

7:30pm Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

7:00pm Bible Study, Library

Every Sixth Day (Friday)

12:00 Vigil at Colony Square

Other Events

02/1, First Day (Sunday)

11:15-1:30 Green Friends, AB

11:30- Potluck

02/2, Second Day (Monday)

7:30-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group, Mtg. Room

02/4, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30-10:00 Administration Committee, Library

02/5, Fifth Day (Thursday)

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

02/7, Seventh Day (Saturday)

1:30-5:00 Art Show Hanging

02/8, First Day (Sunday)

11:30-12:30 Listening Ear, Atrium

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

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

11:45-1:00 Cabin Committee, C

11:45-1:30 Finance Committee, Library

11:45-1:30 Skip Shiel Photography Forum, Mtg rm.

6:30-8:30 Spiritual Nurture Group #2, Library

02/9, Second Day (Monday)

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

02/11, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30-9:00 ORAIARH, Library & Nursery

02/12, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:00-9:30 Teachings in Silence, Meeting Rm.

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

02/13, Sixth Day (Friday)

Newsletter Deadline –To Renda McCaughan

02/14, Seventh Day (Saturday)

10:00-2:00 AFG, Library

02/15, First Day (Sunday)

1:45-2:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Meeting Room (*childcare available*)

02/16, Second Day (Monday)

7:30-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group, Mtg Rm.

02/18, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:00 Newcomer's Welcome dinner

02/19, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:00-10:00 Friendly 8s – Spiritual Journeys

02/21, Seventh Day (Saturday)

9:00-3:30 CURAFM & ORAIARH joint mtg, AB

02/22 First Day (Sunday)

9:00-1:00 Friends School Pancake Breakfast

11:30-12:30 Listening Ear, Atrium

11:45-1:00 ORAIARH, Teen Jr D

6:30-8:30 Spiritual Nurture Group #2, Library

Friends Book Club, See Announcement

02/25, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-10:00 Decatur Cool Cities Coalition, AB

02/28, Seventh Day (Saturday)

10:30-2:00 Democratic Socialists of America, Library

2:00pm-9:00am Sunday – Tentative 3rd-6th grade

Intergenerational Retreat

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

Acting Newsletter Editor: Renda McCaughan, 770-730-0872: rendaandpete@yahoo.com

Friend in Residence: Valerie Barlow, 678-863-7535.

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 ninagooch@gmail.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@yahoogroups.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@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afnannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.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 3RD MONTH NEWSLETTER: 2ND MONTH 14

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

Items should be sent directly to:

Renda McCaughan

Rendaandpete@yahoo.com

770-730-0872

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.