

# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter



Meeting for Worship  
Each First Day (Sunday)  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
701 W. Howard Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030

## February 2010

**Query:** "How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work? Do I recognize when I have enough? Is the life of the Meeting so organized that it helps us to simplify our lives?"

### Visit to Suchitoto El Salvador by Don Bender

This is the second installment on the report of our visit to our friend Frank Cummings in Suchitoto, El Salvador.

As was said in the first installment, the purpose of our visit was to offer our support as representatives of (Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) and with this report to provide a visitors perspective on the work there to U.S. Friends. This was my third visit to El Salvador and the second visit to Suchitoto and El Sitio.

. When we arrived in Suchitoto, the economic improvement was evident since my visit in 95. There were small hotels, restaurants and shops, many of which seemed to be doing well. The small hotel where we stayed was a comfortable, professional operation. On many levels Suchitoto is developing commercial life that is impressive. However two decades ago, Suchitoto was a center of violence with bodies regularly found on the streets. The population had dwindled to around 1,000 during the civil war of the 1980s but today has a population of 7,000. There continue to be security concerns but, compared to life during the war, it is a safe friendly place.

One encouraging trend was the developing artistic and cultural life of the city. Our first day was filled with visits to the Art Center for Peace and several art galleries with unique, quality art. The art center has a program that varies with the particular skills of teachers who come. Funds are being raised for renovation of buildings to allow for expansion of the center and its program and there is the audacity and vision to make this an even more vital center. Pajaro Flor Language School, a relatively new operation, provides individualized Spanish instruction to visiting students based on an initial test. In the evening we were treated to a drama put on by the staff of a hotel and students of one of the schools.

The city of Suchitoto has stone streets and many historic buildings which help to give Suchitoto a charm, enhanced by the location overlooking the valleys and a hydro lake below. A Catholic church, built in the 1850s

and dominating the central square completes this picturesque scene, but more important is the sense of community that thrives in Suchitoto. Pedestrian friendliness is not a new urbanism concept here; it is the way of life. The streets belonged to pedestrians except for an occasionally car or more often a bus. In response to a query from a resident, Frank pointed to the community spirit of Suchitoto as being the main reason he enjoyed living there.

Since our first full day in Suchitoto was November 2nd, El Dia de los Muertes (The Day of the Dead), we visited the city cemetery, which was crowded with visitors. Families were busy painting and landscaping the crypts, laying bouquets of flowers and visiting with each other and those who passed by. Other family members were at home preparing food for their family guests. Crowded streets, including food vendors, added to this very festive day of remembering the ancestors.

One of our commitments, that we discussed Frank, Robert Broz and Franks son Andrew, before we left, is that we will work to support the scholarship program of AFM. This program began in 2003 and has been important in providing funding for higher education for rural youth from the communities, including El Sitio, that make up the Municipality of Suchitoto. That fund has helped 20 students and the current campaign goal is \$50,000 to be spread over 5 years. The raising of this fund is lead by Bert Skellie (AFM), who has been involved since its inception. The beauty of this fund is that it is one of several such programs started in Suchitoto in the past 5 years and 4 of these programs are administered by either Frank or Robert Broz. Contributions to this fund should be made out to Atlanta Friends Meeting with El Sitio in the memo line.

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Quakers were the only major denomination to require its members to end the practice of enslavement.

- True
  - False
- (Answer on page 4)

## **Announcements**

### **NEWS/VIEWS WILL BECOME A WEB SITE**

Twenty-eight year ago, a small group of members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting published the first issue of News/Views. It was a printed and mailed publication composed of selected articles from the mainstream press which reflected the FCNL objectives.

News/views, at its peak, was mailed to 600 subscribers from 45 states and several foreign countries. Always a volunteer effort, its only expenses were the costs of printing and mailing.

Now, like other publishers of print, we find our costs have risen as our subscriber list has declined. Therefore, the decision has been made to change from a hardcopy item to a no charge web site. After the December issues, News/Views will be presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays on its web site. [www.newsviews.8m.net](http://www.newsviews.8m.net) For further information contact Nan or Britt Pendergrast at 404-355-0927

### **News from Renda and Pete, Homeless!**

Pete and I have been searching for a house here in Connecticut ever since 9<sup>th</sup> of August). We have explored towns for their proximity to both New Milford (where Sammy [grandchild] lives) and Wilton (where the Quaker Meeting is). We have visited libraries to be sure that they are adequately stocked with books and welcoming places. We have scanned hundred of MLS listings for houses in our price and size ranges, gone with our relators to see dozens of houses and come close to bidding on a couple. But none has been The One.

Already it has been wonderful to be close to our son Dave, Jenn, and Sammy. Just last

Sunday I took Sammy to see the Nutcracker ballet live at a theater nearby. changes.

### **Adult Religious Education for February, 2010**

Alex Horsley will tell us about his spiritual journey on February 7. For the rest of the month, we will continue to discuss the book, Plain Living: A Quaker path to Simplicity, by Catherine Whitmire. This book is a collection of the sayings of Friends (ranging from Margaret Fell and Isaac Penington to Jan Hoffman and Patricia Loring) on to every aspect of living a spiritually centered and simple life. Topics explored include work, plain speech, money and resources, committed relationships, grief, fear, leadings, community, practicing non-violence, spirit-led service and inward simplicity. Each section is followed by queries.

### **Looking for a novel experience?**

Yes, Virginia, there is an AFM book club devoted to reading and discussing novels. We meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m., usually at a reader's home. Our selections are as diverse as our readers. Our February and March selections are as follows:  
February 28 *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski Host, Mary Ann Downey  
March 28 *Netherland* by John O'Neill A New York Times selection for its 10 best books of 2008. Host, Judith Greenberg.

**Samantha Jane Morris** was born to Wes and Coryn Morris in Shanghai on Jan. 8 weighing in at 81/2 lbs and almost 23 inches. Mother and baby are doing well and Melissa is happy with her new little sister.

**Greetings from Hector and Susie Black** Susie is much better after a difficult hospitalization in early Dec. Greetings to any who remember us, Hector.

Clerk of the Meeting  
Georgia Lord

Assistant Clerk of the Mtg

Recording Clerk  
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770-452-0736  
Treasurer  
Meredith Reynolds

Finance  
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Office Coordinator  
Jonah McDonald

Friend in Residence  
John Roberts  
917-902-3719

## **AFM Holiday Bazaar to benefit Heifer International a Huge Success**

The Junior High Young Friends First Day School class is using the Heifer International curriculum GET IT: Global Education to Improve Tomorrow, in conjunction with our study of the biblical New Testament and Quaker values. GET IT! aims to teach us about sustainable solutions to poverty around the world, and show us how consumer choices affect both the global environment and people everywhere. We learned about the Good Samaritan and talked about who is our neighbor—agreeing in the end with Jesus who instructs us to be a neighbor to all people no matter where they are from.

As part of our study we sponsored a holiday bazaar to allow people to buy locally or sustainably produced goods from our community and our Quaker Meeting. The cost for the vendors was a donation to Heifer International. Several Meeting members made donations of goods for the young people to sell with total profits to benefit Heifer. Additionally we made Heifer International gift cards and catalogues available for people to make direct contributions. We raised \$1140 for Heifer International.

Last First Day (December 20) the Junior High Young Friends deliberated about how to spend the Heifer money. We read about the animal and plant gifts we could afford, and tried to imagine the best use for our dollars. We had a serious conversation about animals used for meat vs. animals used primarily for wool, eggs and milk, understanding in the end, that most animals supplied to families probably end up providing meat at some point. The kids chose to stay away from animals that were primarily used for meat (pigs and rabbits). Their final list includes one or more of the following: goat, heifer, llama-Alpaca, water buffalo, chickens, ducks, geese, and tree seedlings.

We are very proud of our Meeting and ourselves and our collective success has been greatly rewarded with requests for another bazaar next year!

Middle School Young Friends: Jennifer Dickie (teacher), Flannery Williams, Ruby Williams, Asa Kramer-Dickie, Jane Lay, Katelyn Tippen, Katie Richardson, and Kofi Adams

### **Other Bazaar Funds Raised**

Thank you to all the vendors at the AFM Holiday Bazaar in December there were cards created by the preschool class, and ornaments created by both the lower and upper elementary classes. The Lower Elementary Class (teacher-Betsy Eggers) will be donating the proceeds from their sales to the Burundi Meeting House fund, and the Upper Elementary Class (teacher-Terri O'Neal) will be donating their earnings to CARE International. Mary Jahntz and her daughter Merrick Owan raised \$240 for "All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD)" a Georgia organization working to create a better life for those living with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Bellow is an article about our fundraising bazaar (I've also attached it). Let me know if you have any questions. Contributed by Jennifer Dickie

### **LED LIGHTING IN GREETING ROOM**

Have you noticed the new accent lighting in the Greeting Room -- the long tubes that run along the top of the wall? These are LED lights, and they replace the original neon lights that were put in when the Meeting House was built in 1991.

The lights were donated by Paul and Heather Jeziorowski. They were installed in late December by Paul, with the assistance of John Roberts, Perry Treadwell, and Dan May.

These lights constitute a large green step for the Meeting, in two senses of the word. The neon system, when fully functional, was responsible for over four tons of annual carbon dioxide emissions at the electric power plant, whereas the LEDs will put only about one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Apart from global warming pollution, other harmful emissions such as mercury and the gasses that contribute to smog and acid rain likewise will be reduced by over 75%. And, in the other sense of green, we will save a good \$500 per year in electricity costs. Contributed by Dan May

## **Thank you letter from Gabrielle Lahowitch**

I want to thank the Atlanta Friends Meeting scholarship committee for your financial help but in my first year of college. I'm attending Guilford college in Greensboro, North Carolina. (Guilford matched your scholarship, by the way.)

School is going well in many aspect. I'm happy playing on Guilford's varsity soccer team, have loved my classes, and am meeting so many people from the states and internationally. My roommate is from China, and it's exciting to learn about her culture. Thanks in part to your support I am able to be in this stimulating environment.

One of the best parts of Guilford is QLSP (Quaker Leadership Scholarship Program). I'm in this group with other Quakers and it's very refreshing to step back into familiar areas. I'm able to practice my faith and keep my peace of mind while at college. I've learned and am learning so much about other types of Quakers and the different types of meetings. I'm also able to explore my own beliefs which had their beginnings with my home Atlanta Meeting. Thanks again for all of your support – emotional, spiritual and financial. signed Gabrielle Lahowitch January 2010

## **Invictus (unconquered)**

Seldom is a person allowed to relive a profound spiritual experience. The film *Invictus* allowed me to do just that. The boat with the rugby players headed for Robbin Island and I knew what was coming. Matt Damian's character, Francois Pienaar, stood in Nelson Mandela's cell, the same one that we had visited. Then the bus drove by the quarry and the cave where Mandela and his fellows planned "reconciliation." To see that history moved me then and again as it did Pienaar. Editor

## **Souvenirs of life**

Gadgets, trash, money, babies

Left here for others. From Tera Hands

There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: the readiness is all. Hamlet Act V  
Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.  
Mat 10:29\_

## **Rituals**

Part of the discussion at a recent Meeting for Worship with attention to business was being a semi-programmed meeting because we have certain rituals during and after meeting: Starting at a fixed hour, children leaving for First Day School at a fixed time, holding in the Light before a somewhat fixed ending. Introductions and other sharing and announcements follow. Traditionally, we make a circle on the first First Day of the month to bless the food we are about to share and then sing happy birthday. All of the above were not common practices among Friends until the second half of the last century. But they are intended to build a sense of community if they are not abused. Editor

## **Answer to quiz question:**

a. True. "The Quakers stance against enslavement was singular- no other Christian denomination required its members to end the practice ..." See p. 41 in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*. You can find the answer to this and many other questions in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*, which is on sale at the ORAIIARH table or can be bought through Quaker Press.

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Month 17, 2010 Recorded Pending Approval**

Georgia Lord presented the query: “Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?”

In attendance were: Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Judith Greenberg, Meg Harper, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Alison Mawle, Steve McLaughlin, Karen Morris, Gary Piper, Marguerite Rece, Meredith Reynolds, John Roberts, Marthajane Robinson, Don Schreiber, Barbara Seal, Denise Shaw, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Rick Stoops, Joan Thompson, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Pat Williams, Cecilia Wutka, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) (35 Friends)

**Ferguson Cabin Committee:** Joan Thompson and Kathy Johnson provided an update on the construction at the Ferguson Cabin. Construction is on hold through the winter. During 2009, at least 50 different individuals used the cabin. At least 50 individuals/families have made contributions to the building fund, and 19/20 people have made donations items for usethere. Alison Mawle reported that the hemlock on the property need to be protected from Woolly Adelgid infestation. The Committee to shift back to a governance structure of ten Stewards, with the Stewards to be proposed by the Cabin Committee and approved by the Meeting for Business. The Cabin Committee proposed the names of Joan Thompson(Scheduler), John Carpentier (Clerk), Kathy Johnson, Sallie Carpentier, Caroline Morris, Mike Aland, Priscilla Padron, Fred Stevens, Melanie Fuller and Emmett Fuller. It was agreed that the committee will with Jim Tolmachto finish drafting a revised Ferguson Cabin Committee descriptionfor the Handbook, and then bring the revised description to Business eeting for . The Committee will also work with Nominating Committee to bring forth a group of Stewards for the cabin.

**Nominating Committee:** Lynn Leuszler presented for final approval: Aaron Ruscetta for Webmaster, Wendy Philips for SAYMA representative, and Lynn Leuszler for Ministry & Worship.

**Minute 10-01-01:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Aaron Ruscetta as Webmaster.

**Minute 10-01-02:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Wendy Philips as a SAYMA representative.

**Minute 10-01-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Lynn Leuszler as an at-large member of Ministry & Worship.

Nominating committee also brought forth Ceal Wutka to serve on SAYMA’s Ministry & Nurture Committee, and will designate an appropriate clearness committee for her. Final approval will be sought in 2<sup>nd</sup> Month.

**Naming Committee:** On behalf of Naming Committee, Bert Skellie presented for final approval Steve Collis for Nominating Committee.

**Minute 10-01-04:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Steve Collins as a member of Nominating Committee.

**Ministry & Worship:** Suzan Kenworthy reported that the Meeting has received a request for a transfer of membership for Loretta Lucy Miller from Atlanta Friends Meeting to Green Street Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia.

**Minute 10-01-05:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the transfer of membership for Loretta Lucy Miller to Green Street Monthly Meeting. The Clerk is authorized to revise the proposed letter and send it.

Suzan Kenworthy presented a first request for Barbara Seal and Donald Schreiber to be married under the care of the Meeting. Final approval for the marriage will be sought in 2<sup>nd</sup> month. Ministry & Worship also presented a first request for approval for membership for Caroline Noyes, with Steve McLaughlin, Suzan Kenworthy, and Mark Wutka serving as her clearness committee. Final approval will be sought in 2<sup>nd</sup> month. A multigenerational Meeting will be held on the fifth Sunday in January, and will include a demonstration of the Godly Play First Day School curriculum.

**SAYMA Faith and Practice:** Georgia Lord reported that SAYMA has sent out proposed changes for the Marriage Community section, with comments due back mid-February. Ministry & Worship will review the changes. In addition, Bill Holland will clerk a special Meeting for consideration of the text changes. Copies of the revision are on the SAYMA website, and hard copies will be made available for review.

**Treasurer's Report/Finance:** Meredith Reynolds reported that for 2009, income from contributions was \$20,000 under budget, but the shortfall was offset by rental income, reduction in employee expenses, and reductions in utility costs. Total expenses for 2009 were about \$10,000 less than budgeted for. A full report on the budget will be presented in 2<sup>nd</sup> month.

**Social Concerns:** Julia Ewen reported that Frank Penna is a Quaker missionary in Haiti whose organization World Relief International operates an orphanage in Haiti. There is no news on the status of that orphanage. There are over 2,500 Haitian Quakers and an on-going need for support.

**Approval of Minutes of Twelfth Month Meeting For Worship with Attention to Business.**

**Minute 10-01-06:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of Twelfth Month without changes.

**Clerk's items:** Georgia Lord reported that Steve Collins has authored a traveling minute that will be sent with Joel Bowman and Pat Michaelson as they sojourn in Oxford, England for three months.

The Clerk also requests that committees provide more Friends with greater opportunities to read and understand recommendations being brought before Business Meeting by circulating the text prior to Business Meeting, and by presenting information on the they used and the alternatives consider formulating recommendation.

The Clerk also raised a concern regarding the continued difficulty of recruiting enough volunteers to fill the current duties expected by the Meeting. The Meeting agreed to examine this issue in upcoming committee meetings and in 2<sup>nd</sup>Month, with members urging both that specific data be gathered on the issue and that the discussion extend beyond those who ordinarily attend Monthly Meeting.

**10. Other:** Ceal Wutka reported that Aaron Ruscetta has been hired as the new youth coordinator for the Young Friends Support Committee, and has completed his first retreat.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Georgia Lord, Clerk

Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

### **Volunteer Needed: Personnel Liaison**

Nominating Committee is seeking people who are led to serve in many capacities within the Meeting. One role in particular is Personnel Liaison, who will support our employees, facilitate new hires, and help conduct periodic employee reviews, among other tasks. If you feel led towards this work, please contact a member of Nominating Committee or the Office Coordinator: [afmquakers@hotmail.com](mailto:afmquakers@hotmail.com), 404-377-2474.

## Calendar for Second Month 2010

### 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, 12:30 p.m. — Carrollton Friends Worship Group, St. Andrew United Methodist Youth Center, 1106 Maple St, Carrollton, lessell.bray@gmail.com or 770-830-8705.

Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 12:00 p.m. Contact Marty Bray for more information: 770-830-8705 or lessell.bray@ gmail.com

Every Fifth Day, 12:10 p.m.— First Thursdays at AFSC office, 189A Sams Street, Decatur, GA, 30030.,

Every other Thursday 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.

Mon-Fri Morning Worship, 8:30 – 9:00: In the library at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse. Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474,afmquakers@hotmail.com

### Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom A/B

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Week Day (Monday – Friday)

8:30-9:00 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

7:30pm Bible Study, Library

Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-8:30 Mid-Week Semi-Programmed

Worship Mt. Rm

### Other Events

2/1, Second Day (Monday)

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group, Library

2/3, Forth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-10:00 Administration Committee

Meeting, Library

2/4, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Peace Jr. High Room

2/7, First Day (Sunday) Potluck

11:30-2:00 Green Friends, A&B

2/10, Forth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-9:30 ORAIARH, Library

2/11, FifthDay (Thursday)

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

2/14, First Day (Sunday) 11:30-2:00 Care and Counsel, Jr. Teen Rm.

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

11:45-2:00 Ministry & Worship, A&B

11:45-2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

11:30-1:00 SAYF Retreat Planning Committee,

Sr High Room

2/15, Second Day (Monday)

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group

2/18, Fifth Day (Thursday) Newcomers Dinner see weekly announcements for details

2/19, Sixth Day, (Friday) Deadline for Third Month newsletter

2/20, Seventh Day, (Saturday)

9:00-3:30 Joint Meeting of ORAIIA &

CURAF, Library

2/21, First Day (Sunday)

10:00-11:00 Meeting for Worship followed by Business Meeting

2/28, First Day (Sunday)

11:45- 1:15pm CUR-AFM Jr High Room

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  
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Newsletter Editor, 404-325-1504, perryt@bellsouth.net  
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 AFM newsletter notices 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 afmannouncements-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 2<sup>ND</sup> Month newsletter: 1<sup>ST</sup> Month 22**  
Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, poetry, calendar notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to: Perry Treadwell perryt@bellsouth.net 404-325-1504 preferably in plain text in the body of the email.

*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*