

# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter



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

## APRIL 2010

**Query:** Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing? Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things? Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run



### Schreiber/Seal Marriage

Friends and family gathered to witness and celebrate the marriage of Barbara Seal and Don Schreiber at the Atlanta Friends Meeting House on March (third month) the 21st day at 3 p.m. Some came from all over the country, as far away as Seattle, Washington.

After settling into worship the couple rose and “Barbara Seal and Donald Schreiber taking each other by the hand did on this solemn occasion declare that they promise with Divine assistance to be unto each other loving and faithful partners, and to work together to build a home that reflects their love with simplicity, honesty and commitment, so long as they both shall live.” After exchanging rings, they signed the Certificate of Marriage.

While settling into silence several messages noted the love that pervaded the room. Messages of song were heard. One message centered on the similarity between buying a home and building a marriage. Both hold hidden joys and both may require renovations from time to time. At rise of meeting,

those attending were advised to sign the certificate.

While the rain pattered around the meeting, the occasion allowed many to happily visit with one another. Barbara’s mother and stepfather were joined by her sisters and her twins. Don’s mother was joined by his two brothers, sister and their families, his daughters and grand children.

A great spread of food was provided and served by many members of the Meeting. The couple cut the huge sheet cakes for all to enjoy.

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### Public Education Project Funds Available Through Friends Social Concerns Committee

If you are a public school teacher, student or parent or have any other connection to a public school, you may be interested in applying for support for a project. Projects must be sponsored by Meeting attenders. Three or four enrichment projects can be funded between now and the end of December, for about \$200 - \$400 each (up to \$800 is available). To apply for funds, send a brief description of the project, the amount requested, the name of the teacher or other project leader and the name of the school to Bert Skellie (bertskellie@ gmail.com or 404-378-5883). Social Concerns Committee will consider the request at its next meeting.

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“We can tell our values by looking at our checkbook stubs.” Gloria Steinem

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Most Friends supported the Underground Railroad, and Friends were the major group who “ran” it.

- a. True
- b. False

The answer appears on a following page in the newsletter.

## **Announcements**

### **Rebecca Tolmach's ministry in Chicago**

Rebecca, daughter of Jim Tolmach and Sally Ferguson is "working with high-risk girls on the West Side with a dynamic organization called Girls in the Game" as reported by The Quaker Volunteer Service Committee at 57th Street Meeting. A graduate from Earlham College in 2008, "Rebecca is a real gift to Girls in the Game, an organization with limited funding and critically important work to do" according to the report. "Girls in the Game provides sports and fitness opportunities, health education and leadership development activities to assist young women to make it successfully through what is often a very challenging stage of life.

"Quaker Volunteers spend one year in full-time service, within a framework of Quaker Spirituality." The Meeting "is writing to ask you to partner with us in this work. Members of the QVS Committee (currently including members of 6 Illinois Yearly Meeting meetings) and other friends are giving generously, and we hope that you will join us as you are led. Tax deductible contributions earmarked for QVS can be made out to and sent to 57th Street Meeting , 5615 S. Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL 60637."

### **Dave Zarembka speaks on African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams**

Zarembka will speak at the Friends Meeting on April 26, 7 pm about their reconciliation process for warring ethnicities in Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda, and an alternatives to violence program to prevent violence during elections (Kenya).

David writes, "When I was eighteen and had to sign up for the military draft, I realized that

peacemaking did not include military service as I would be unable to kill or prepare to kill another human being. I realized at that time that this would make me in opposition to the conventional wisdom in the United States and that my lifetime would be spent working on other alternatives. The Friends Peace Testimony fit directly into my concerns so I have been involved with Friends in peacemaking ever since. I have always been concerned, not with individualism, but community issues of conflict, war, genocide, and peace, reconciliation, and healing. I prefer, not the heights of governments and leadership, but the common, grassroots concerns of ordinary people and communities."

### **2010 FGC Gathering Accepting Gifts of the Spirit**

July 4-10, Bowling Green, Ohio.

The Gathering invites you to step toward worship, step toward community—to step toward a richer Quakerism.

Browsing this web site you will taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. We eagerly look forward to welcoming you—in person—at Bowling Green. Sign up on this page for regular email updates about the FGC Gathering. Evening Programs: George Lakey, July 5; Phil Gulley, July 6; A Quaker Showcase of Talent, July 7; "Show Me the Franklins", July 8; Interest Groups , July 9

go to <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>

### **Adult Religious Education for April and May 2010**

Elizabeth Valera will tell us about her spiritual journey on April 4. During April and May, Meg Harper will teach The Bible as Literature. The Bible has been many things to many people, from historical evidence to ethical guide to ideological proof-text. It is also a collection of stories, poems, and other forms of what we think of as creative writing. The notion behind this series is to look at the Bible using the sorts of eyes we use for

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reading literature and see what we may find. The plan for the course will be as follows: Week 1: historical context: so what is "it" anyhow? what are these books, who wrote them, who collected them together, and why? how have they changed over time? Week 2: stories and how they work: biblical narrative. Week 3: poems and how they work: biblical verse. Week 4: other genres: prophecies, proverbs, rules, annals. Week 5: add Greek and stir: the New Testament. Week 6: what did they turn into then? the history and politics of translation

### **Help for Book by Young Quakers**

**Spirit Rising: Young Quaker Voices** will go to the printer in less than a week and is available for pre-order from [www.QuakerBooks.org](http://www.QuakerBooks.org)! We have come so far from when we started in the winter of 2007-2008. We still have a little further to go, and we need your help.

We have received a matching grant for \$5,000 from the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund that we can't access unless we raise an additional \$5,000 dollars. We are hoping to match it as successfully as we did the matching grant from the Tyson Memorial Fund. We are fundraising for a budget to support the promotion of the book as a teaching tool and catalyst for intergenerational, international and ecumenical dialogue and renewal among friends; its distribution to Friends in Latin America and Africa; and ongoing support of the young writers and artists included in the book. We are planning book events for cities around the world that will feature writer's and artists included in the book and carry on its spirit of dialogue and respect in the family of friends. Events that, we hope, will include many of you.

To do that, we need your help. Please consider giving a donation, or encouraging your Friends church or meeting to support us.

It is best to make a donation by check, and send it to: Spirit Rising/Quaker Youth Book Project  
1216 Arch Street #2B Philadelphia, PA 19107 "Spirit Led Decisions: Quaker Process for all Faiths" March 12-14. This workshop is based on requests from folks in other traditions to learn about our meeting for worship with attention to business. Share this news with others by sending this link <http://pendlehill.org/workshops/winter-2010/206-spirit-led-decisions> to all who might be interested.

### **AN APOLOGY AND AN EXPLANATION**

I'd like to apologize for the sorry state of the

parking lot before its repair in mid-March. When I first noticed the damage in the middle of the lot, it took me a while to find out what was going on. Eventually, I learned that the damage was done by the very heavy front-loading truck that the Decatur Sanitation Department was using to empty the Meeting's dumpster each week.

The reason there had been no damage until the beginning of the year is that the prior dumpster – which was in very bad shape when we finally replaced it last fall – was of a different design, and so was unloaded by a smaller and lighter truck. I opted to replace it with a different type of dumpster, which can be emptied by an automated (front-loading) truck, and thus cost \$150/year less for the weekly emptying. It didn't even occur to me that the new dumpster would be occasion for a heavier truck to be used, or that our parking lot was not up to the additional weight.

When I finally learned what was going on, and was able order a replacement (old style) dumpster and have the lot repaired with reasonable assurance that it would not soon go to pieces again, two months or so had passed. But we now have a "new" used dumpster, a lighter truck emptying it, and a nicely-repaired lot. (The alternative of building up the parking lot so that it could withstand the heavier truck would have been far more expensive than a saving of \$150 a year would have justified.) Dan May, Clerk of Meetinghouse Committee

### **Scholarships for College Students**

The Educational Scholarship committee welcomes applications for post high school scholarships. Please call Caroline Morris, 404.633.4054 so that we can send you an application

The committee also welcomes donations to make these scholarships possible. We hope to be able to offer up to \$500 for each student for the school year. Call Caroline Morris for more information.

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B False p. 97 - 98, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* The proportion of Friends who took an active part in the Underground Railroad was small, and Americans of other denominations were as committed as Quakers were. The perceived leadership of Quakers is due to their early stand against enslavement, the importance of Philadelphia and other heavily Quaker areas for fugitives, portrayal of Quakers in Uncle Tom's Cabin, and the distinctiveness of Quaker plain dress.

Intrigued? You can find the answer to 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.

### **Georgia's Concentration Camps** (Another Guantanamo?)

On Thursday March 4, a few friends heard Azadeh Shashahani describe the conditions in the detention center in south west Georgia.

There are hundreds of "detention centers" situated over the U.S. with two in Georgia. The Stewart Detention Center near Lumpkin in Stewart County is run by a for profit corporation: the Corrections Corporation of America. The Nashville based company netted \$23.7 million last year and is featured by several mutual fund companies, including Vanguard. CCA receives income from federal, state, and local governments with major funding through U.S. Immigration and Customs whose budget includes \$90 million for detention beds. Our tax dollars at work.

Length of imprisonment in any facility is determined by the status of the prisoner and may be as long as two years. During imprisonment the Georgia Detention Watch has documented cases of untreated medical conditions including one death. Complaints about poor food and services have also been heard. The prison conditions do not follow the standards set by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was ratified by the U.S. in 1992.

It is estimated that during fiscal year 2007 over 311,000 individuals were detained with average daily populations over 30,000. These detainees have not been imprisoned for criminal acts but for being undocumented. From the Atlanta Journal/Constitution "... 228,421 cases were awaiting a hearing in the first months of the 2010 fiscal year, which began Oct.1, up 23 percent since the end of the 2008 fiscal year, and 82 percent higher than 10 years ago. The average wait for a hearing is also longer than ever: an average of 439 days nationwide."

Reminds me of the "relocation camps" for Japanese-Americans and German-Americans detained as possible saboteurs during the Second World War. Of course American history goes back farther to "the trail of tears" of the Cherokee and "the long walk" of the Navaho as well as the Fort Robinson imprisonment of the Northern Cheyenne, to mention only a few instances.

I am also aware that the Mexicans are only returning to the land the United States stole from them to extend slavery to California. Only a few heroic senators prevented that plan by President Polk and his southern cronies. Perry Treadwell

### **Book Review: Little Five**

For someone who lived through the "Highs & Lows of Little Five" Points I was disappointed in the book's coverage of this history by Robert Hartle Jr. It is more a "I was responsible" honorarium for Kelly Jordan than an in depth investigation of the history. Missing is the Ananda Marga split that nearly ended Sevananda; the fire bombing of the Little Five Points Community Pub after an ACLU benefit; how Abbadabbas got it's name, among so many vignettes. But most of all, interviews with those who knew how much more Don Bender contributed to the real growth are missing. The book is padded with unnecessary quotes from the BOND community plans, pictures of the Point Center construction, and quotes from *Atlanta Journal/Constitution* which used to call us the "aging hippies." Don Bender has some much better pictures of Mayor Jackson at the Pub opening. Missing also is the role of Councilwoman Esther Lefever. This history has the feel of a rush job. From Perry Treadwell who has also written for "The Bird", *Creative Loafing*, *The Atlanta JC*, and *the Atlanta Magazine*.

### **Report on White Privilege Anti-Racism Workshop**

given 1/24/10 by the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM)

Twenty-three participants, including several committee clerks, attended the white privilege anti-racism workshop on Jan. 24, 2010. The workshop consisted of an introduction to the purpose, an interactive exercise in which participants took steps forward or back in response to a series of statements related to their own

experiences and white privilege, and a whole group discussion. The activity demonstrated that those who identified as white (18) moved noticeably ahead of the participants who identified as people of color/ members of a minority group (5). The discussion that followed focused on people's feelings and thoughts about the exercise, how institutional racism contributed to white privilege, and next steps. Participants also raised broader issues of racism and oppression.

We conducted an anonymous online survey to gather participant's feedback. We had 12 responses. Most respondents indicated that the workshop either made them more aware of white privilege or that they were already aware of white privilege. Both the interactive activity and the follow-up discussion received favorable responses of 92%. However, the interactive activity rated more highly than the follow-up discussion, with 77% of respondents rating the interactive activity as "excellent" or "very good". Participants could select a number of next steps that they would be more likely to take: Sixty Four percent (64%) said that they would become more active advocates for people of color, and 64% said they would speak up against racist behavior. Fifty- five percent (55%) said they would become more active on working for justice related to racial disparities. Participants also offered a number of constructive suggestions for future workshops. The full report from the survey will be available at the ORAIARH table (weekly literature table of Our Roles as Individuals in America's Racial History support group)

## **Atlanta Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 3rd Month 21, 2010**

Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord explained that there would be a period of silence, that she would give the query out of the silence, and that the period of silence would continue for a time thereafter. Friends were encouraged to respond to the query. She would then close the silence with an invitation to all to share any remaining reflections they had regarding the query.

During a period of silence, she presented the query: "When a member has lifted up a concern, how does the Meeting respond? Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their conviction of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?" [Yardley Friends Meeting]

Two Friends spoke of how the Meeting had responded positively to them when they sought clearness and support and of the importance of all in the Meeting supporting one another. One noted the positive role that clearness committees can serve in this process, both by assisting members in reaching clarity and by drawing us closer together.

In attendance were: Mike Aland, Micheal Allison, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Parker Ewen, Susan Firestone, Nina Gooch, Judith Greenberg, Meg Harper, Bill Holland, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Sue May, Caroline Morris, Laura Norlin, John Roberts, Beth Ruddiman, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rick Stoops, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Jane Wellborn, Steve Collins (Acting Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) [27 Friends]

**1. FCNL Legislative Priorities:** Sue May reported on the meeting's response to a request from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to meetings around the country to consider what should be FCNL's top five legislative priorities in the 2011-2012 congressional session. Issues that people in the meeting suggested included preventing war, jobs creation, child welfare, abuse and status of women, alternative energy, social justice, education, healthcare, and reform in areas such as campaign finance, financial institutions and immigration. Sue will take these concerns to FCNL for their policy committee to consider and will also prepare an article on this subject for the AFM newsletter.

**2. Friend in Residence Report on Ministry:** John Roberts, AFM Friend in Residence since late 2009, thanked meeting attenders for their warm welcome and support while he has been working to understand the Spirit of the meeting and determine how he could best serve the meeting. His search has led him to a place that he feels aligns with his spiritual journey and is a leading that is both external and internal to the meeting.

He proposes coordinating the development of substantive forums on key topics of interest to Meeting attendees and those in the wider community. Examples he cited included a forum on Quakerism and Islam and another forum on prisons and the impact of the penal system on our communities. John plans to both serve as the principal planner on some forums and provide technical assistance in facilitating some of the other forum programs planned by meeting committees.

Friends offered support for this ministry and suggestions for other forum topics. One Friend voiced a concern that while this ministry appears to have considerable support within the Meeting that we not spread ourselves too thin in attempting to implement all the ideas brought forward. John agreed and asked for additional suggestions on how and when to conduct the forums, as well as other forum topics.

**3. Nominating Committee:** Steve Collins reported on the committee's continuing efforts to fill open positions in the meeting, including Assistant Clerk of Meeting, clerk of Administration, appointed member of Administration, Personnel Liaison, Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM) contact person, and Ministry & Worship member. While no names were brought forward, the committee will likely have some to present in 4th Month. He reminded the meeting of other Nominating members: Folami Adams, Roland Heath, Lynn Leuszler, Wendy Phillips, and Caroline Noyes.

At a future meeting, the committee will also ask for approval of a revised Handbook description for the Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee. The revised description will be circulated prior to the Business Meeting where approval will be sought.

**4. 2009 State of the Meeting Report:** Steve Collins provided an update on the status of the 2009 AFM State of the Meeting report, which is due to SAYMA by April 10. Later today, Steve will share the latest version of the report by email with the AFM Discussion group. He asked for comments and corrections to be emailed to him so that changes could be made in time to meet SAYMA's target date. He also asked Friends to share substantive changes or additions to the report with others in the AFM Discussion group.

**5. CURAFM – Anti-Racism Workshop on White Privilege:** Susan Firestone presented a report (attached) on a recent white privilege anti-racism workshop on white privilege, sponsored by the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). Twenty-three participants, including several committee clerks, attended the workshop on Jan. 24, 2010. The workshop included an interactive exercise in which participants took steps forward or back in response to a series of statements related to their own experiences and white privilege. CURAFM conducted an anonymous on-line survey to gather participant's feedback. They received 12 responses, 92% of which were favorable, with many indicating they would become more active advocates for people of color, would speak up against racist behavior, and would become more active on working for justice related to racial disparities.

**6. Other items:** Georgia Lord clarified an item from 2nd Month Business meeting, specifically the approval of Ceal Wutka as the AFM representative to the SAYMA Ministry & Nurture committee. Between the 1st and 2nd Month Business meetings Suzan Kenworthy made follow-up inquiries to Judy Guerry, clerk of SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture committee, regarding what steps needed to be taken to complete the approval process. Judy Guerry told her that the meeting's process for nominating and approving Ceal had satisfied SAYMA's requirements. Those attending 2nd Month Business heard the report that the meeting had satisfied SAYMA's requirements and proceeded to approve Ceal's nomination.

**7. Clerk's items:** The clerk reminded committees and others in meeting to circulate news of any proposed action prior to Business Meeting, noting that it is particularly important when the meeting will be asked to approve a written statement to circulate, in advance, the text that is to be presented for consideration or approval. She also encouraged committees to ask the meeting for input regarding any issues which they are finding difficult to resolve.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Georgia Lord, Clerk, Steve Collins, Acting Recording Clerk

## Calendar for Forth 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

4/1 Fifth Day (Thursday)

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

4/4, First Day (Sunday) Potluck

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

4/6 Third Day (Tuesday)

7:00-9:00 Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

4/7 Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:45-9:45 Administration Committee Meeting, Library

4/8, Fifth Day (Thursday)

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

4/11, 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

4/12, Second Day (Monday)

6:15-9:30 Spiritual Nurture Group, Library

4/13, Forth Day, (Wednesday)

7:00-9:30 ORAIARH, Library

4/16, Second Day, (Monday) Deadline for Fourth Month newsletter

4/18, First Day, (Sunday)

1:00-8:00 Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream symposium, Mt Rm

Newcomers Dinner place to be announced

4/22, Fifth Day, (Thursday)

7:00-9:00 Quaker Entrepreneurs, Library

4/23, Sixth Day, (Friday)

5:30-10:00 Bender Birthday/El Sitio Fundraiser, Mt Rm

4/23, First Day, (Sunday)

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

11:30-1:00 Teen Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Sr High Room

4/26, Second Day, (Monday)

5:30-8:30 Social Concerns Speaker, Mt Rm

6:15-9:30 Spiritual Nurture Group, Library

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

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**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 5TH Month newsletter: 4th Month 16**

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*