

Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter



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

JUNE 2010

Query: Am I a grateful recipient of the gifts that life provides? How do I express my gratitude? Do I live with a grace and lightness that make joy and laughter part of my everyday life? Doug Crawford-Palmer and the Oread Friends Meeting.

Memories of a different time and an enduring faith

As many of you know, it is very enjoyable to talk with AFM employee Joe Clay because he is interested in people. He is engaged in the present, although with his excellent memory he can take you right back to a different time and a very different Atlanta. These are his recollections in his own words.

Growing up in Sandy Springs, Fulton County, GA[,] in the early 1930s[,] I had a good childhood. North of downtown was still pretty much country. My first memory is in my crib--maybe about three years old[--]and I remember looking at my mother's face and wondering, busy lady. One time I followed my Mom to work in my diapers, and there was a big fuss because a dog came along and pulled my diaper off. A lot of my raising was done by my godmother, Miss Coreen, whose husband was blind. She meant a lot to me, and she said to my mother she wanted to adopt me, but my mother said no. I know she cared about me because when I fell through the boards over the old well, she saved me. Miss Coreen and also my Granddad were very important to me.

I went to Rockdale Elementary School. We had a lot of fun, but I was a quiet child. The adults would have to Rockdale elementary school. We had a lot of fun but I was a quiet child. The adults would have said I was obedient, intelligent and smart. I didn't want to give nobody any trouble. We had a lot of places to play in Sandy Springs, mostly with my sisters Ruby and Betty. Ruby's up in North Carolina now, but she's still one of my best friends. Back then, we also knew who to stay away from. There were some white men, bad guys we looked out for. They knew we lived out there and they would try to scare us. We weren't really too scared, but we knew when to run out and hide in the woods with my sisters. There was a place called Piney Grove -- a big field -- and sometime the men would come and ride horses and burn crosses. We knew when to lay low. And we didn't want them to sic dogs on us.

Mostly I had no problem with color. I wasn't really aware of it until the Civil Rights Movement. We had our neighborhoods and the things we did, and we really didn't think too much of it. I had a white friend, Clayton, whose daddy had a farm. In the army I had no problems. I really think a lot of people around then had the same experience. We just tried to get along.

After school I went to work until the army. I had another godfather who had a sawmill, and he put me to work. My older brother had gotten a job earlier with Roosevelt's WPA. Then I joined the army around the time of Korea. A sergeant liked me and kept me from being transferred overseas. I was pretty good, I qualified on all weapons. I was up in Fort Jackson, SC, but I also trained in the Mojave d Desert. I learned a lot in the desert but I didn't like those sidewinder snakes. I was discharged from Fort Meade, Maryland, around 1955. I remember jumping on the Silver Comet heading to Georgia. Those were good days.

I went back to work for my godfather who now had a cement plant, until I started to work for the city. For 14 years I worked in everything from Sanitation to the Water Department. I know folks said Joe is dependable -- always did his job. Same in the army.

I like politics and the news. I remember December 7, 1941. Pearl Harbor. People telling us to keep our lights low. I liked most of the presidents, even Eisenhower. (continued on next page)

I guess the one I liked the least was Nixon because he thought he was above the law but even he did some good things. I admit a black president made me happy. Obama made me happy.

People I'd like to meet? I have a few. I like Peter Jennings. Also Oprah and Diane Sawyer - interesting people. Barbara Walters - I like the way she talks to people. OK, and also Muhammad Ali.

Do I believe in love at first sight? Yup! I met my wife Verdell working together downtown in the Equitable building. I finally asked her to marry me, but she said she wasn't ready. She said she was going to make me wait. She wanted me to wait two weeks. I waited until the weekend and thought, this ain't right. So I went to see her Monday. I told her, I'm not waiting! She knew I was sincere and my boss talked me up. We've been married 23 years.

Eventually I started my church work. Lots of them. Church of Epiphany. Lutheran Church of the Messiah. St. Michael's and St. Matthews. Finally Quakers. I've worked for Quakers for many years... at least 8 this time. My best job? Installing radios in police cars. Churches and cleaning up is OK, but not as much fun.

What place does religion have in my life? 100%. Not 99.5% -- 100%. I believe in God. 100%. Pretty simple. I go to church. Sometimes I miss church, but the Bible says, you must gather, you must assemble.

My idea of happiness? People really getting along - all types. Be on the level -- Love one another. Too much hatred in the world. If you know the Lord, you will be happy.

Main lessons in life? Easy...the Golden Rule. Treat people right. Enjoy each other. Interviewed by John Roberts, 2010

Announcements

An apology to Myrna Trapp for misspelling her first name. But this gives us an opportunity to thank her again for all the work she has put into the Meeting grounds.

Successful Food Collection

Jonah McDonald, Nina Gooch and Tara Hands took two carloads of donated food and non-food items to [The Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry pantry (515 East Ponce de Leon) to meet our April commitment. DEAM has 23 churches working together to distribute items as needed. Financial aid and morning volunteers are also urgently needed. Call Kathy, DEAM Coordinator, at 404-373-2300.



Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Nina Gooch and Erica French invite everyone in the Meeting to join them in celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary on Saturday, July 10, between 1 pm and 5 pm at the meetinghouse. (If you can't come for the whole party, please come for as long as you can.) Dress: festive, but casual. Childcare and playground

supervision will be available by request[, but please let them know by June 23.

Please RSVP with your name and how many will be attending by July 1 to rsvp25th@gmail.com or 404-371-9873 so there will be enough cake and lemonade.

Adult First Day Class- 9:00-9:50 am

On June 13, Meg Harper will share the story of her spiritual journey. For other Sundays in June, Mark Wutka will lead discussions of "George Fox's Greatest Hits." We'll look at George Fox's message through the bible verses he quotes the most often. June 6, Fox's Message, The Seed in All, Inwardly-known. June 20, Being transformed, the head of the church, and unity.] June 27, The Lamb's War. All are welcome and class meets in the library.]

Book Discussion

In order to continue the discussions begun in the Atlanta Friends Meeting about the book, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, when authors Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel visited meeting last fall, the Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM will [host] a second discussion of the book on the fourth first day of sixth month (June 27) at the rise of meeting. This session will cover the underground railroad and the debate between immediate emancipation and gradualism during the period before the Civil War. A summary will be presented [before addressing a set of discussion questions] so that those

who have not read the book can join in.

You can come whether you have read the book or not, and there is no obligation to attend future sessions in which we will continue to discuss] interesting and important issues raised when Vanessa and Donna visited.

Quiz yourself: As they freed those they had enslaved, Quakers generally believed they owed the newly freed people some remuneration.

- a. True
- b. False

The answer appears on a following page in the newsletter.

The Educational Scholarship Committee

announces 8 applications from our young people

Men of Peace: World War II Conscientious Objectors, Mary R. Hopkins Editor, Producciones de la Hamacia, 2010 reviewed by Mary Ann Downey

Reading *Men Of Peace* reminded me of lines from Robert Frost, "I took the road less traveled by/ And that has made all the difference." This book is a collection of interviews with 32 men who tell us about making the decision to resist fighting in World War II, and how the act of registering as a CO led them to a life-long pursuit of fighting the causes of war. We discover how the early family life and education, and the influence of religion laid a foundation for the realization that war is wrong and gave these men the courage to take this road.

While each of the stories shares the common thread of CO status, each is unique in the way this decision led to other life choices and the reflections these men offer here on its consequences and lessons. The appendix gives the 12 questions guiding the interviews, providing a consistent structure to the narratives, and I appreciated the variety of backgrounds and experiences this collection provides. For example, T. Canby Jones earned a PhD at Yale Divinity School, became a college professor of Bible and Philosophy and was engaged in "The Lamb's War", using scripture to describe nonviolence as an alternative to war. He taught himself and his students to "put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace." (Ephesians 6:11-17) Calhoun D. Geiger was home schooled, never earned a high school diploma, and spent much of his life in farming and forestry, and in working to end segregation. He summed up his life's lessons as "having been led by the Spirit through almost all these ups and downs."

It is an privilege to have this window into the life of each of these remarkable men and Mary Hopkins has contributed a valuable resource to our collective memory. *Men of Peace* offers ample evidence to support Kierkegaard's statement that "We create ourselves by our choices."

Conscientious Objectors in the Meeting: John Adams

editor's note: the following is an edited transcription of an interview conducted on a sunny spring afternoon on the back deck of my house. I asked John to tell the story of his CO status in the U.S. military.

This is not about me. This is about a path of awareness that many men and women have walked about war. War is to me a complex game that uses humans as the pieces, and participating in it could forever alter the fabric of what we call life. So it's not about me.

I grew up in a military family. My great-great-grandfather lost his leg in World War I. My grandfather fought in World War II. My father was a pilot and intelligence officer. I grew up in a divorce reality, in two households, but my father was always in the military. I'd often await his arrival in a gleaming uniform, with sparkling medals and badges that I could see a block off, playing in the streets (a dirt road probably), in

for funds to help with undergraduate studies. We are hoping to be able to provide \$500 each to help with tuition, books and supplies. We have \$200 in the fund now. Take a look at the poster bearing news of last year's students amazing activities and help this year's students stay connected with their Quaker roots by reminding them of our support. Deadline for donations is June26,2010.

Birthday Party Successful

Don Bender, Frank Cummings, and Marcia Klenbort celebrated their combined 210th birthday at a dinner and autobiographical roast at the Meeting House April 23rd. The party raised over three thousand dollars for the El Sitio Scholarship Fund.

Alabama.

The decision that I made to join the military was logical: to be a man, see the world, continue a family legacy. I graduated from high school on a Friday and was headed to basic training on a Monday. I wanted it that way—wanted to leave childhood, having my parents tell me what to do, to this brave new world of being a soldier. I had no idea what that meant. I ended up trading my parents telling me what to do for a tightly wound stranger doing it, spit coating my face. I enjoyed it like a game. My fitness was at its peak. The air force was a great slice of life. I got to know young people from all parts of the world, to be trained as a surgical technologist and be a part of advanced healing processes I had only dreamed of. I got a chance to see the effects of teamwork and fairness, of structure—the fairness of structure. I was happy. I had to have been eighteen.

I was still in the midst of self discovery. For me in America, self-discovery has always involved power and race. I don't think you can discover who you are unless you find where your power is, and in America that means race, finding out about race. I am part African American, part native American, part Anglo-American, and self identified as African American. As a part of my search for identity, I researched the history of each of those parts of me (to be honest, the least I could of the Anglo-American part: I was in denial at that time that that part even existed—though because of my appearance I couldn't deny much! The conversation would go something like this: “and so, you're native American and what . . .?”) That discovery of history, which I was not exposed to as a child, was devastating. So, as most young men would at that age, I got angry. I was angry that that history existed and that I was deprived of knowledge of it, even having gone through twelve years of public and private education. It was never made clear to me that everything in America was not apple pie and hot dogs. You have hints, because you see that life that has different rules for different people, but you still eat apple pie and hot dogs. . . .

I continued in the military, but I began to question what the machine I was a part of was there for. I had served out my enlistment of four years and decided not to re-enlist, primarily because of an event that happened in surgery. I was involved in a surgery on a pilot's hand. He was conscious through the procedure. He told the team to be sure to do a good job because you never knew how many people he would have to bomb and he needed that hand to do it. I went outside and an F15 flew by, and I realized I was playing a part in this drama, that I had a hand in mass destruction, of people I never even met. So I did what most Americans would do from such a realization: run. I decided not to re-enlist and went my merry way as a civilian.

About eighteen months later, in October 1991, I was driving home and I saw a telegram hanging out of my mailbox. There was much news coverage about the start of Desert Storm and the activation of troops. I was quite convinced that I was not involved because I had served my time, not knowing that there was fine print in the contract that said I was on ready reserve status for an additional six years. After the military, I had been involved in community peace organizations (and in fact had created my own) and chose to show up at every discussion in my neighborhood about war and peace and offer my two- or three-cents' worth (or maybe a cent-and-a-half!). I was interviewed in a local radio station about African Americans and the disproportionate role they played in the engagement. That was maybe a month before I got called back. I was married and I didn't know what to do. I had gone in a totally different direction with my life. I talked it over with my wife and she said, “Do whatever you need to do.” I talked with friends and they said, “Move to Canada or Algiers.” I was struggling: should I just ignore the telegram? That was one option I was seriously considering. I was working as a night custodian, and one night I was listening to the radio and heard a military counselor from AFSC talking about other options for military personnel. He mentioned Conscientious Objection.

(Interview continued next month.) John Adams, interviewed by Meg Harper, 11 April 2010.

a. True p. 113 The Religious Society of Friends was the only denomination that held some corporate expectation of compensation for newly freed people for their past service, as opposed to enslavers being compensated. Friends used visiting committees and prevailing wage rates to determine compensation. For example, Warner Mifflin of Duck Creek Delaware Meeting paid one of the men whom he had enslaved 270 pounds for every year of past service, in addition to food and clothing.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
5th Month 21, 2010

Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the Query: "Do you attempt to develop and apply nonviolent practices in all relationships? Do you maintain Friends' testimony against military preparations and all participation in war? In what ways do you support young people who are considering military service or being solicited by military recruiters?"

In attendance were: Mike Aland, Michael Allison, Steve Collins, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Nina Gooch, Judith Greenberg, Tara Hands, Bill Holland, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Beth Martinson, Hannah McDermott, Sally McEwen, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Laura Norlin, Ronald Nuse, Lissa Place, Marthajane Robinson, Aaron Ruscetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) (31 Friends)

Ministry and Worship: Suzan Kenworthy reported that Ministry and Worship accepts the transfer of membership of Marthajane Robinson from Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, in Philadelphia. It was noted that approval is not needed for transfers of membership from another Friends Meeting; our acceptance of the transferred membership is simply minuted. Friends entered the following minute:

Minute 10-05-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts Marthajane Robinson's transfer of membership from Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting to Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Suzan read aloud a letter reflecting Chestnut Hill's approval and support of Marthajane's ministry of pastoral care. One Friend questioned whether she would continue this work under the care of this Meeting. Friends decided that Heather Jeziorowski, Beth Martinson, and Suzan Kenworthy, her welcoming committee, will work with Marthajane to discern whether she will continue her pastoral care ministry at Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Suzan Kenworthy reported that Ministry & Worship has received a letter of request for membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting from Al Natanagara. Final approval will be sought in 6th month.

In an attempt to sensitize Friends to the impact of timely arrival on the quality of worship, Ministry & Worship proposed that greeters hand out small cards with the text of the minute adopted in 4th month concerning timely arrival. The Meeting approved this course of action. The cards will read:

The sense of the Meeting is that the quality of our worship is noticeably strengthened when Friends arrive on time. We appreciate that this is sometimes difficult to do and recognize any extra efforts Friends make to adhere to this discipline on behalf of our community.

The cards will be distributed every 2-3 weeks for a while, and then Ministry and Worship will gauge whether this step is reducing tardiness.

Social Concerns: On behalf of the Social Concerns Committee, Bert Skellie presented a minute of concern regarding the Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless which is struggling to avoid foreclosure on their property. The minute will be submitted to the head of the Task Force. Atlanta Friends Meeting, with Perry Treadwell standing aside, approves the following minute:

Minute 10-05-02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers) supports the Task Force for the Homeless in its struggle to keep its home at Peachtree & Pine. We urge the lender to negotiate a plan and not to foreclose on the Task Force.

Requests from Tara Hands: In response to Tara Hands' concerns about the visibility of food donation baskets, Georgia Lord, Jonah McDonald, John Roberts, and Tara Hands will consider placement of the donated food receptacles in the Meetinghouse. Regarding the organizations receiving the donated food, Atlanta Friends

Meeting approves the following minute:

Minute 10-05-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting asks the Social Concerns Committee and other interested individuals to consider together with Tara Hands whether and how the Meeting and individuals within it should be asked to support the organizations of Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Tara Hands will consult with both the Finance and Social Concerns Committees to discuss Atlanta Friends Meeting's contributions to the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry.

Nominating Committee: Steve Collins presented for final approval Bill Holland for membership on Ministry & Worship and Jack Hondard as an appointed member on the Administration Committee.

Minute 10-05-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Bill Holland as a member of Ministry & Worship

Minute 10-05-05: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Jack Hondard as an at-large member of the Administration Committee

Administration Committee: Karen Morris presented highlights from the Friend in Residence report. John Roberts keeps up with system repairs, coordinating with service providers or makes the repairs on his own. He also works with Myrna Trapp and the Landscape Committee on landscaping issues, and is involved with the life of the meeting through both Committee attendance and involvement in social activities. His ministry will continue to revolve around events such as the well-attended forum on Quakers and Islam presented in collaboration with Khalid Siddiq of the Al-Farooq Masjid.

Outreach: Sally McEwen reported that there are a number of Friends interested in outreach, and finding ways to let people know about both the Religious Society of Friends and Atlanta Friends Meeting. Programs such as Quaker Quest are being considered, as is a once-a-month worship-sharing opportunity for newcomers after the rise of Meeting. More information on Quaker Quest can be found at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest>. In addition, Georgia Lord has an electronic copy of a Quaker Quest manual for meetings and can forward it to others upon request.

Clerk's items: Georgia Lord reported that she would write Letters of Greeting for Betsy Egger's trip to Palestine and Mark and Ceal Wutka's trip to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

At the request of Ministry & Worship, the Clerk will be facilitating a dedication service for Jeanine & Dieudonne's baby daughter Bunto Dignite. Georgia Lord is looking for suggestions on the structure of such a service and identification of other children who should be included

Other business: Laura Nolin has been asked to be on the Pastoral Care Committee for the Young Adult Friends conference being held at Friends University in Wichita Kansas, 2010. Georgia Lord will provide a Letter of Greeting

Approval of Minutes of Fourth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

Minute 10-05-06: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of Fourth Month without changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Lord, Clerk

Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

The sense of the Meeting is that the quality of our worship is noticeably strengthened when Friends arrive on time. We appreciate that this is sometimes difficult to do and recognize any extra efforts Friends make to adhere to this discipline on behalf of our community. This will be distributed to Friends attending meeting.

Calendar for Sixth 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

6/9 Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-9:00 ORAIARH, Library

6/13 First Day (Sunday)

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

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

11:45–2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

6/18 Newcomers Dinner place to be announced

Deadline for Newsletter submission

6/27 First Day (Sunday)

11:45-1:45 Cabin Committee, Library

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

Other Events

6/2 Fourth Day (Wednesday)

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

6/3 Fifth Day (Thursday)

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

6/6 First Day (Sunday) Potluck in the park

10:30-11:00 Meeting for Worship

11:30am – 2:00pm Green Friends, Classrooms A/B

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

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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 afmannouncement-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 7TH Month newsletter: 6th Month 18

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