

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

JULY 2011

Query: Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults? Baltimore Yearly Meeting

From SAYMA To Friends Everywhere,

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association gathered once again at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C. for our 41st session Sixth Month 9-12, 2011.

We were spoken to during our first Meeting for worship with a period of heavy thunder, lightening and rain, waking us to the power of the Divine that can move us in many ways. The sun returned as we began our discernment of the first of several issues that challenged us. A prophetic call during worship also reminded us that any action left unattended will disintegrate. Just because an intention appears to be rightly ordered, does not mean that it will take care of itself.

A new section of our Faith & Practice addressing our harmony with nature guided us to acknowledge our community's diverse ways of seeing God in the world and the struggles we face to adjust to the needs of our planet. We recognize that we are living in a period of dramatic global change that requires our constant attention and tender care.

A concern with our question of compliance with the government I-9 form led us to consider our response to "undocumented peoples" in our region. Even though the Minute on Immigration did not follow the usual practice of Minutes rising within Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting level was of concern, we realize the call to action in our region is real and immediate.

Given the depth of feeling experienced while addressing the harmony with nature section of our Faith & Practice and the Minute on Immigration, Friends deepest feelings came to the surface. Our emotions opened us to receive the guidance of the Divine in coming to a sense of the meeting about the urgency of these topics.

Our plenary speakers, Jane Synder of FWCC and Elaine Crauderueff of Quaker Quest, shared with us ways to continue with our theme of "growing within, shining forth" as we return to our homes and Meetings. Representatives from Wider Quaker Organizations gave detailed reports of their work addressing issues of peace-building, immigration and economic justice in our region. They made us aware of the larger Society of Friends, as well as ways to share the "good news" at the local level. Cost of travel and the ecological impact of Yearly Meeting will continue to give us pause as we come together each year to nourish our spiritual lives in this gathered community.

We were offered a special moment of appreciation at the presentation of a book honoring the life and work of H. Larry Ingle, valued historian and member of this Yearly Meeting.

Friends were happy to see the return of old friends, the bright faces of our young people and an increase in the number of first time attenders. Each group brings their own unique flavor to our gathering. The time spent together is full. Worship and worship sharing is a special time to meet friends on a deeper level. Workshops inform and open us to new ideas. The talent show, evening of dancing and intergenerational games all contribute to the growth of the community. Fitting all that we wish or feel called to do is difficult. Just as we make choices in our daily life to balance work, service and play, careful discernment is needed to keep the Spirit of the Divine uppermost in our activities.

Announcements

FGC Annual Report: **Yes to the Joy of Love**

Highlights: Farewell to Bruce Birchard, General Secretary for 17 years. He will address the Gathering at Grinnell, Iowa this July. Bruce will be replaced with Barry Crossno. Barry is a member of Dallas MM. He brings a background in business, non-profit management and funding. He recalls, "Spirit once shared a message with me, 'Quakerism is a doorway through which many will walk.' I believe that."

New Book from Quaker Press *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights* gathers together the voices of 18 remarkable individuals who spoke and wrote as African Americans from within the Quaker community.

The Youth Ministries Program is putting the final touches on a new toolkit for strengthening intergenerational spiritual community in meetings. FGC will be offering workshops to help meeting use the toolkit.

A \$300,000 grant from the Shoemaker Fund enabled FGC to expand Quaker Quest, a dynamic program of Spirit-centered meeting development and outreach to potential seekers. Our thirty volunteer facilitators and four staff support and train meetings to use the Quaker Quest program. In the past three years, 116 meetings have inquired about Quaker Quest, 53 have held full-day introductory workshops, and 16 have completed the process and held public sessions, where they have advertised and invited the public in to "explore the Quaker way." More can be read on www.fgcquaker.org/files

AFM Movie Night! July's Movie Night will be a benefit for the AFM College Scholarship Fund.

Enjoy a Harry Potter Double Feature: On Friday, July 8th, we will show the sixth movie in the series: "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." Rated PG. On Saturday, July 9th, enjoy the seventh Harry Potter movie, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1." Rated PG-13. We Invite You To Make A Donation In An Amount You Can Afford And Feel to Be Appropriate. Donations will be passed along to the Meeting's College Scholarship Fund. Are You Interested In Helping With Movie Nights? If so, please contact Georgia Lord, H 770/934-7523.



Atlanta Skyline Tom Kenworthy, Mary Ann Downey, and Sue May meet with Darren Kendall, staff to Sen. Saxby Chambliss to lobby for cuts in the Pentagon budget. A fruit pie was their visual aide!

Spectacular Spring Drive

It was a spectacular spring drive. No, I'm not referring to an outing to admire Atlanta's beautiful flora . . . Instead, I'm describing the Meeting's April drive for Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry's pantry. I'm

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pleased to report that together we were able to donate quite a large quantity of various items.

Specifically, we collected: 57 boxes of muffin mix; 52 rolls of toilet paper; 51 cans of fruit; 44 cans of vegetables; 28 bars of soap; 21 cans of soup; eight boxes of tea bags; seven each of packages of crackers and cans of fish; six each of packages of pasta and jars of jelly; four packages of macaroni and cheese; three each of boxes of cereal, instant meals and jars of peanut butter; two each of bottles of salad dressing, packages of biscuit mix and cans of beans; one of each of the following: package of stuffing mix, package of oats, can of meat, can of tomato paste, box of microwave popcorn, box of rice, box of Jell-O, box of wheat, box of brownie mix, can of evaporated milk, can of ravioli, package of raisins and jar of salsa . . . and a big bag of hotel room-size toiletries.

In addition to the pantry, Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry (“DEAM”) offers assistance with rent, utilities and prescription medications, as well as a clothes closet. The main number is (404) 373-2300. The DEAM office is in Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 515 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur, across from Glennwood School. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Many thanks for your support of those DEAM serves. Beth Ruddiman, Representative to DEAM

Friends Responses to Global Change

An FWCC Worldwide Consultation among Friends Six Queries on Global Change submitted by Green Friends When we use the term "global change", we see it as being about “unity, integration and the inter-connection of all change. Seemingly different or unrelated changes are in fact aspects or facets of a single greater change.” One of the main changes we refer to is the link between develop-ment, industrialization, degradation of land, atmosphere and water and the human contribution to environmental and climate change which threatens the very nature of the world we live in.

We sense there is a distinctive Quaker response to global change. This sense grows out of centuries of Friends' effort to embody in our lives and actions living a Godly life through our testimonies to peace, truth, integrity and justice. Testimonies grow out of the abundance of God's love (rather than from the fear which scarcity or change engenders), so that all are treated compassionately, justly, and equally.

We have set ourselves the task to ask: How do we articulate the spiritual basis for our re-sponse? What is our experience of global change? What do we, as a worldwide faith com-munity, have to say to ourselves and to the world?

Queries

The following queries are being used as the backbone of this Consultation process:

1. How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?
2. What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities towards all creation? In what ways have my own activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?
3. How do changes around us affect our relationship with God? How does my relationship with God affect my responses to the changes around us? What role does faith have in my life and in the life of my community? In what ways do I and my Friends church or meeting community bear witness to our Testimonies in our daily lives?
4. What stories and experiences from past times of catastrophic happenings such as major droughts – perhaps from Scripture, perhaps the record of regional or local events – might inspire us to respond to the changes the world is facing today?
5. How can we bear witness to the abundance God offers us and testify to the world about ways in which justice, compassion, and peace may address significant disruption, stress, and tension?
6. How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God's Creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?

A Little More History

With the brouhaha over undocumented workers becoming a political football, we might remind ourselves that the whole conflict began over enslavement. From *Friends Journal: Why the United States must allow a liberal policy of Mexican immigration.*

While the need for reparations for slavery has entered our consciousness and conscience, our nation's greatest land grab was stealing northern Mexico. The U.S.–Mexican War (1846-1848), goes unnoticed and largely unrecompensed. The shameful treatment of Mexican migrants just adds to the ways white Christians have dealt with slavery, as well as American Indians, Chinese, Japanese and other immigrants.

The “dirty little war” (so called by a *Washington Post* reporter at the time) has been ignored by all but a few historians and most history teachers. President James Polk planned the expansion of U.S. territory into the Southwest and California. **Polk and his cronies wanted to solidify Texas as a slave holding state and extend slavery all the way to the Pacific Ocean through Mexico which prohibited slavery.** So he sent Zachary Taylor to cross into Mexican territory and a flotilla of ships to lay off California until the war started.

Atrocities committed by Yankee Troops were so egregious that a significant number of Irish Catholic soldiers deserted and fought with the Mexicans as the San Patricio Brigade. Henry David Thoreau wrote *Civil Disobedience* in response to the war refusing to pay his taxes.

The first battles were fought before Congress had an opportunity to declare war. U.S. Grant fought there and declared in his memoir 40 years later that “We were sent to provoke a fight, but it was essential that Mexico should commence it.” Polk lost the House of Representatives during the midterm elections over “his war.” The war produced a large number of trained officers ready for the Civil War.

For \$15 million, the U. S. got the present states of New Mexico, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and parts of Arizona, Kansas and Colorado. The rest of Arizona was purchased for \$10 million. Consider the amount of wealth that rightfully belongs to Mexico which has been taken out of these states over the years. At least 90 percent of the Mexicans who stayed in New Mexico lost their land. Their Spanish land grants are still being adjudicated.

Shouldn't Mexicans have the opportunity to make a living in the land that we, *norteamericanos*, have plundered? More information can be found at www.pbs.org/keramexicanwar. Perry Treadwell

It may be noted that previous to WWI Germany offered to help Mexico take back northern Mexico and that at the beginning of WWII propagandists warned that Japan was planning to invade the U.S. through Mexico.

Statue of Liberty

“... French abolitionist Edouard René Lefebvre de Laboulaye, . . . wrote relentlessly on behalf of the Union cause, knowing that taking a stand against slavery was also a way of fighting the petty tyranny of Napoleon III, Bonapare's nephew. Laboulaye had the quixotic dream, in April of 1865, that, if government by the people was ever reestablished in France, it might be nice for the two nations to build a statue to their shared ideals—maybe a female figure of freedom with a slave's broken shackles at her feet. Though all those immigrant eyes have made her their own, and though that amnesia, some of it induced, has worked to airbrush out the broken slave shackle that still lies at her feet—though we may not recognize it sufficiently or say so often enough—the biggest Civil War memorial of all is still the best big statue in the city.” Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, May 9, 2011 page 22

“... the more we learn about the history of World War II, the stronger the case becomes that it was the irresolution and military weakness of the democracies that allowed Nazi Germany to provoke a world war, with all the ensuing horrors and moral compromises that these recent books expose.” Adam Kirsch in *New York Times Book Review* May 29, 2011 p11

"War is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace." Thomas Mann

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Sixth Month 19, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the query: "Do you, as way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? (Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Brook)

In attendance were: Muireann Brennan, Steve Collins, Lili Crymes, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Erika Fitz, Nina Gooch, Judith Greenberg, Bill Holland, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Beth Martinson, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Priscilla Padron, David Payne, Margie Rece, John Roberts, Beth Ruddiman, Aaron Ruschetta, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Mark Wutka, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) (30 Friends)

Clerk's Items: Georgia Lord encourages Friends to reflect on Quaker Practice in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. She encourages Friends to reflect on how we prepare to enter into this space/activity, and as questions arise, to share responses that are honest and forthright, and then to see where Spirit leads. Georgia will also be writing a letter of introduction for Mark Wutka as he travels to NC Yearly Meeting Conservative and is soliciting contributions for that letter.

Ad Hoc Discussion List Group: Nina Gooch presented the guidelines for the Atlanta Friends Meeting Discussion List that outline the role of the moderator and provide guidance for participation in the discussion list. These guidelines will be presented to new members of the listserv and will be posted once a month to the listserv.

Minute 06-19-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the new guidelines for the Discussion Group, as revised.

Proposed Immigration Minute: Priscilla Padron presented the proposed AFM Minute on Immigration. The Clerk will send a copy of the Minute to the Clerk of SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Minute 06-19-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the immigration minute, as revised.

Sue May suggested that the minute be shared with the Atlanta Journal Constitution and various elected officials.

Minute 06-19-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves sending the Minute on Immigration to the Atlanta Journal Constitution and to various elected officials.

Rally Support: Priscilla Padron also presented information on a rally opposing Georgia HB87 and other similar state anti-immigration bills on July 2, 2011 in front of the Capitol at 10:00 am. She asked the Atlanta Friends Meeting to be a sponsoring organization for the Rally.

Minute 06-19-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves its role as a sponsoring organization for the July 2, 2011 rally against the Georgia HB87 anti-immigration bill.

Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland brought forth for final approval David Payne's membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 06-19-05: On the recommendation of the Ministry & Worship Committee, we welcome David Payne into membership.

In 2012, the Friends World Committee on Consultation will be holding the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya, and Friends around the world have been asked to participate in the preparation for this gathering by reflecting on the theme "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World." Ministry & Worship recommends that Atlanta Friends Meeting sponsor a Salt and Light Event in the fall of 2011. FWCC has offered two resource people from Australia Yearly Meeting to visit with us and share in the day: Abel Sibonio formerly of Burundi, is a Friends Pastor who spent time in refugee camps and Valerie Joy served as Executive Secretary of the FWCC section of the Asia-West Pacific. The event will allow us to join in conversation with the diversity of Friends as we reflect on what it means for Friends to be the "salt of the earth, and light in the world" today.

Minute 06-19-06: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves holding a Salt & Light event in the fall of 2011 and welcome a visit from Abel Sibonio and Valerie Joy.

Ministries under our care: Mary Ann Down and Bill Holland continue to travel in ministry, recently led workshops/retreats for Gwynned Friends Meeting, West Knoxville Friends Meeting, and a workshop at SAYMA. A committee supporting the leadings for Ministry of Laura Norlin is being reconvened at her request, and a committee supporting the ministry and participation of Mark Wutka in the School of the Spirit continues to meet monthly.

Nominating: Steve Collins brought forth Alison Mawle as Clerk of Religious Education, with final approval sought in 7th month.

SAYMA: Mary Ann Downey presented the 2011 SAYMA Epistle.

Approval of Minutes of Fifth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minute 06-19-07: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Fifth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, with corrections.

Announcements: Bert Skellie reported that the Quaker Quest Saturday workshop will be held in either November or early December. Quaker Quest is a program sponsored by FGC aimed at helping us to speak to what Friends are, and if we agree to participate, they will help us with outreach activities.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted, Georgia Lord, Clerk, Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

Atlanta Friends Meeting-Minute on Immigration

As a faith community committed to welcoming the stranger, we are dismayed and saddened by the failure to find a way forward to craft an immigration system that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all. We recognize that inaction at the national level has created a vacuum into which states have stepped to create their own immigration laws.

As Friends, we believe that there is that of God in everyone, regardless of citizenship or legal status. Our testimony of community challenges us to live with all of our neighbors in a way that encourages trust, love, and security. Our testimony of equality leads us to value each person as an individual and to respect the human rights and dignity of all persons. Our testimony of peace guides us to take nonviolent action to resolve conflicts in a way that brings us together and promotes justice.

Georgia House Bill 87, Arizona Senate Bill 1070, and similar legislation in other states divides our communities and criminalize immigrants. These kinds of unjust laws create a climate of fear for those whose area of residence, line of work, complexion, spoken language or accent is deemed suspicious, even if they are citizens or legal foreign residents or visitors. When state legislation is passed that compels people to hide their identity from authorities they must live in fear that they will be separated from their families, that they will become victims of crime, that they and their children will not receive an education, that they will be exploited at their workplaces, and that they will lose their livelihoods and their homes.

We bear witness to our friends and neighbors in our community who suffer division in their families, exploitation in the workplace, and the daily fear of deportation. We bear witness to the thousands of deaths on the border and the destruction of border communities and the environment. The estimated twelve million persons living and working in the United States without papers are essential parts of our communities and economy, yet the system for regularizing their status is woefully insufficient. Criminalizing immigrants and those who care for them, as in these state immigration bills, does not address the real challenges our country faces with immigration reform and resolution of the humanitarian crisis that results from the broken system.

We, as people of faith, are called not only to resist unjust laws and to work to change them, but to take the initiative to act in accordance with higher laws. We call upon Friends everywhere to urge our elected representatives at the Federal level to respond to President Obama's recent call for immigration reform and urge our U.S. members of Congress to take immediate action on humane immigration reform.

We call upon ourselves to act with integrity in response to these challenges and we rededicate ourselves to loving our neighbors, to doing justice, and to walking humbly in the spirit of love.

Calender for 6th Month 2011

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, 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com

First Thursdays at AFSC office, 60 Walton ST. NW, Atlanta, 10303

Thursdays (Except 1st Thurs. of the Month)- 12:10 pm: East Lake Commons. Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com for directions.

Every Sixth Day, 8:45 a.m.— Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030, 404-373-8746.

Wednesday Morning Worship, 8:30 – 9:00: In the library at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse.

Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474, afmquakers@hotmail.com

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm: Meeting Room. Contact Christina Repoley: 404-840-3005 or christinarepoley@gmail.com.

Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom A/B

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Wednesday 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

7/3, First Day, (Sunday) Potluck

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

7/6, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:45– 9:45 Administration, Library

7/7, Fifth Day (Thursday)

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

7/8, Sixth Day (Friday)

7:00-9:00 Movie Night, Meeting Room

7/9, Seventh Day (Saturday)

7:00-9:00 Movie Night, Meeting Room

7/10, First Day, (Sunday)

11:30 – 12:30 Listening Ear Atrium

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

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

11:45-1:15 Ministry & Worship

11:45–2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

7/13 Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30-9:30 ORAIIARH, Library

7/17, First Day (Sunday)

11:45 Meeting for Worship with attention to business

7/18, Newcomers Dinner

7/22 Deadline for August Newsletter

7/24, First Day, (Sunday)

7/31, Meeting for Worship with the Children

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.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
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Decatur, GA 30030-2902
Phone: 404-377-2474

ATLANTA FRIENDS 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@yahoo.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; simply hit reply and you will be added to the list. There is no subscription fee for the newsletter.

To receive general announcements and participate in discussion, follow the same instructions only address the note to afmdiscussion-

subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoo.com. The web site for the meeting is atlanta.quaker.org where the newsletter can be found at events

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 8TH Month newsletter: 7TH 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